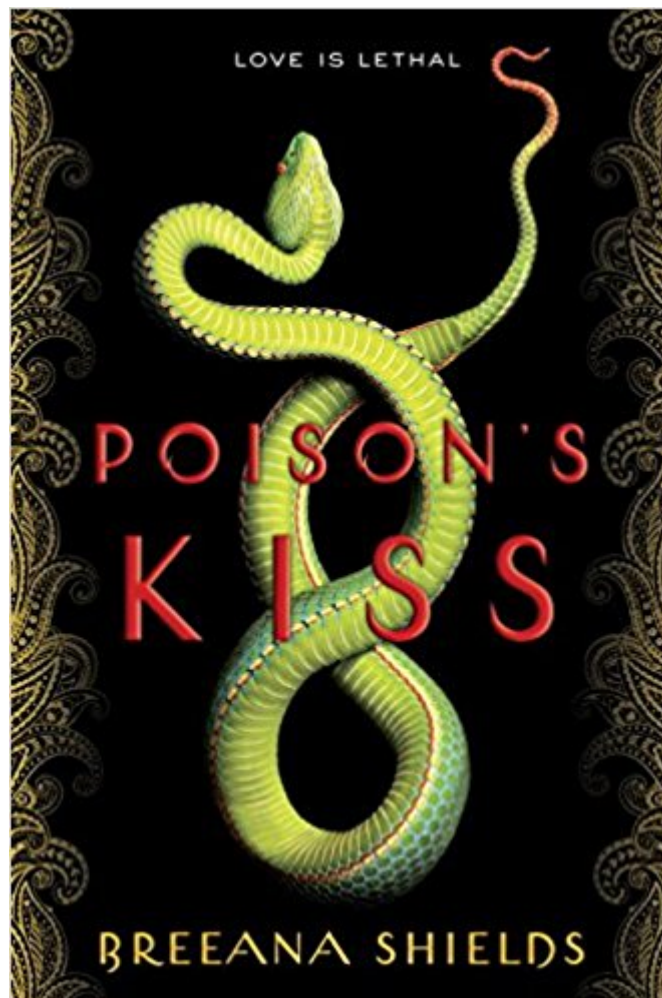


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Poison's Kiss



Synopsis

A teenage assassin kills with a single kiss until she is ordered to kill the one boy she loves. This commercial YA fantasy is romantic and addictive—like a poison kiss—and will thrill fans of Sarah J. Maas and Victoria Aveyard. Marinda has kissed dozens of boys. They all die afterward. It's a miserable life, but being a visha kanya—a poison maiden—is what she was created to do. Marinda serves the Raja by dispatching his enemies with only her lips as a weapon. Until now, the men she was ordered to kiss have been strangers, enemies of the kingdom. Then she receives orders to kiss Deven, a boy she knows too well to be convinced he needs to die. She begins to question who she's really working for. And that is a thread that, once pulled, will unravel more than she can afford to lose. This rich, surprising, and accessible debut is based in Indian folklore and delivers a story that will keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Book Information

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Fantasy > Fantasy > Sword & Sorcery

Customer Reviews

"This is quick and addictive...the sequel won't come quickly enough." -Booklist "A rich world built from Indian mythology with a nail-biter plot. Even though Marinda has a deadly power, she's a pawn with nowhere to turn. When she tries to break free and save her brother and Deven, her brains and bravery shine." -Justine Magazine "...the subsequent speedy unraveling of every aspect of Marinda's life will likely leave readers as floored and shocked as it does Marinda." -Å Bulletin, starred review "Quick and addictive. Å

•Booklist (online) “A fan of mythological fantasy will find a lot to enjoy here . . . and your standard YA enthusiast will like it as well, based on its well-researched and engrossing plot.”
•Culturess “Addictive, riveting, and beautifully written.”
•YA Books Central

Breeana Shields has a BA in English from Brigham Young University and is an active member of SCBWI. When she’s not writing, Breeana loves reading, traveling, and spending time with her husband, her three children, and an extremely spoiled miniature poodle. Visit her online at breeanashields.com or follow her on Twitter at @BreeanaShields.

