



The Cloud Roads (The Books of the Raksura)

By Martha Wells

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The Cloud Roads (The Books of the Raksura) By Martha Wells

Moon has spent his life hiding what he is - a shape-shifter able to transform himself into a winged creature of flight. An orphan with only vague memories of his own kind, Moon tries to fit in among the tribes of his river valley, with mixed success. Just as Moon is once again cast out by his adopted tribe, he discovers a shape-shifter like himself... someone who seems to know exactly what he is, who promises that Moon will be welcomed into his community. What this stranger doesn't tell Moon is that his presence will tip the balance of power... that his extraordinary lineage is crucial to the colony's survival... and that his people face extinction at the hands of the dreaded Fell! Now Moon must overcome a lifetime of conditioning in order to save himself... and his newfound kin.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Moon's world is populated by many different intelligent species (none of them human), and he has never known which one he belongs to. Orphaned at a young age, he's wandered from tribe to tribe, hiding a dangerous secret. Like the universally hated Fell, whose only aims are slaughter and conquest, Moon can fly—which leads to predictably violent cases of mistaken identity. When he does find his own people, the Raksura, life doesn't get any easier, since their internal politics are vicious, and they too are in imminent danger from the Fell. Cue hairsbreadth escapes and feats of derring-do, as Moon helps his new family evacuate their doomed colony and then rescues a group of kidnapped children. Wells (The Gate of Gods) merrily ignores genre conventions as she spins an exciting adventure around an alien hero who anyone can identify with. (Mar.)

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Review

But the vivid world-building and nonstop action really serve as a backdrop for the heart of the novel--the universal human themes of loneliness, loss, and the powerful drive to find somewhere to belong. - **Sharon Shinn** --Cover Blurb

There's so much to like here: multiple sapient species sharing a world (or NOT sharing) with complex gender roles, wildly differing societies, and varying technologies. This is rigorous fantasy without the trappings of European medievalism. And most of all, it's riveting storytelling.- **Steven Gould, author of *Jumper***

The Cloud Roads has wildly original worldbuilding, diverse and engaging characters, and a thrilling adventure plot. It's that rarest of fantasies: fresh and surprising, with a story that doesn't go where ten thousand others have gone before. I can't wait for my next chance to visit the Three Worlds! - **N.K. Jemisin, author of *The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms***

About the Author

Martha Wells is the author of fourteen fantasy novels, including *The Wizard Hunters*, *The Ships of Air*, *The Gate of Gods*, *The Element of Fire*, and the Nebula-nominated *The Death of the Necromancer*. Her newest novel, *The Cloud Roads*, was published in March 2011 by Night Shade Books, and the sequel, *The Serpent Sea*, in January 2012. Her next fantasy novels will be *The Siren Depths*, to be published by Night Shade in December 2013, and *Emilie and the Hollow World*, to be published by Strange Chemistry Books in April 2013. She has had short stories in the magazines *Black Gate*, *Realms of Fantasy*, *Lone Star Stories*, and *Stargate Magazine*, and in the Tsunami Relief anthology *Elemental*. She has also written two media-tie-in novels, *Stargate Atlantis: Reliquary* and *Stargate Atlantis: Entanglement*.

Users Review

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