



Audette of Brookraven

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The Final Chapter in The Eldentimber Series

When Audette pictured her wedding day, she never imagined leaving her intended at the altar. And though Irving, a prince with a reputation for trouble, never cared to picture the grand event (and had rather hoped he could somehow avoid it altogether), he certainly wouldn't have imagined being abandoned.

But when Audette receives a cry for help from the mysterious, secret order she leads, the princess doesn't think twice about jilting Irving. With her brother and closest friend at her side, and her loyal order of knights anxiously awaiting her arrival, Audette travels to the distant island kingdom of Ptarma, not once expecting Irving to follow her.

But that's exactly what he does.

Now, trapped together until the ships sail again in spring, Audette must learn to get along with the infuriating prince if she's to track down the darkness that's wreaking havoc in the night. For in the shadows, the dark beast of legend looms, and only together will they have a chance of defeating it...

Audette of Brookraven Details

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From Reader Review Audette of Brookraven for online ebook

Lisa Dawn says

Audette of Brookraven is the fourth book in Shari Tapscott's Eldentimber series, which consists of tales about various princesses from various lands. It's difficult to properly summarize this book because the story is all over the place, which is an issue I've had with all of the work I've read from this author. It's a fantasy, but not a complex one. It's a romance, but not a deep one. She gets some props for being one of the few princess authors who writes original stories instead of merely adapting classic fairy tales, but the original stories she comes up with seem only half-realized, with many important details glossed over. Even though each book is set in a different land, this one just feels like a generic fantasy kingdom.

The love story was the most interesting aspect of this book because it was told in such an unconventional manner. At the beginning of the book, Audette is in an arranged marriage to Prince Irving. When she decides to briefly leave the bridal suite and risks being seen in public before the wedding, she switches gowns with her lady-in-waiting, Milly, in order to avoid suspicion. As a result, Prince Irvine wrongly assumes that Milly is the princess he is engaged to and Audette is a noble lady living at the castle. When she plays along with this ruse and finds that Irving hits on her anyway, she loses all interest in marrying him, thinking that he is a scoundrel who would cheat on her with any other noble lady who crosses his path. This opening scene is what drew me into the book. It's a clever and peculiar situation that paints a clear picture of the sort of person that Audette is. Unfortunately, things get a bit muddled from there.

I was excited to learn that this is a story about unicorns, but the way it incorporates them is a lot closer to the movie Legend than something like The Last Unicorn. Princesses and unicorns often go hand in hand for no other reason than that they both appeal to same type of person. Like in the movie Legend, the unicorns in Brookraven were just there for the sake of being there. Audette is drawn to them and becomes determined to protect them from an unknown threat. The monster she must fend off has the ability to change her hair color, similar to what Elsa's ice powers did to Anna Frozen, but that alone doesn't feel like much of a threat. In fact, it isn't actually revealed what sort of danger the characters are in until the end of the book. While that does leave more time to focus on mending the relationship between Audette and Irving, it's a little frustrating not to know anything important that's happening in the story.

Overall, Audette of Brookraven is a fun character study, but not so much of a compelling read. Audette has all of the traits you would expect from a modern princess. She is strong, brave, clever, independent, and a secret romantic. Seeing the story through Audette's eyes is the only thing that makes it worth reading. Her interactions with Irving are both humorous and entertaining. The other people in her life such as her brother and her lady-in-waiting are equally compelling characters. I just wish the story had more going for it than throwing together some unicorns and a monster with no real direction.

Desiree Jacobson says

So good.

This book was fantastic! This whole series is great. Audette is not impressed with her betrothed, and due to unforeseen circumstances, leaves him at the altar. Little did she know that he is going to follow her and together on this adventure she might fall in love and realize that maybe he is more than she first thought he

is.

Clean and sweet with adventure, great female lead, and a too charming man who is beginning to really fall for her.

Katy says

I think this may be my favorite of the Eldentimber series! The plot was totally and delightfully unexpected with so much mystery and suspense. I guessed the wrong "bad guy" at first, and meeting the new magical beasts was, well, magical! It was also wonderful to see Grace again, as well as glimpses and mentions of other favorites in the series. I highly recommend this book and the entire series to anyone who loves medieval fantasy romance with dragons and other magical creatures!

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I loved this book and I love this series. It is a fantastic blend of magical (this one has unicorns!) and romantic. This series is one of my favorites and I think this is the last book. I'm sad to see it end!

Content: Clean and perfect for teenage daughters and adults!

Patrick Hodges says

I always get a little wistful when I complete a series I have enjoyed since the beginning. I thoroughly enjoyed Shari Tapscott's Pippa of Lauramore, and each book has just gotten better since then. Not only has the writing improved, but so have the stories.

One thing all four stories have in common is a beautiful, feisty heroine and a swoon-worthy hero to win her heart (sometimes, there's more than one).

Throughout the series, Irving has been one of the best characters. He's the Han Solo of Eldentimber, that's for sure - the lovable rogue that you want to get drunk with, and NOT the guy you want to bring home to Mom.

