



The Shattered Mask

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When Shamur Uskevren, the matriarch of one of Sembia's oldest and most powerful merchant families, is tricked by an angry wizard into an assassination attempt on her own husband, her family is thrown into turmoil. Once the truth is discovered, she and her husband must struggle to save their family and stop the sorcerer. But in her anger, she has forgotten one thing: in the world of intrigue and deception, of shadows and lies that is Sembia, nothing is ever what it seems.

The Shattered Mask Details

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Author : Richard Lee Byers

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From Reader Review The Shattered Mask for online ebook

Jesse says

This is a quick, enjoyable read. Some good fights, some interesting backstory. I liked the bad guy, you don't see too many wizards that summon monsters to do all their fighting for them. It made the battles more epic without the reader wondering why gnolls and ettincaps would be fighting along side one another.

I also enjoyed the fleshing out of the Uskevren children; it made me eager to read the rest of the series that I've been putting off.

The marriage plot between matriarch and patriarch seemed fairly thin...but there was enough other stuff going on to make it fun.

Matthew Atherton says

I absolutely LOVED this one. The plot was complex, but not overly so, and the descriptions, the dialogue, the prose - all were fantastic!

Kagan Oztarakci says

"You should never let fairness stand in the way of a good hate."

Ken says

Sold to Lewis White on eBay on 7-Jun-11:

<http://www.ebay.com/itm/ws/eBayISAPI....>

Grzegorz Oleksa says

This is my first Forgotten Realms book in years and it left me hungry for more, an entertaining read that kept me interested from start to finish. It is not groundbreaking, but fun to read with likable protagonists - recommended.

The Polish translation has unacceptable numbers of typos and missing words that pull you out of the reading experience.

Travis says

The Shattered Mask by Richard Lee Byers is the third book in the Sembia: Gateway to the Realms. The story centers around Shamar Uskevren, the matriarch of House Uskevren. The story follows closely with Richard Lee Byers short story in The Halls of Stormweather, called Song of Chaos.

I'll just simply reword what the description says on the back of the book. It follows Shamar as she learns who poisoned her niece causing her to take her identity and marry Thamalon Uskevren. Lo and behold, she finds that the murderer was none other than Thamalon himself! But revenge clouds her thoughts and she forgets the enemies that Uskevren has made over the years...

Negatives:

- 1) The pacing. It read slightly slow. I don't know why it is, maybe just after reading Shadow's Witness by Paul S. Kemp and knowing that story was fast paced, that this one seemed a little slow building.
- 2) All the 'close calls.' Generally, I know most stories have the main characters barely being missed by either a spear or an arrow, but it seemed like every time something was happening, an action was always a close call. It doesn't bother me to much, but just reading how close the sword got or how so and so felt the wind of a pebble just got a little annoying.
- 3) Age Limitations? From what I understand, Shamar is about 50 and Thamalon is near 60. Yet, they can take down a lot of people without really showing their ages? I don't know about that. However, afterword they were really tired and exhausted, but in reality, they should have been near death.

Positives:

- 1) The whole plot in general. I liked how the poisoning thing was well done and thought out. It seemed like no stone was left unturned in the cover-up and blame placing.
- 2) Bad Guys that Monologue. I found it funny that when the 'bad guy' started to monologue, Shamar or Thamalon made him pay in one way or another. Then the Man in the Moon, finally picked up on it.
- 3) Shamar and Thamalon. I really liked how Mr. Byers portrayed them. I felt myself liking Thamalon more and more than what I read about him in the short stories. I liked Shamar in the short story, and I liked her in this more and more. Also, I liked how their relationship felt genuine and real.

Overall: 4/5

Stephanie says

Richard Lee Byers has such a rich vocab and great manner of storytelling. Plus, I love Shamar and the ending is awesome. on to the next!

Kurt Vosper says

see book 1

Zachary White says

Byers did a god job telling the story of Shamur Uskevren. And seeing more of the Uskevren children galavanting through Sembia was fun, all around.
