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Review - Luminaria



Posted by [PatG](#) on October 10, 2011 at 8:40 AM

Luminaria by: [Jackie Morris](#)

Alex is a princess trying to put off the inevitable marriage of political convenience, SheZor is a candy munching villain trying to put a lid on her rebellious slave-subjects and Jackie Morris is a local Ottawa writer putting out her first novel. All three are reflected in the web of mirrors that is *Luminaria*.

Luminaria is a young adult fantasy novel nominally set in the 18th century. It tells the story of a young woman who trapped by convention in her world, is able to escape it in another. The plot is true to the genre with villains to defeat, villagers to rescue and much girl power kicking of butt. Oddly though my favourite character was the villain SheZor. With her Saturday morning cartoon moniker, SheZor's machinations are a joy to watch. Foiled again by our heroine and her trusty companions she exclaims petulantly: "How dare you! That was an excellent plan! I'm sure you just didn't set it up properly. ... stupid smelly mutts" Pure Villanous Gold.

Luminaria is not without it's flaws. In particular the real world side feels a little under developed. It is however a solid young adult fantasy worth taking a look at.

The astute will notice the absence of the words "steam" and "punk" in this review. That is because *Luminaria* isn't really either. However the next book in the series, *Magmaria*, is set in a lava world where steam power rules and the wastelands are populated by the post-apocalyptic Obsidians.

I will have more to say about *Luminaria* and *Magmaria* in an upcoming issue of the *Dominion Dispatch*.

Luminaria and future books in this series can be purchased at [local book stores](#) and from [Amazon](#).