Very seldom do I have the experience of falling in love with the characters that I read about but this book did it for me. In a world where most female leads are only supporting characters or mere love interests Marinda is powerful, brave and strong but not from her ability to poison or any special talents but sheer determination and love for a brother who helps her keep her humanity despite her circumstances. The love interest is kind without being a wimp-he is also strong and a good match for Marinda and “[he] can’t help but be a gentleman even when [he] thinks [she’s] been trying to kill [him].” His kindness melts me (did I mention falling in love with characters myself?) Well researched, intriguing story line with lots of twists and turns. I think this book could easily be made into a movie. I missed an opportunity to hear the author speak due to misunderstanding the time. Originally I had thought it would be fun just to hear an author speak but now I’m tempted to travel to Idaho to hear her speak again. I would love to know more about the legends, her research, and how the story came together. It’s so exciting and I’m anxiously awaiting her future books.

I really loved this book! It follows Marinda who has been raised to be an assassin, a poison maiden-a girl who can kill with a kiss. She does not know the men she kills but she is haunted by their deaths and her role in it. When her next target turns out to be Deven, the cute boy she meets at a bookshop, she refuses to kill him and sets off a deadly chain of events that leads her to question everything and every one and to fight for what she wants. This story is set in the fictitious land of Sundari, a place that is influenced by India and its myths and culture and I have to say I really loved that aspect. The backstory and culture that Shields created is very rich and is something new. The idea of a girl who is toxic and can kill with a kiss was something really interesting so I really loved reading about that aspect and what it actually means to have that. I enjoyed following Marinda and seeing how she changes throughout the story. She is very naive, through no fault of her own, but as

her eyes are opened to what she is, how she was raised, and what she has to do, you see the inner strength that she has and she becomes more than a pawn. This was a book I breezed through and I cannot wait to read the follow up book.

This book is a must-read! It tells the story of Marinda, a visha kanya, a poison maiden, who was trained from birth to serve the Raja. She kills the Raja's enemies with a single kiss. She hates doing what she does, but does it to protect her brother -- until she is ordered to kiss a boy she knows -- a boy she believes can't have done anything to deserve to die except befriending her brother. The story has its foundations in Indian folklore. The twists and turns will surprise you. The story will stay on your mind long after you have finished the book. Excellent debut book for this author!

I purchased Poison's Kiss both for personal entertainment and as an effort to read more contemporary fantasy fiction titles. Kiss involves a great deal of inspiration from Hindu and Asian myth, while still remaining an original setting and story. In this, it's very enjoyable with memorable characters and an interesting hook. I found the protagonist believable, and the twist involving her and her younger brother did take me by surprise. The love interest did seem forced in places, while other parts were more enjoyable, sparing more details for sake of spoilers. The ending, however, felt rushed and "sequel bait-y," hurrying through a final act in just the last several chapters to set up a sequel, when I'd have rather the authoress took her time in laying the final bit of foundation work for the story that's yet to be written. A good work, with some flaws, but still recommended.

I loved the folklore that inspired this fresh fantasy based on old Indian folklore. A great twist on a story. Creepy and unique! I look forward to reading more from Ms. Shields! :)

Breanna Shields does a great job of weaving a colorful tale of intrigue and moral dilemmas. There were just enough plot twists that didn't feel manipulated or contrived to keep me engaged but not confused. This young adult fiction was a quick and enjoyable read for this 50 something woman. Can't wait for the next in the series!

I've known about Breanna's book for a while, and I was so excited to finally get it in my hands. I love the premise of an unwilling, yet deadly accurate assassin. Marinda is sympathetic and scary at the same time. Supporting characters were surprising at times, and richly developed. Can't wait to see where this series goes!

A great book, entertaining and hard to put down. it's got a wonderfully dark and rich atmosphere, fast action, smart and twisted story and exposes the reader to a fascinating new world. From the beginning, you're hooked into the dangerous life of a young assassin as she struggles with her past as well as what lies ahead. Venomous snakes anyone?

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