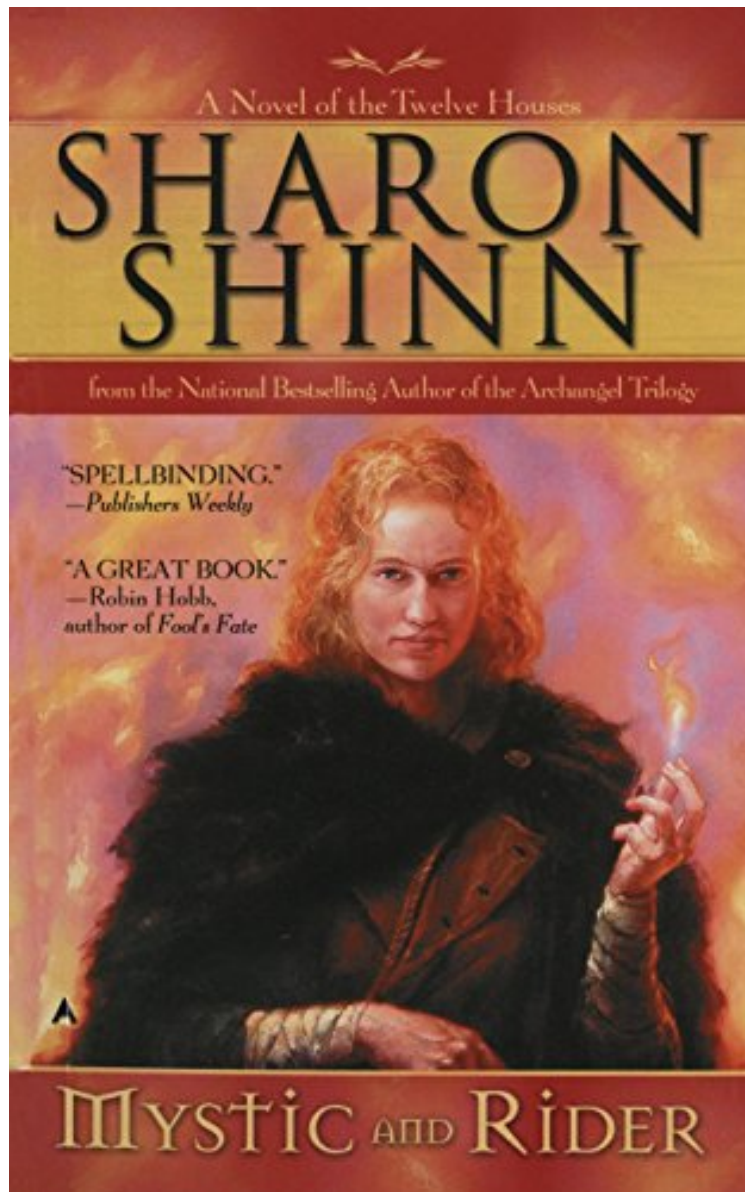


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## Mystic and Rider (Twelve Houses series)

Von Sharon Shinn

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**Von Sharon Shinn : Mystic and Rider (Twelve Houses series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mystic and Rider (Twelve Houses series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein vielversprechender AnfangVon Fantasy FanMystic and Rider ist der Auftakt einer weiteren Fantasy-Reihe von Sharon Shinn, der ich schon viele schne Lesestunden verdanke.Das Buch spielt in einem Land namens Gillengaria, und eine

