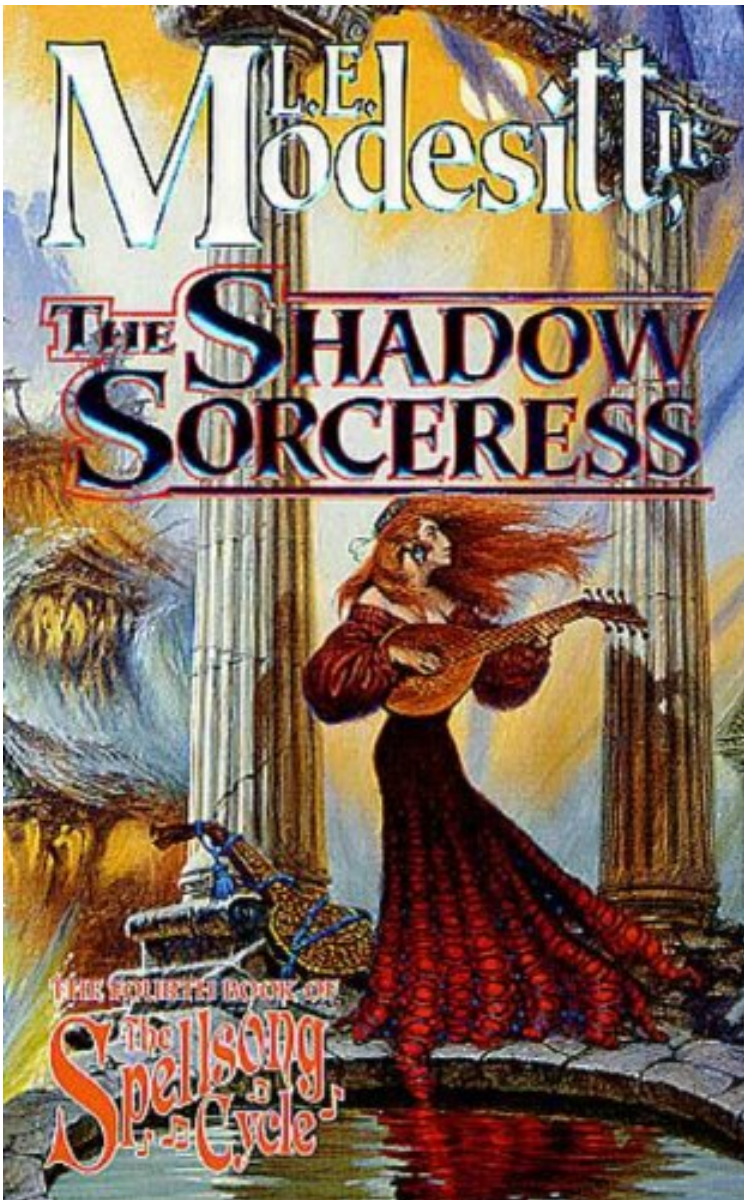


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The Shadow Sorceress: The Fourth Book of the Spellsong Cycle



Par L. E. Modesitt, Jr.
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Description : Description du produitL.E. Modesitt, Jr. has developed a wide readership with his popular fantasy novels set in the universe of Recluce. With more than a million copies in print, he continues to build a substantial audience with each new volume. He widened that audience with the first three-volume Spellsong Cycle set in a compelling and imaginative world where music is the vehicle for the creation and wielding of magic. He now returns to that universe for a new cycle of tales starring a new heroine who must face a series of deadly political and military threats.The Shadow Sorceress continues the story begun in the first Spellsong Cycle but focuses on the challenges facing Secca, now a young Sorceress. She is thrust into a

position of power and responsibility when her mentor, Anna, the legendary Sorceress Protector of Defalk and the heroine of the original trilogy, dies unexpectedly before Secca's training as a master magic wielder is anywhere near complete. Despite her reservations concerning the skills and strength of her ruler, Secca must immediately take command of all her magical resources to help suppress internal dissension in a neighboring province. Then she must rally potential allies to lift the naval siege laid on Nordwei by the Sea Priests, who bring with them a new kind of drumming magic that threatens the balance of power in the world, portending danger and destruction not imagined for decades. Secca learns to fight battles effectively using sorcerous skills she has never used before, all while leading an army for the first time. She must master diplomacy in order to save her ruler and his kingdom, form alliances with unfriendly potential allies and mediate power struggles among ambitious and disparate societies. At the same time, she discovers the unexpected potential for love and companionship in a world where few men are wise enough to value women as anything more than wives, mistresses or mothers. Coping with it all, Secca proves herself more than just a quick study, but a woman with a limitless capacity for courage, personal growth and fearless commitment to survival and fighting the good fight. *The Shadow Sorceress* is the first book of the second Spellson cycle and the fourth book set in Erde, the world of musical magic.

