



2010

The Shadow Hunt

Laurien Clay

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Langrish, Katherine. *The Shadow Hunt*. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061116766. \$16.99. 336 p.

Reviewer: Laurien Clay

Reading level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Fantasy Fiction;

Subject: Anglo-Welsh culture—Juvenile fiction; Superstition—Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Wolf, in escaping the abuses of an abbey school, falls into the tempestuous favors of Lord Hugo of La Motte Rouge when he brings him Elfgift, an elfchild. Lord Hugh, infatuated with the idea that his dead wife is in Elfland, orders Wolf to teach the youngster how to speak and to thereby lead Lord Hugo in Elfland by the New Year—or else. Nest, Lord Hugo's daughter, forms a friendship with Wolf and together they try to teach Elfgift. However, the arrival of Halewyn, the mysterious jester from Lord Hugo's crusade past who first awakened this obsession, throws more than a shadow upon the occupants of La Motte Rouge. It is up to Wolf and Nest to protect Elfgift and to Lord Hugo to sacrifice himself to redeem them all from Halewyn's grasp.

Langrish, author of the Troll Trilogy books, recreates medieval Britain with a naturally supernatural bend in this American Library Association's nominee for the Best Fiction for Young Adults 2011 list. Solidly grounded in Anglo-Welsh medieval history, Langrish masterfully weaves its conglomerate culture of pagan Christianity into a psychologically probing tale of superstition, good versus evil, acceptance, and redemption. Every character is infinite and yet realistically human, and the language is worded to keep young readers with a love for history turning pages in utter suspense to the very end.

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