Enter Audette, who starts the story by showing up for her wedding to a man she has no interest in marrying. Whaddaya know, it's Irving. At first he's his usual insufferable (but not scruffy-looking) self, and as the story progresses, he begins to wear down her defenses with his inestimable charm.

But there's a kick-ass plot to serve as the backdrop for this story - a dark, magical creature is plaguing their homeland, and it's up to Audette and the legion of guardians that she leads to find it and put a stop to it. Irving tags along, much to the chagrin of everyone else.

Ms. Tapscott is an expert at crafting beautiful character who are much more than muscles and pretty faces. Her stories are colorful and vivid, painting a land we all want to live in (despite some of the nasty bits), and there is a perfect balance of romance, action, and mystery.

I'm sad to see the Eldentimber series end. Do yourself a favor and read all four books from the beginning.

You won't be sorry you did.

Shari Tapscott says

It's a little bittersweet coming to the end of my Eldentimber series, but I'm so happy to have briefly explored the Kingdoms of Elder, and I'm so grateful to all of you who have stayed with me on this journey.

This book was so much fun to work on. I'll start by saying Irving is a mess. I've never written a character that bounds down bunny trails like he does. It felt like I was constantly coaxing him back to the story, begging him to work with me. He trashed my outlines. In the end, I'm glad I listened to him. I hope you enjoy reading Audette as much as I enjoyed writing it.

And again, I'm so thankful for all of you.

Emily says

Dang it kind of a let down to a great series, which was a bummer because it was about one of my favorite characters. this book was supposed to wrap up that character and bring everything full circle, and it did, I guess. but nothing actually happened in the book to get us there. no events, no character development... nothing. the character just sort of morphed with no explanation or event as to why.

Michelle MacQueen says

I think I need to cry now because this series is over (I think this is the last book). It's been one of my favorites for a while now and Audette makes a great addition to our cast of strong, beautiful women that capture the hearts of these men.

Irving has been my favorite since we first met him in Pippa. He's the sweet scoundrel. Count on him as a friend, not a lover. Which is why it's a bit shocking to start this book with his wedding - especially since the bride is not who we'd expect. Things don't go as planned for him, making him have to go chasing down a woman with the intent of working his charms. But it also lands him right in the middle of a battle with a wizard and a magical creature who is killing other creatures he hadn't even known existed.

I love that these books aren't just about the romance. There's a whole other plot that's exciting and well thought out. And the women aren't just pretty princesses. Audette, for example, is the leader of a group of men with a sacred duty. She's just as important as any prince. It's just so well done. I may have to just read the series all over again. lol

Donna says

3.5 stars. This had big possibilities. Sadly, just as it would get moving, it would slow down. The hero is not

very likable at first. The story is told in first person (which is my least favorite.) I enjoyed the world that is painted and the characters. It has an interesting mystery to be solved and a bit of romance without over doing it.

Skye Hegyes says

I have mixed feelings about this novel. Irving was a fun-loving character in the other books we see him in, and we get to see more of his serious side in this novel as he learns more about the woman he's betrothed to – who ultimately leaves him at the alter on their wedding day to answer the call of a secret group she's the leader of. Audette is a strong woman who doesn't need a man to run her show, and it's one of the things she worries about on her wedding day – her new husband preventing her from doing her duty to the organization she runs. As she and Irving become entangled in each other's affairs though, it becomes more and more plain that while they suit one another and balance each other out, I just didn't feel there was any real love between them. It didn't quite feel forced as there was affection between them, but it felt... wrong... somehow. I can't explain it. I feel that by the end of the book, they ended up back at square one (at their wedding) when they needed more time to grow together as a couple and learn more about each other's quirks. They weren't quite a perfect puzzle-piece match in my opinion, and it tainted the story for me.

Nancy says

This series has been a delight to read. Clean and fun. The last book was a bit more serious, but this final book was once again lighthearted.

May says

This story was harder to read than the other ones in the series. It was just... boring. There was no exciting climax or character development. I don't even understand how Audette and Irwin fell in love. This was the closest to instalove that I've read in Shari Tapscott's books. The side characters seemed cliché and unmemorable.

Summary:

Light hearted

Boring

Little character development

Karla says

I loved it. That ending though! It's sad to say goodbye to all these characters! I'm glad they all got their happy endings and made small cameos in each of the books.

Kerri says

I was interested to see what became of Irving, especially given his role in past books, and he was certainly a lot of fun in this one. Audette seemed like a good foil for him, but I couldn't help but feel like Tapscott made a big deal of her warrior training, and then did ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WITH IT. Including her fight at the end; she executes one move in an actual battle, and the beast dies. We read a bunch about her sparring, and how talented a fighter she is, so that's incredibly disappointing.

I also felt as though some of the main plot points took a trip into obvious-ville; not a lot of shockers there. What I did like is the play between Irving and Audette, Milly, the knights of the order, and the little things like their hair changing colors after the Ludrako attacks. I think Pippa's is still the best book, with the most compelling story. Still, I'll read the fifth and final book when it comes out in March.

Charlene Pratt says

Truly fun

I've enjoyed this series and look forward to whatever Shari Tapscott comes up with next. Clever and laugh out loud in places. Clean. I will be recommending and gifting these stories
