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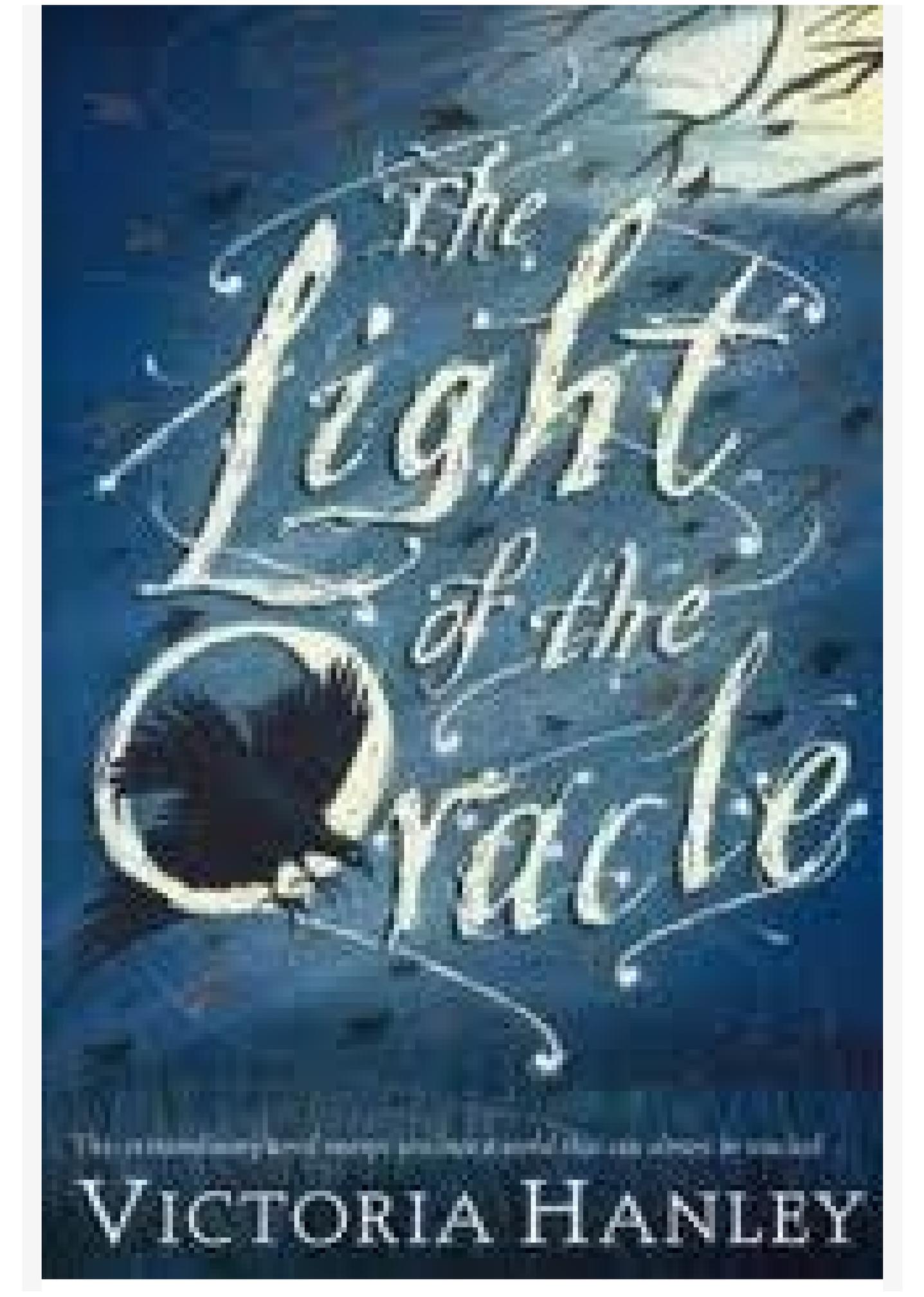
Posted on 09 February 2018 By Victoria Hanley

(Download Book) ? The Light of the Oracle ? MOBI eBook or Kindle ePUB free

Well, I have to say that this was a VAST improvement from Hanley's second book in this trilogy, Healer's Keep. While distantly set in the same universe as Seer and the Sword and Healer's Keep, The Light of the Oracle is very distinctive in its world building. While I don't think the country was as fleshed out as it could have been, it isn't ultimately of much consequence. This story solidly takes place in the Temple of the Oracle, rarely extending beyond its walls. We get hints of it here and there with mentions of Uste, Tunise, and the desert somewhere amidst it all, but it's hard for the reader to get a firm grip of the exterior environment. Even within the Temple of the Oracle, you don't get a ton of physical description, but it didn't bother me that much. This was a very character-driven plot, and most of the details were pumped into societal aspects of the Temple as well as the characters themselves. I just **ADORED** the idea of the birds choosing their prophets and prophetesses and the idea of receiving a feather from them. It was tremendously unique, and something I haven't come across in the fantasy genre before. While most of the school scenes are reminiscent of other YA Fantasy novels, Hanley distinguished herself with lovely oddities. Also, I appreciate that Hanley honed her focus in this novel. Instead of leaping from character to character and from place to place as in Healer's Keep, she stuck to the Temple

