



# Queen of the Dark Things: A Novel

By C. Robert Cargill

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## Queen of the Dark Things: A Novel By C. Robert Cargill

Screenwriter and noted film critic C. Robert Cargill continues the story begun in his acclaimed debut *Dreams and Shadows* in this bold and brilliantly crafted tale involving fairies and humans, magic and monsters—a vivid phantasmagoria that combines the imaginative wonders of Neil Gaiman, the visual inventiveness of Guillermo Del Toro, and the shocking miasma of William S. Burroughs.

Six months have passed since the wizard Colby lost his best friend to an army of fairies from the Limestone Kingdom, a realm of mystery and darkness beyond our own. But in vanquishing these creatures and banning them from Austin, Colby sacrificed the anonymity that protected him. Now, word of his deeds has spread, and powerful enemies from the past—including one Colby considered a friend—have resurfaced to exact their revenge.

As darkness gathers around the city, Colby sifts through his memories desperate to find answers that might save him. With time running out, and few of his old allies and enemies willing to help, he is forced to turn for aid to forces even darker than those he once battled.

Following such masters as Lev Grossman, Erin Morgenstern, Richard Kadrey, and Kim Harrison, C. Robert Cargill takes us deeper into an extraordinary universe of darkness and wonder, despair and hope to reveal the magic and monsters around us . . . and inside us.

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### Editorial Review

#### From [Booklist](#)

Wizard Colby Stevens, young as he is, has enough bad memories to haunt him for several lifetimes. After he simultaneously won and lost his war with the Limestone Kingdom—banishing the fairy folk from Austin, Texas, but losing his best friend in the process and possibly damning himself—he wants only to be left alone. Unfortunately, a wizard as powerful as Colby can't hide. In this sequel to *Dreams & Shadows*, a spirit-walker severed from her body, the shades of cursed mutineers, and "Solomon's Seventy-Two Demons" converge in Austin. Colby must investigate how these forces are linked and create the impossible: a solution in which he punishes evildoers, rescues those in the right, and satisfies his need for redemption. Although too much of the book is devoted to exposition, including more pseudo-academic essays on magic and many (albeit, significant) philosophical digressions, the pacing explodes once all the major players are in place. Clever plotting influenced by trickster lore, a more hopeful ending, and a new cast of complex and likable characters make this sequel a winner. Fans of Kevin Hearne's Iron Druid series will especially like this volume. --Krista Hutley

#### Review

"Powerful.... Brimming with philosophical conundrums... Cargill's world is abundant in detail and imagery in the service of the story. ... Will keep readers entranced." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"Hard to put down...this is definitely going to attract readers of contemporary fantasy, particular those who enjoy Neil Gaiman's adult books or Lev Grossman's *The Magicians*." (Library Journal)

"As a result, *Dreams and Shadows* is a potent introduction to a world where the wondrous is rarely wonderful, the best intentions are guaranteed to roam farthest astray, and the reader is destined to keep turning the pages until the (somewhat) bitter end." (BookPage)

"A thoroughly enchanting debut novel" (Starburstmagazine.com)

"In this beautifully written debut.... The universe is richly detailed, and issues of destiny and sacrifice give the story depth...for those that enjoy a rollercoaster ride into the depths of strangeness and despair." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"Exceptional worldbuilding, sure-handed plotting and well-rounded characters, even the nasty ones, abound, and the whole impressive enterprise moves smartly along through a fairy culture with a structure and motivations sharply different from that of humans. A mesmerizing and highly original debut." (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

"Richly imagined...an auspicious debut." (Booklist)

"Dark, comedic, and unsettling, *Dreams and Shadows* is everything an urban fantasy sets out to be." (Tor.com)

"Cargill proves with *Dreams and Shadows* that he's not just a writer capable of creating and presenting dense mythology well (Breitbart/ Big Hollywood)

"[T]his is a fantasy about mythmaking, learning the uses of power, and living with the consequences of one's

behavior. Recommended for readers of Lev Grossman's *Magicians* series and Neil Gaiman's adult contemporary fantasies." (Library Journal on QUEEN OF THE DARK THINGS)

"Cargill's screenwriting chops bring to life a vivid mix of real and imaged folklore in his fantastical second novel. While the mix of urban fantasy, Guillermo Del Toro-like monsters and academic explanations of this magical world shouldn't work, it absolutely does." (No Source on QUEEN OF THE DARK THINGS)

#### From the Back Cover

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