Gruppe von fünf sehr unterschiedlichen Menschen ist darin auf Befehl des Königs unterwegs: Tayse und Justin heißen die beiden Rider, die zum Schutz von Kirra und Donnal, zwei Gestaltwandlern, sowie von Senneth, einer heimmisvollen Frau, die dem Feuer gebieten kann, abkommandiert sind. Dazu gesellen sich bald Common, ein Sensitiver sowie ein Raelynx, eine gefährliche Raubkatze, die Senneth mittels Magie bindigt. Am Anfang ist diese Gruppe keineswegs homogen, denn die beiden Rider halten nicht viel von magischen Fähigkeiten oder fürchten sie sogar. Zweck dieser Reise ist es, die Stimmung in Lande auszuloten. Dort macht sich langsam wachsender Unmut bei Menschen mit magischen Fähigkeiten breit. In manchen der zwölf Baronien werden sie stigmatisiert, verjagt oder sogar ermordet. Sharon Shinn beschreibt eindrucksvoll, wie Menschen als Feindbilder aufgebaut werden, und wie sich dahinter sehr eigenartige Motive verbergen. Parallelen zum richtigen Leben dürfen ruhig gezogen werden. Der Zusammenhalt der Gruppe und ihr Vertrauen untereinander werden immer wieder auf die Probe gestellt, bis sie alle schließlich zu einer verschworenen Gemeinschaft werden, und so können sie die vielen gefährlichen Situationen meistern. Eine Liebesgeschichte gibt es auch. Trotz einer anfänglichen Langatmigkeit hat mir das Buch gut gefallen und ich freue mich schon auf den nächsten Band. Einen Minuspunkt gebe ich wegen der Behandlung des Raelynx. Ich hatte den Eindruck, als würde er nur dann gefressen, wenn es irgend einem zufällig einfiel und während einer siebentägigen Schiffsreise befand sich das arme Tier eben sieben Tage in einer engen Kiste unter Deck und das ist das Letzte, was man von ihm hört, bis er dann auf einmal wieder ausgelassen wird. Wenn man selber Tiere hat, kommt einem das ziemlich grausam und gedankenlos vor. So gar nicht wie Sharon Shinn.<sup>2</sup> von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Kind of roadmovie Von hwm I won't give you a summary - the existing ones are completely sufficient - but I'll tell you my thoughts about MYSTIC AND RIDER, first of the TWELVE HOUSES NOVELS. The characters seem promising in the beginning. Indeed they are strong and stubborn but they show an innate vulnerability, a desire to protect painful memories that makes them very endearing. Sadly the mysterious air is cast off early on and gives way to utter predictability (Senneth's past is revealed, she gets her man, Kirra's love for Donnal is painfully obvious, Common turns from a slave boy into a wise and powerful member of the party practically overnight ...). Then there's the storyline which is entirely episodic - a bit like in a fantasy-role-play. The party sets out with a completely unfocused goal in mind: see what's out there and gather rumours. There's no pattern of rising action, climax and resolution, more a thoughtless drifting along. The adventurers meet a different problem in each spot along the way: They rescue a mystic boy from slavery. They find slain mystics. They endure a snowstorm. They save a village from a strange predator. They help deliver a mystic baby ... Moreover 80% of the locations are roadside camps, taverns and horsebacks - blimey, but that's not very exciting. Maybe I'm a bit jaded, because I read a lot - well - loads of fantasy, but MYSTIC AND RIDER never offered me anything new and exciting. It's readable, though, so I'll wait for the sequel, THE THIRTEENTH HOUSE, to come out in paperback.<sup>0</sup> von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A classic hero's journey with a powerful and awesome heroine and intriguing plot twists Von Minal I liked Mystic and Rider a great deal, which had a lot to do with the two main characters Senneth, the incredible powerful mystic [aka sorceress], and Tayse, the stoic guard and one of the King's Riders. The two are thrown in together on a mission for their king, doing reconnaissance in the realm's southern provinces. The king fears treachery from the lords and ladies there and Senneth and her small party are to determine the situation there. The more places they visit, the more disconcerting news they find, about plotting gentry and a growing fanaticism in the anti-mystic religion of the Pale Goddess. The book mostly tells the group's adventures during that journey, but they are sparse for about two thirds of the book: it's the last part of the plot that brings the twists and turns and the stunning revelations that show the greater picture, since Mystic and Rider is the overture of a classic fantasy story. This first book in the series gives the introduction to the world with its kingdom, its mostly forgotten gods and the various characters and where their allegiance lies. But although it's very character-driven and predominantly deals with the protagonists and their relationships, the story has its suspenseful moments and I always wanted to know what would await Senneth and her posse round the next corner. And I appreciated Sharon Shinn for her way of introducing world and people without any obvious info dump. There is a new member in their party and his questions and the need for each of the various members to get to know each other better, make for a good background to integrate knowledge about world and people. The two protagonists Senneth and Tayse I just loved, well Senneth a bit more, because she is this unbelievably powerful sorceress, unrivaled, but she bears scars of the worst kind on her soul and the more about her comes out, the more I adored her. And I appreciated that she neither rejects her power, nor is she without doubts, but she manages to keep her calm and always think before she acts. Yeah, she's pretty cool. As is Tayse, by the way, even if he is just the very versed swordsman and no sorcerer. But his personal development is just as huge. As I said, Mystic and Rider is a first in a series and the overall plot will continue in the next installment. But the story at hand is wrapped up well enough to not feel cliffhangerish.

