

Book Review

Shadows of Athens

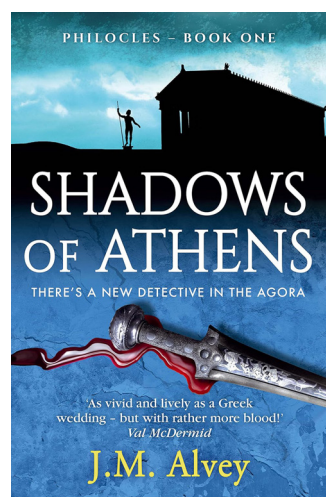
Alvey (J.M.) Pp. 376, map. London: Orion Books, 2019. Paper, £8.99. ISBN: 978-1-4091-8063-0.

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The story itself is engaging as we are introduced to the playwright Philocles just as the play which could launch him into stardom is about to debut. As the mystery unfolds, we discover what might well be part of some larger treasonous scheme to undermine Athens. This book is not intended for a younger audience as the language can be crass at times and there are seemingly gratuitous sex scenes, as well. Overall, it was a highly enjoyable and entertaining read. It is the first book in a three-part series and I look forward to reading the other two books in the Philocles series.

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Set in Athens in 443 BCE, *Shadows of Athens* is an engaging mystery in which the reader not only becomes engrossed in the sleuthing associated with solving the mystery of the murder man found at the playwright's front gate, but also with life in 5th century BCE Athens. The reader is granted glimpses of 5th century BCE Athens as the characters in the novel describe the world around them. Ancient Athens comes alive as the main characters pray and curse, make allusions to myth, and offer observations about the world around them.