Prsentation de l'diteur L.E. Modesitt, Jr., has developed a wide readership with his popular fantasy novels set in the universe of Recluce. With more than a million copies in print, he continues to build a substantial audience with each new volume. He widened that audience with the first three volumes of the Spellson Cycle set in a compelling and imaginative world where music is the vehicle for the creation and wielding of magic. He now returns to that universe for a new series of tales starring a new heroine who must face a succession of deadly political and military threats. *The Shadow Sorceress* continues the story begun in the first Spellson trilogy but focuses on the challenges facing Secca, now a young Sorceress. She is thrust into a position of power and responsibility when her mentor, Anna, the legendary Sorceress Protector of Defalk and the heroine of the original trilogy, dies unexpectedly before Secca's training as a master magic wielder is anywhere near complete. Despite her reservations concerning the skills and strength of the ruler of the kingdom, Secca must immediately take command of all her magical resources to help suppress internal dissension in a neighboring province. Then she must rally potential allies to lift the naval siege laid on Nordwei by the Sea Priests, who bring with them a new kind of drumming magic that threatens the balance of power in the world, portending danger and destruction not imagined for decades. Secca learns to fight battles with sorcerous skills she has never used before, while leading an army for the first time. She must master diplomacy in order to save her ruler and his kingdom, form alliances with unfriendly potential allies, and mediate power struggles among ambitious and disparate societies. At the same time she discovers an unexpected chance for love and companionship in a world where few men are wise enough to value women as anything more than wives, mistresses, or mothers. Coping with these challenges, Secca proves herself more than just a quick study; she has become a woman with a limitless capacity for courage, personal growth, and fearless commitment to survival and fighting the good fight. *The Spellson Cycle* *The Soprano Sorceress* *The Spellson War* *Darksong Rising* *The Shadow Sorceress* *Shadowsinger* Other series by this author: *The Imager Portfolio* *The Saga of Recluce* *The Corean Chronicles* *The Ghost Books* *The Ecolitan Matter* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. From Publishers Weekly In Modesitt's fourth absorbing book of the Spellson Cycle (*The Soprano Sorceress*, etc.), the student Secca picks up the mantle of musically managed magic from Sorceress-Protector Anna, protagonist of the earlier novels set in the Europeanoid world of Erde. Secca reluctantly serves the legitimate Lord of Defalk, for whom Anna was regent, and the imperfect leader Robero a bumbler known less elegantly in childhood as Jimbob. One of Robero's annoying habits is matchmaking (few, if any, suitable consorts exist for powerful women with frightening and exhausting powers). The early pages demonstrate road-building, a constructive and popularly supported sorcery performed with a band of musicians, and then a solo, slow-acting assassination as examples of "the shadow side of sorcery" Secca uses that term in weighing the death of one cruel man against the sufferings of many, but later is surprised when she herself is referred to as "shadow sorceress" for her manipulating events from the sidelines. Defalk's leaders must face the consequences of Anna's desperately inventive changes in their war-torn country, as well as the serious ongoing threat of the Sea-Priests from beyond, who employ major sorcery and subjugate women in literal chains. Secca's taking charge and developing her staff and personal relationships provide the chief interest here; the full story of the Sea-Priest invasion presumably awaits future volumes in the

series. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Adult/High School- This is the fourth book in the series, which started with *The Soprano Sorceress* (Tor, 1997), but it provides a good entry point. The main character of the first three books, Anna, is dead, and her apprentice Secca must step into her leadership role. Modesitt provides readers with an overview of the politics of Liedwahr, his fantasy continent, and shows how its magic works and what it can and cannot do. The book then follows Secca, her apprentice Richina, and a large ensemble cast as they venture forth trying to stop the machinations of the evilly chauvinistic Sea-Priests, who curiously remain off-stage throughout. Secca must also face her own loneliness in a romantic subplot, which is handled with skill and decorum. The main enjoyment of the novel comes from the simple pleasure of escaping into the world the author has created. The writing style is easy and the characters are interesting and sympathetic. There is no resolution in this volume, however, and readers will have to wait for the next book to find out what happens to Secca, the Sea-Priests, and Liedwahr. Paul Brink, Fairfax County Public Library System, VA Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.