

SPECULATIVE FICTION REVIEW by Stephanie Young

TITLE	<i>The Sharing Knife: Beguilement</i>
AUTHOR	Lois McMaster Bujold
PUBLISHER	EOS
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This is the first volume of the new fantasy series by one of my favorite writers. I read *Curse of Chalion*, the first volume in her first fantasy trilogy, a few years ago. I enjoyed this more as it really zeroes in on the two main characters – Dag the Lakewalker and Fawn the runaway farmer girl.

In this universe, the Lakewalkers are responsible for tracking bandits and blight bogles – creatures who are not born but sort of evolve from the word around them, getting larger and more powerful until a Lakewalker can destroy them. Fawn kills one and becomes attached to Dag.

The story is one of discovery of the very different lifestyles and of blooming love. Bujold tells the tale with deftness and tenderness and I was deeply involved in the life of these two. In this book, we meet and get to know Fawn's family and in the next, we will find out about Dag's.

While I am anxious to see the first new Miles Vorkosigan book in years, which Lois is supposed to be writing as soon as this series is complete, I also am anxious to see where this series goes. If you enjoy light fantasy, this book is an excellent choice.

I give it 4 rings of Saturn.