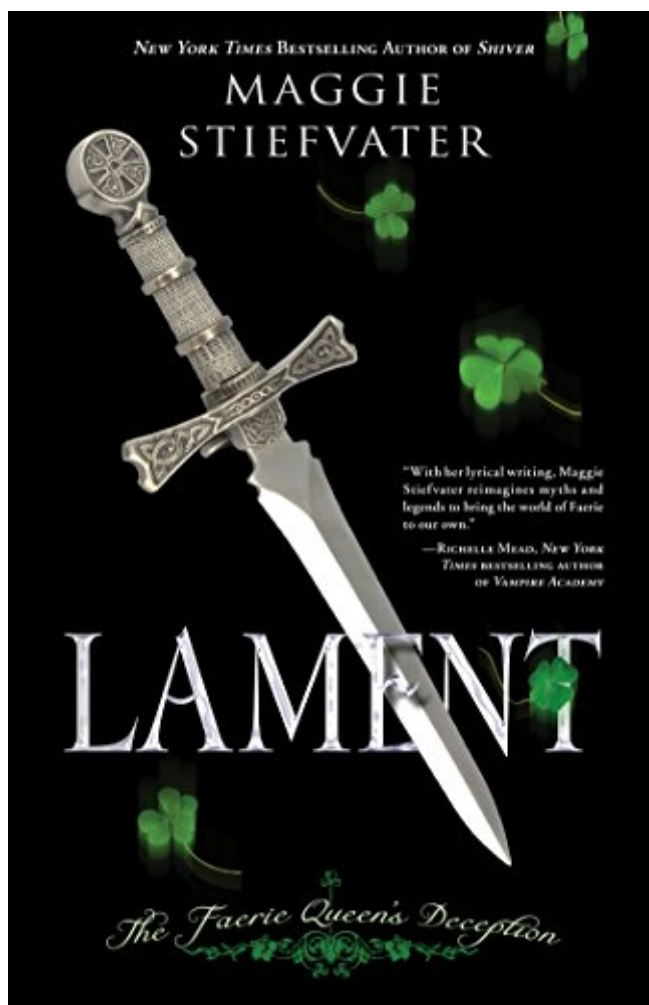


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Lament: The Faerie Queen's Deception (A Lament Novel Book 1)



Synopsis

FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING NOVEL SHIVER

Sixteen-year-old Deirdre Monaghan is a painfully shy but prodigiously gifted musician. She's about to find out she's also a cloverhand— one who can see faeries. Deirdre finds herself infatuated with a mysterious boy who enters her ordinary suburban life, seemingly out of thin air. Trouble is, the enigmatic and gorgeous Luke turns out to be a gallowglass— a soulless faerie assassin. An equally hunky— and equally dangerous— dark faerie soldier named Aodhan is also stalking Deirdre. Sworn enemies, Luke and Aodhan each have a deadly assignment from the Faerie Queen. Namely, kill Deirdre before her music captures the attention of the Fae and threatens the Queen's sovereignty. Caught in the crossfire with Deirdre is James, her wisecracking but loyal best friend. Deirdre had been wishing her life weren't so dull, but getting trapped in the middle of a centuries-old faerie war isn't exactly what she had in mind . . . Lament is a dark faerie fantasy that features authentic Celtic faerie lore, plus cover art and interior illustrations by acclaimed faerie artist Julia Jeffrey. "Vibrant and potent, YA readers searching for faerie stories will be happy to find this accomplished debut novel." Publishers Weekly (starred review) "This beautiful and out-of-the-ordinary debut novel, with its authentic depiction of Celtic Faerie lore and dangerous forbidden love in a contemporary American setting, will appeal to readers of Nancy Werlin's Impossible and Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series." Booklist (starred review) "Part adventure, part fantasy, and wholly riveting love story, Lament will delight nearly all audiences with its skillful blend of magic and ordinary life." KLIATT (starred review)

