



## The Light Keepers

*Mande Matthews*

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Isolated because of what she is—because of the power she holds inside—Astrid longs for contact with another human being. Her well-intentioned mother locks her away from society in order to protect her from an evil that seeks to use Astrid's abilities for his own means. But the resulting loneliness drives Astrid deeper into the shadowwalk—a power she is forbidden to use, a magic that lands her directly into the arms of the Shadow.

This short prequel to the ShadowLight Saga offers a revealing glimpse into the history of the beautiful and mysterious warrior maiden known as Swan, called Astrid in this prequel. It takes place a few moons before Bonded begins and is a self-contained novelette of approximately 10,000 words.

Includes bonus chapter preview of Bonded, Book One of the ShadowLight Saga.

## **The Light Keepers Details**

Date : Published May 5th 2012 by Guardian Tree Press

ISBN :

Author : Mande Matthews

Format : Kindle Edition 82 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Short Stories

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## From Reader Review The Light Keepers for online ebook

### Luisa says

It was a fun and quick novella, that got me started into the series. I immediately bought the first book, after a few free chapters contained here, which I guess made it a very efficient novella at that! :) Fun and quick, kind of mysterious. The main character, Astrid, can't find her voice. There is lots of magic and inner torture. A battle between her inner light and inner darkness. I'm looking forward to this first book!

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### Francis says

Great story.

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### Lára Arnarsdóttir says

Beautiful, really.

It's refreshing to read something different.

The only thing is that I'm Nordic and I feel protective about our cultural heritage and therefore I'm a bit disturbed that this is used that way. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate that people find nordic mythology interesting but it still hurts to see it in such a.. fictional way. It has nothing to do with just this book, but with all books that use mythology as their main focus. I guess I'm never going to be completely okay with it.

I don't have any complaints considering the characters, story or the writing

Well done.

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### Stuart Aken says

Described as a prequel to 'ShadowLight', this short introduction to a fantasy world came to me as a free download for my iPad via Kindle. A prequel is designed to tempt a reader into trying the book or series of books that follow it, of course.

This is a story set in the dark and cold of Scandinavia, with references to some of the myths of that part of the world. The characters are intriguing and compelling, which is always a good start for me: I love character-driven fiction. Straight away, I was curious to know what happened to them. There are, of course, elements of the story that remain unexplained, but these didn't get in the way of my enjoyment. Instead, they leant mystery and layers of fascination to the story, making me want to know more.

The events, and conflicts, both internal and between characters, drive the story at a good pace. The language is clear and well-chosen, matching the environment in which the tale takes place. There's clearly an element of magic, though this is never referred to as such, in the text. Some hidden and unexplained power, at war

with another, darker power that is introduced skilfully, drives the actions of the characters.

So much fantasy makes stars and heroes of male protagonists, that it's refreshing to read a story in which the true heroes female. Here we are introduced to strong women, albeit under the protection of an alpha male. But the women have their own strengths and idiosyncrasies that allow them to be depicted as independent and brave; qualities that lead the reader to want to know more about them and to follow them through the story.

I said at the beginning of this short review that the purpose of a prequel is to persuade the reader to read the book or books following it. Did this one do that? Absolutely. I will read this series in the future. Not immediately, because my 'to read' list is too long to be added to at present. But this is a fantasy I shall come back to; of that I have no doubt. Recommended.

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### **Jesenia Sanabia says**

Book Review: The Light Keepers: A Prequel To The Shadow Light Saga By: Mande Matthews

"The Light Keepers: A Prequel To The Shadow Light Sage" lets the readers get to know Astrid, the mysterious main character of the saga. This prequel is a mystical adventurous fantasy tale of a powerful lonely girl named, Astrid. She is trying to figure herself out. A point comes up in her life where she has no choice but to let bravery become her.

This book is a wonderful teaser for the "The Light Keepers" saga to come. Gets the reader ready to indulge their reading craving for a great adventure fantasy book. I truly enjoy the creative storytelling. Mande, the author at the end of the prequel gives us a few excerpts of Book one. The excerpts introduce more characters and leaves the readers wanting more. I look forward to reading the complete saga. This saga is another series I would like to see turned into a series of movies.

To get your free copy click here: <http://www.amazon.com/Light-Keepers-F...>

Written by: Jesenia Sanabia

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Poetic...>

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### **Dawn says**

I liked it; it felt like it ended rather quickly (But I'm assuming it carries on in the first book Bonded) so I will more than likely grab that book and carry on.

Very nicely written; kept me gripped the entire time.

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## **Susan Commeford says**

Wow...breezed right through this...has me hooked...now looking for the series. Just enough of the story to tantalize and leave you wanting more.