Kurzbeschreibung Gillengaria seethes with unrest. In the south, hostility toward magic and its users has risen to a dangerous level, though King Baryn has ordered that such mystics are to be tolerated. It is whispered that he issued the

decree because his new wife used her magic powers to ensnare him. The King knows there are those in the noble Twelve Houses who could use this growing dissent to overthrow him. So he dispatches the mystic Senneth to assess the threat throughout the realm. Accompanying her is a motley band of magic-users and warriors including Tayse, first among the Kings Riders who holds a hard view of mystics in general, and Senneth in particular. But as the unlikely allies venture farther into the south, they will face death in a land under the sway of a fanatical cult that would purge Gillengaria of all magic users. And they will come to realize that their only hope of survival lies in standing together.

From Publishers Weekly: While not as original as Shinn's popular Archangel trilogy, this first of four in the Twelve Houses series, set in the land of Gillengaria, is tailor-made for the growing audience of fantasy fans who like a good juicy romance. Elderly King Baryn sits on a shaky throne, wed to a strange childless queen, and hides his only heir, a daughter. To investigate rumors that Gillengaria's southern noble houses are plotting revolt and fostering a pogrom against mystics born with supernatural powers, Baryn sends out five diverse individuals: Senneth, a female mystic who commands fire; Kirra, an aristocratic healer and shape-changer; Kirra's shape-shifting servant, Donnal; and Tayse and Justin, two elite King's Riders deeply distrustful of mystics. After rescuing the boy Cammon (an orphan empath) and a raelynx (a savage cat), the party undergoes increasingly perilous adventures while a disturbing attraction between Senneth and Tayse builds into profound and forbidden love. Shinn's spellbinding characterizations, especially that of the hard-bitten Tayse, who loses his heart to the powerful yet vulnerable Senneth, animate this familiar parade of shifting political alliances and disparate adventurers who gradually bond. Shinn's complicated pantheon of gods fallen mostly into disregard, a plethora of unsolved puzzles and ample promise of her characters' lives "changed by love" in future installments make for a rich beginning. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist: Starred \* Gillengaria abounds in magic, yet its mystics, the carriers of magic, aren't well regarded. Tolerated in the North by royal order, in the South they're feared, even hated. Lately it appears that organized riders are attacking and murdering mystics. To verify and assess the situation, King Baryn dispatches fire mystic Senneth to the South. With her are foremost King's Rider Tayse; Baryn's shape-changing mystic daughter, Kirra; Kirra's mystic servant, Donnal; scrappy street-urchin-turned-Rider Justin, whose only lost fight was with Tayse; and orphaned Cammon, found serving ale in a tavern, who Senneth suspects is a mystic. They make a tension-filled group, especially because Justin is hostile to mystics and Tayse is uneasy around Senneth. Much of the book concerns their learning to trust and accept one another, and to work together. Pressing deeper into dangerous territory, they hear that the southern king's new, mystic wife has bewitched him, and a moon-goddess cult bent on eradicating mystics is suddenly popular. It's all too clear that, when the 12 ruling houses begin choosing sides, civil war could be the upshot. Clean, elegant prose is, as usual, one of the joys of a Shinn novel, and here it conjures entirely likable major characters and an interesting group-development narrative. Never tripping over the plot twists and complications, Shinn gives us an easy, absorbing, high-quality read sans gratuitous bloodshed and violence. Paula Luedtke Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved