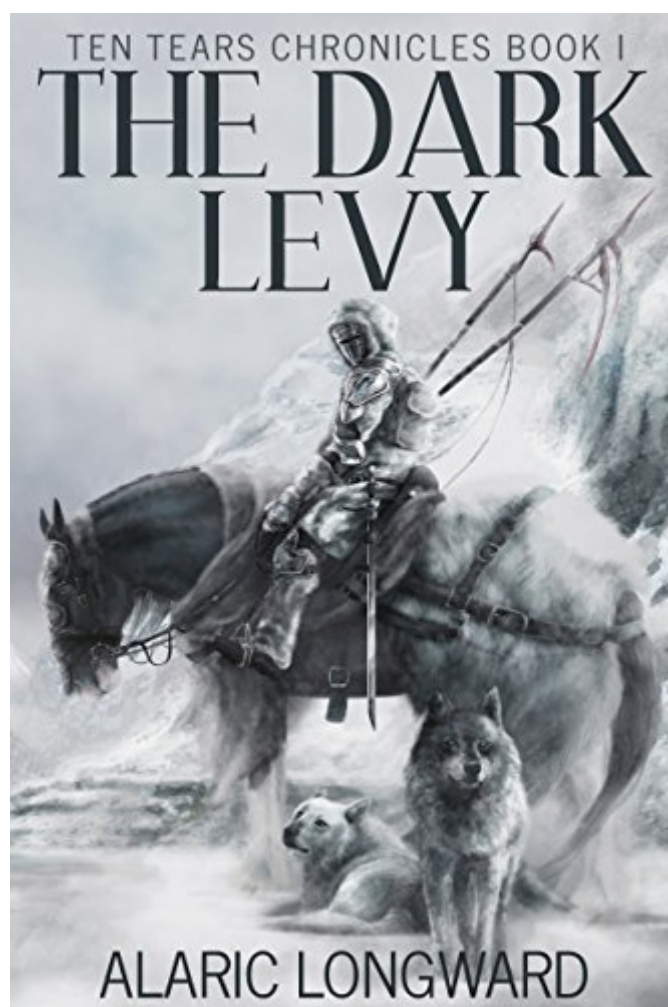


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The Dark Levy: Stories Of The Nine Worlds (Ten Tears Chronicles - A Dark Fantasy Action Adventure Book 1)



Synopsis

In this epic dark fantasy adventure story, Shannon and Dana visit their wise, old grandmother in Wales, and finally learn why their lives have been strangely tormented and cursed. There is a family secret, old as time itself, and that secret might kill them if they try to ignore their destiny. They also learn that there is a dangerous way to embrace that secret, because on that day, a harrowing creature of an alien world calls out for the few and the special, talented humans of the Tenth world. Our world. Dana performs an irreversible murderous deed that opens the gate to the Jewel of the Nine, the world of Aldheim, and they meet the strange creature calling for them. In this world they find their true calling, their special talents, the truth of the gods and also a world of mystery, danger, and adversity. Shannon and Dana struggle with their previous relationship as one grows cruel and power-driven, while the other learns to value friendship. Much is demanded of Shannon, who struggles with her loyalties. Despite the many dangers and their apparently hopeless situation in the brutal, mage-filled world of monsters and dragons, there is hope, for Shannon has special, coveted powers of healing, reserved for the chosen of the gods. If she perseveres, she can change the past and bring back even the gods. But the price will be great. "This is masterful weaving of a story that sucks you in to a coming of age urban fantasy. It doesn't feel like any other book I've read this year, and I've read three or four a week." - Customer. The Dark Levy, a dark action fantasy novel is a 2015 bestseller and first book in an epic, magical fantasy series called the Ten Tears Chronicles.

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Customer Reviews

The Dark Levy is a fine example of modern coming-of-age urban fantasy. When the story begins we are presented to a mundane setting and to a girl in her late teens called Shannon. Apparently her world doesn't have anything different from ours, she's bullied at school, she's insecure, shy, and flirts with thoughts of suicide, she can't experience joy, she feels like something is missing in her, a constant void, which is increased by her sister's glowing presence. Dana, the younger sister, is joyful, confident and liked by others. Shannon's character is highly developed and complex. Her descriptions of how she feels towards her sister and her honesty when she talks about her own weaknesses are astonishing. In this sense, the main character definitely isn't a "Mary Sue". The plot thickens when we are presented to her Grandmother on a very special day. Grandma decides to reveal some well-hidden secrets about old beings and a bridge to another world. Understandably, Shannon is skeptical at first, but she knows that something of her Grandma's stories might be true, especially because she can explain the reason for the ever-lasting darkness she feels inside of her. Shannon also finds out that her sister isn't so different from herself, in a very gruesome way. When they cross to the hidden world it's when things start to turn really interesting, at this point of the story I was already hooked and I couldn't put the book down anymore. As for style, Alaric Longward really explores the lexical possibilities of a fantasy book, without being verbose or pompous. We can feel that his choice of vocabulary is absolutely necessary to build the world he imagined, and to create the appropriate dialogues and general climate of the book.

Dark, captivating, and full of myth and magic, Alaric Longward's THE DARK LEVY (STORIES OF THE NINE WORLDS BOOK 1) is gripping and complex. Characters are very well developed - they grow and change as the stresses and extreme challenges of their lives progress. There is a definite and unsettling otherworldliness to the universe author Longward has created; it seems to exist out of time, and the dialog often reflects that. Characters speak in ways both archaic and modern, often mixing the two together. The effect is disconcerting, but it works very well to keep the reader as anxious and uncertain as the characters are. The short prologue of the book didn't grab me, but the

first chapter certainly did! The minute Shannon's story began, I was hooked. Shunned by schoolmates and neighbors as "strange" and "crazy," unable to keep up with her seemingly happy, popular sister Dana, Shannon is miserable and lonely. Once she and Dana are transported to a perilous, frightening world thought to exist only in myth, however, it is quickly apparent they never knew each other, or themselves, well at all. Enslaved to a fearsome sisterhood of vicious gorgons who want the power of the old Norse gods and goddesses, Shannon, Dana, and their fellow young slaves struggle to survive. Trust, friendship, resentment, enmity — all are tentative and dangerous. Foes may become allies, and vice versa, in the blink of an eye. As these young captives grow in skill and self-knowledge, some startling discoveries are made and the plot twists in unforeseen ways. My favorite surprise was a startling revelation as to why "crazy" Shannon seems unaware she frequently talks to herself.

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