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## **Daphne Higbee says**

The Light Keepers is a short story proceeding Mande Matthews' ShadowLight Saga. Calling it a short story may be an exaggeration, though; I'd say it's more of a teaser. The story ends before a full plot can develop. Instead, this prequel sets the stage for the saga by introducing the world and providing history on a principal character. It does its job, though. I was intrigued enough to be indignant when it ended.

Matthews spins the tale as if we are already familiar with her world and yet does not leave the reader confused. She introduces unfamiliar concepts but provides enough information in the next paragraphs to explain them. Similarly, most questions brought up in the text are answered. The ones that are not will most likely be answered in the saga. The overall quality of her writing is above average, but not impressive, and here's why:

Hiccups occur with characterization. Astrid is not as deep as I would hope for a protagonist. I know that she is lonely, but I don't feel it. Isla, Astrid's mother, is also flat because there is not much interaction between mother and daughter. Balin, Isla's warrior, is the easiest to understand. He lives for one purpose: to love and protect Isla, which extends to protecting Astrid.

I also reviewed this book on my blog.

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## **Wanda Hartzenberg says**

The only reason this is not a 5 \* is due to the extreme short prequel.  
The story had me hooked but then I found that it is done!

I can see this being a true epic fantasy from the prequel.  
It is expertly written and edited and I am sure to add the series to my tbr list!  
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## **M. Schreiber says**

I was browsing the Kindle e-books, and stumbled across this. Wanting to read something fantastical, it looked the part, so I downloaded it and read it. The particular version also came with several chapters of *Bonded*, the first book of the ShadowLight Saga, and this review will address both.

I wasn't really expecting all that much from the read, and that's essentially what I ended up getting, not that much.

The Good: The premise of the story is fairly interesting, and I was intrigued enough to keep reading. Astrid (main character) has some interesting internal conflict, and it was kind of interesting to have a narrator who was mute, and thus not able to fully exert herself on her surroundings. There's some really lovely descriptions of setting, and the fact that it was a pseudo-Viking society becomes pretty clear quite early on. Various of the setting were quite original, such as the song of the Mother, and the idea of shadowwalking. The villain (even if he doesn't get properly introduced) was pretty creepy, although the sexual tension...really doesn't make sense. Yes, the dark side is seductive, but...why literally?

The Bad: While I haven't read the entire saga, I'm pretty sure my predictions for the ending are spot on. It's a variant of a plot we've read multiple times before, although I will give it kudos for doing it in a new and different way. I have a basic understanding of Norse mythos and Viking culture, but a lot of concepts brought up were unfamiliar to me and could have used a little bit more introduction. The use of nei for no and ja for yes irked me. I understand that it was to establish the foreign setting, but if all the characters are speaking the same language, the necessity is gone.

The Ugly: There was a whole lot of action and angst, but there was no down time to digest, and a lot of internal conflict resolved itself incredibly quickly. A lot of relationships were established, but rather than being shown, were described point blank. I came away from the prequel and preview of the next book feeling unfulfilled, because there was a lot of stuff going on, but it lacked substance.

I'm not going to touch the fight scenes, because they do what they're supposed to do for the plot and establishing characters.

Will I keep reading *Bonded*? Probably not. If you want something fluffy that is a quick read, then you may enjoy this book. If you want something to sink your teeth into, this book is not for you.

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### **Lavana Sanchez says**

I luv how she found her mate but I'm still sry for him and his bros sis emma but I but I tink they will find her in d next book and she will also learn how to sing

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### **Natasha says**

I liked this free story and 8 chapter preview enough to buy the first book for my Kindle. I like books about quests and girls with swords and this has both. Some of the descriptive passages are a bit wordy and lengthy, overall I like this novella.

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### **Nereid says**

This was a free book, a prelude to the series and with nothing to lose, I started to read. I enjoy reading about Norse mythology and the concept of this story interested me. Whilst being a short story, it gives you just

enough to let you gauge the intricate world building the author has envisioned. I liked the idea of Astrid and her struggle to survive so I purchased the first book in the series.

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### **Runningrabbit says**

Another YA fantasy that I couldn't get into. Nordic gods and the like.

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### **Sara says**

The Light Keepers was a very intriguing read that has my interest piqued to read the series. This was just a prequel so it made for a quick read. Astrid has been trying to find her voice all her life so she can sing to the Mother to get the power of light to protect from the Shadows. It was a little confusing at first, but a few answers were given, and I am sure it will all come together with the next book. This one teased of romance to come and maybe even a sort of triangle. It will be interesting to see what happens there. Look forward to future books by this author.

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