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Customer Reviews

Dierdre Monaghan is a gifted young harpist. And as she learns during the summertime events of Lament, she's a cloverhand, one who can see faeries. It all begins when the equally musically inclined Luke Dillon begins pursuing her. Despite his good looks and charming nature, there's something mysterious - and perhaps dangerous - about him. Then, strange things start happening to Dierdre's family and her best friend James. Even worse, a vicious faerie named Aodhan is after her, and only Luke seems capable of stopping him. Can Dierdre escape the pull of the faerie world? Or will she have to confront the Faerie Queen who wants her dead? In some ways, I was torn by Lament because of the type of YA fantasy it is. I've struggled with high-school settings, dynamics, and character stereotypes before; and that was the case here. The first half of the story was uneventful, too. It focused mostly on Dierdre and Luke's "courtship," so most of the danger and revelations were postponed for the second half. And it didn't help that the romance felt too superficial for me to believe. Maybe I'm too rational, but "insta-love" or anything close to it just doesn't work for me. Why did I give Lament 3 stars despite those criticisms? Firstly, because Maggie Stiefvater is a magician with words. Her writing style is smooth, carefully crafted, and vivid. This allows her narrative voice for Dierdre to pulse with life and the musical aspects of Lament to lilt and dance off the page - and stories about art or artistically inclined characters fascinate me, anyways. :) These highlights persuaded me to keep reading in spite of my hang-ups, and ultimately I was satisfied by the exciting, magic-filled second half and surprisingly dark, violent ending. I definitely want to read more of Stiefvater's work, because I see so much potential in her technique. It's just that the story of Lament didn't totally appeal to me.

I spent the first half or so of the book trying to figure out exactly what was going on. There was something about the book that felt as if I'd already read it, and something about it that felt just out of my reach. Even when the book concluded, I still felt there was something missing. Stiefvater is clearly drawing on some traditional legends of faerie, but unless you're already familiar with the

legends, it's hard to catch up to the story. I wish there had been a companion guide with the original legend, although the ballads sung by the protagonist throughout the story give some of it. I just felt that it came in too many tattered pieces for my mind to sew up a complete story quilt. I also felt that she relied too heavily on stock characters-- the doting and unrequited male best friend, the evil aunt, the mysterious lover, the clueless parents, etc.-- a little too much. It lacked the depth it made me want. However, it was a lovely and engaging story, and my time was not wasted in reading it. I will be picking up the sequel to see if it comes together in the end...

This book promises suspense, romance and authentic Celtic faerie lore. It delivers these with ease. Unlike many heroines in books today, Deirdre has many female role models to look up to and expect help from. Rather than the helpless role so often portrayed, Deirdre proves to be a strong role model for readers. I am an older man, closing in on 60 years rapidly. That makes books aimed at the young reader a trifle difficult to read, sometimes. I enjoyed reading this story. I find it to be a fantasy that leans on reality. I am thrilled that the faeries are not the standard tiny, winged creatures that are difficult to understand. Instead, most of these faeries could exist, without your knowledge. It allows a person to dream of what could be, which any good fantasy should do. If a fantasy does not allow room for the reader to dream, the reader can not become lost in the story. I think this is a great story for the 12 and older group. It is important to provide great role models for these young people, and this book does provide that. Since it also allows the reader to become involved the fantasy, it also will provide great reading time. I think it is very difficult to provide a fantasy that will appeal not only to the younger readers, but also to the wider audience of adult readers. Maggie Stiefvater has managed that nicely. While I am not fond of the publisher locking the fonts for an e-reader, I did not rate the book based on those fonts. This entire book uses a serif font on the Kindle. Having the ability to change fonts and the size of the text is one of the reasons I use a Kindle. I much prefer the sans font over the serif font. It is easier for me to make out the characters. Looking at the chapter headings, perhaps the publisher was trying to stay with the printed version as much as possible.

This book was a really great read. I enjoy the fantasy type books and the tangled love stories and this book fits the bill! However there are two things you should know before you start reading it: 1) This was the authors first "series" and it is not actually finished. I read on her site that she got the idea for her second series and was really excited about it and started it right away. She still has ideas of where this story line is going, but she hasn't actually written it (last time I checked). So it is a very good read, but there are a few unresolved parts of the story and it may be a long wait. AND

2) The second book is actually a compilation novel. It is still a good story and I enjoyed it as well, but don't be confused or disappointed because it follows a different main character. I don't want to say more and spoil it, so I'll just leave it at that. Just a little heads up for ya! So if you like YA fantasy love stories you will very much enjoy this book! Great characters, the plot is good and her writing style makes this book a page turner that is hard to put down!

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