

SHADOW WEAVER

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MarcyKate Connolly



Fans of Serafina and the Black Cloak and The Night Gardener will devour Shadow Weaver, the first in a dark middle-grade fantasy duology that's filled with shadows, danger, magic, and has the feel of a new classic.

Emmeline's gift for controlling shadows has isolated her from the rest of the world, but she's grown to be content, hidden away in her mansion with Dar, her own shadow, as her only company.

Disaster strikes when a noble family visits their home and offers to take Emmeline away and cure her of magic. Desperate not to lose her shadows, she turns to Dar, who proposes a deal: Dar will change the noble's mind, if Emmeline will help her become flesh as she once was. Emmeline agrees, but the next morning, the man in charge is in a coma, and all the witness saw was a long shadow with no one nearby to cast it. Scared to face punishment, Emmeline and Dar run away.

With the noble's guards on her trail, Emmeline's only hope of clearing her name is to escape capture and perform the ritual that will set Dar free. But Emmeline's not sure she can trust Dar anymore, and it's hard to keep secrets from someone who can never leave your side.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MarcyKate Connolly is a *New York Times* bestselling children's book author and nonprofit administrator living in New England with her husband and pugs. She's also a caffeine addict and a voracious reader. You can visit her online at marcykate.com.

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1. One of Emmeline's favorite things to do is eavesdrop on other people. Why do you think that is?
2. Emmeline's best friend is her shadow, Dar. What do you think about their friendship and how it evolves throughout the book? Would you want a friend like Dar?
3. In the book, a handful of children are blessed with magic talents every twenty-five years when a comet passes overhead. If you could have a talent like Emmeline's shadow weaving and Lucas's light singing, what would it be and why?
4. In Emmeline's world, magic users are often viewed with fear. Why do you think that is?
5. What do you think about Emmeline's parents' plan to send her away to be cured? How would you react if you were in her shoes?
6. Emmeline must perform several tasks in order to collect all the ingredients for the ritual to make Dar a human girl again, some of which make her uncomfortable. What do you think of them? What insight do they give you into Dar and Emmeline as characters?
7. When Emmeline meets Lucas, she is immediately drawn to him, even though his talent is the opposite of her own. What do you think about her decision to hide her talent from him and his family? Did you understand why?
8. Because Emmeline's talent is shadow weaving, she has no fear of the dark. What fears do you wish you could overcome so easily?
9. Dar seems to be suspicious of everyone. Why do you think she doesn't like Lucas and his family very much?
10. What was your favorite part of the book and why?
11. What do you think will happen in the sequel?