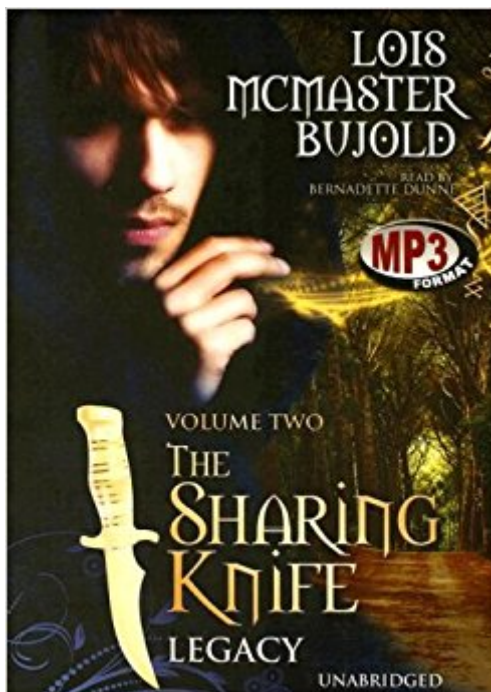


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The Sharing Knife, Vol. 2: Legacy



Synopsis

[MP3CD audiobook format in vinyl case.] [Read by Bernadette Dunne] Filled with magic, heroism, and all-too-human characters, Bujold's Sharing Knife saga is both a gripping adventure and a poignant romance. In this second volume, Fawn Bluefield, the clever farm girl, and Dag Redwing Hickory, the seasoned Lakewalker soldier-sorcerer, are newly married. Their arrival at Dag's home on Hickory Lake Camp is met with prejudice and suspicion, as many in the camp deny the literal bond between Dag and Fawn, woven in blood in the Lakewalker magical way. Then Dag is called away by an unexpected -- and viciously magical -- malice attack on a neighboring hinterland, threatening Lakewalkers and farmers both. What his patrol discovers there will not only change Dag and his new bride, but will call into question the uneasy relationship between their peoples, and may even offer hope of a less divided future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[A] saga of daring deeds and unlikely romance. Bujold quickly develops unforgettable characters as she crafts a world filled with unique monsters and an original approach to magic." --Library Journal
"Bujold develops the characters and their relationship skillfully enough to please romance as well as fantasy fans." --Booklist

Volume two in the epic fantasy saga of love and peril, courage and fate, from one of the most honored

writers in the field—multiple Hugo Award-winning author Lois McMaster Bujold—brought young Fawn Bluefield together with Dag Redwing Hickory, the seasoned soldier-sorcerer, but it was love and loyalty that joined their fates. While their unorthodox marriage has been grudgingly accepted by the clever farmgirl's people, Dag's Lakewalker kin are less tolerant, greeting their union with derision, suspicion, and prejudice. The specter of permanent exile looms above the couple until a final decision on their lot is diverted by a sudden, viciously magical malice attack on a neighboring hinterland. Sworn to duty, Dag must answer the call, leaving his new bride behind. But what awaits him and his patrol could have serious and unimagined consequences for farmers and Lakewalkers alike, forever altering the lovers, their families, and their world. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Lois McMaster Bujold is deservedly one of the most award-winning authors in the field of sci-fi and fantasy. I've read almost everything she has written, and there's *nothing* that I didn't enjoy; most of it I LOVED! She has equally great ability to build a character, a world, an ethos, and a *sentence*, all while conveying rich emotion, humor, and a plot that flows and never strains your suspension of disbelief. To speak more specifically about *The Sharing Knife*, I can't tell how many times I've picked up one of the volumes *intending* just a BRIEF "visit" with my old friends Dag and Fawn (and brother Whit et al in books 3 & 4), but wound up first reading more than a chapter, then saying, "This is a silly place to start," and reading the whole foursome straight through from the beginning! As Bujold intended, they're more focused on human interaction and the seemingly mismatched central love story than on action; the series in some ways belongs to the mainly sci-fi "cultural contact" sub-genre. Bujold has described their overarching progression as the formation of a couple, then a family (blood-tied and not), then a community. Deadly peril isn't absent, though, in the form of an evil more like a natural disaster than the typical scheming villain. The magical paradigm is uncommon, too, and its implications and permutations -- for those both with and without the ability to sense and manipulate the "ground" in everything -- are well explored. The first 2 volumes are basically one book split in half for publication reasons. *Beguilement* (*The Sharing Knife*, Book 1) covers their meeting, confronting a monstrous "malice", falling unexpectedly in love, and facing Fawn's farmer family. This entry, *Legacy* (*The Sharing Knife*, Book 2), deals with newly wedded Dag bringing Fawn back to his clan, and encountering both determined Lakewalker hostility and another malice -- which leads to the surprising ultimate fate of the magic-burdened knife which initially bound them together. *The Sharing Knife* (*Passage*, Book 3) is their belated honeymoon journey down the river, meeting new friends and foes, as Dag explores his troubling

newfound skills. Finally, in *À Horizon* (The Sharing Knife, Book 4), Dag's unconventional apprenticeship in a southern Lakewalker camp, then unexpected dangers confronted by the mixed group he leads up the northbound trail, turn Lakewalker assumptions upside down and birth hope for a future where Lakewalkers and "farmers" (their term for everyone else!) may be able to co-exist with understanding, respect, and cooperation. Re. this Kindle edition -- One thing I like about both Book 1 and Book 2 is the Table of Contents: each entry-link shows the first line of text below the chapter number, so you can see which chapter you want. I do wish the cover images were larger, though: they're practically thumbnail-sized. This volume does have a conclusion to the action plot, and ends with the main characters setting forth for the next step in their lives together. It's not the kind of ending that leaves you grinding your teeth until you can get the next volume. I'm betting **anyone** who doesn't hate anything even resembling a love story will find something to enjoy, and want to read them all.

This second volume in the Sharing Knife series accomplished a lot more in plot development in this frontier fantasy world. Legacy picks up directly from *Beguilement* with a newly married Dag and Fawn travelling to Dag's home with the Lake Walkers. There the new couple meet resistance to their cross-cultural marriage. In the midst of the social/family drama, a new malice threat emerges as well as some alarming new developments with Dag's life-force powers. The conflict and tension stems from the rigid cultural divide between the Lake Walkers and the Farmers and is blinding both sides to the fact that while the Malices are multiplying, the Lake walkers are slowly dwindling. A few people recognize that a new way must be found before their world completely unravels. The only solution is to get the two cultures to somehow work together. I have to admit that I really enjoy Bujold's rich and complex imagination. I love the wounded warrior Dag. Bujold has crafted a wonderful male character who is neither domineering nor larger than life. He is truly one of the best male characters I have ever read. I'm still not feeling Fawn all that much but the other aspects of this world such as the concept of the Malices, (creatures that feed on life and can only be killed by the Lake Walkers) and the concept of the Lake Walker's magical bone sharing knives. I feel satisfied enough to sit back and enjoy the next two Sharing Knife books.

I adore this author. Her people are real, even if their circumstances/worlds are sci-fi or fantasy. There is nothing gratuitous in terms of sex or violence. I would have liked to have met these people. In this book, we see where one of the two main characters comes from, giving us the insight into

how he has come to this point in his life, and how and why his way of looking at and interacting in his world is changing. His flaws and strengths propel him and his relationships compel him to a different path. His marriage to someone who is considered inappropriate has changed many of his perceptions and he uses this to try to change his world to reduce the divisiveness. Although not set in our world, the principles, the courage required to forge a new path and the questions to be considered are certainly universal. This book is literate, funny and serious--I highly recommend it . Although the author makes the effort to keep you up to date on occurrences from the previous novel please read the series in order. Even if you are not a fan of sci-fi/fantasy, please give this author a try--there is so much NOT to be missed.

This book continued the story of Fawn and Dag. The plot was satisfying, heartwrenching at some parts. You can't help but root for Fawn and Dag as they confront Dag's Lakewalker family, but Bujold helps you see the situation from all sides. A great book.

It has been a long time since I have read the Sharing Knife series, but I always enjoy Lois McMaster Bujold's imaginative and well-written fantasy books like these. (I'm not as fond of her Vorkosigan series, as I don't care for space opera.) She has created some of the most interesting fantasy worlds in recent times, and her characters are complex and believable. Forget about any description of her work you may have seen. These books are meant to read, and nothing less than reading one will give you a fair picture of what you are getting into with them.

I expected very much more. The 1st book was quite good, and other work by the author has been good to great. So I bought this one. Ah well.

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