setting for the most part and made sensible, timely departures at critical moments I liked that we got to see the inner workings of the school this time around As for the character I really think that they were fairly well developed for this genre I do understand you can only take so deep a dive into character in a pseudo stand alone novel of this length I felt like there was definitely character development in this book Kiran, Brynn, and Dawn all grew over time It didn't feel forced It felt pretty natural for the most part Brock wasn't as fleshed out in my opinion, but since he was ancillary I wasn't really bothered by this. So, Clea Oh sweet sweet sweeeeet jerkface Clea What a freaking nightmare When I first started the book I had false hopes that Clea would be humbled and learn to relate to her peasant compatriot Brynn It would have been the perfect set up really and a much complex problem to tackle Snobby rich girl leaves home and learns the world isn't as black and white and classist as it once seemed Or rather, she would be challenged to break down those barriers from a position of privilege, learning to relate to her peers and respect them as equals I imagined Clea and Brynn striking up a friendship, fighting the ills of the world together Instead she really is as petty, selfish, and cruel as she appears on the surface Clea's character doesn't develop She basically gets everything she wants up until the last moment where she is suddenly nullified I won't say how Some problems with the way they characterized Clea and the other Feathers It was very obviously a classist issue at its heart, which I can respect as a valid social criticism however, Hanley took the trope of the mean girl and just pounded it into you with no new filters or takes Clea was a vindictive cliché through and through As she was one of the main villains throughout I had hoped for a bit more than that, but was disappointed So back to the core of my disappointment here, Hanley not only takes the mean girl cliché, but also the stereotype of girls as inherently mean and vindictive than boys At one point Kiran and the prissy mean boy clique whatever their names were, they were only mentioned a couple times get into a physical brawl and fight it out like men After the fight is over they still don't like each other, but they respect each other Okay, gag whatever Meanwhile, Clea and Brynn and their respective crews fight throughout the entire novel and just meanly tear each other down, never making amends I guess I found it to be a little sexist in that regard I'll go further to say that jealousy and spite were Clea's driving forces to be mean against Brynn She couldn't stand the idea of a peasant being better than her in any manner So she focused on tearing her down Then she romantically pursues Kiran throughout despite his street urchin upbringing and that somehow doesn't bother her Like she hates Clea for being from the lower class, but doesn't care that Kiran is as well Kiran, who she sees as a prospective husband, which is arguably important than any rival she could have with some other classmate at the Temple It just doesn't add up Also I don't know what it is with Hanley in her books that all the adults in her books are either blazing idiots hopelessly incompetent at their roles or a villain There is literally no in-between There appear to be no decent competent human beings over the age of 20 Like come on Ilanna, you are the most powerful priestess in the land and wise and

what not, but you can stand and speak up when you KNOW something is afoot And as for Renchald, he was just confusing Was anyone else confused by his character motivation in this book Other than thwarting Selid and Brynn Overall, I m teetering between a 3 and a 4 here I suppose for the YA genre it s a 4, but for quality it s a 3 It was very entertaining and an easy read I found it hard to put down I read it in about a day AAAANNDDDD it was written by Victoria Hanley whom I unflinchingly love And it was a million times better than Healer s Keep I would definitely recommend as a light read to a friend who enjoys YA Fantasy. Not quite as good as The Seer and the Sword, but better than The Healer s Keep.



The
Boat
of the
Oracle

The extraordinary and moving journey of a woman who has seen things no one else could

VICTORIA HANLEY

I enjoyed the first two books in the trilogy, so even though it had been years since I read them, I was excited to find this at the library so I could revisit the world to which Hanley introduced me in *The Seer and the Sword* and *The Healer's Keep*. Now, though, I find myself staring at the book quizzically, wondering what went wrong. First of all, while Goodreads lists this as the third in the Healer and Seer series, it doesn't feel in any way connected to the two aforementioned books. It may be set in the same world, but the characters, places, and events have nothing to do with what has gone before, giving it the feel of a spinoff rather than a sequel. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but it did throw me for a loop. The story was interesting, but the writing drove me bonkers. Was Hanley's voice always so passive, her prose so mechanical and uninspired? Seriously, I know it's been a while, but I remember the first two books being better written than this, with characters that I actually, well, cared about. These people I didn't feel anything for them, because they were completely bland and washed out. Bryn seemed promising at first: intelligent, fair-minded, and not afraid to say what's on her mind. And yet, she never really fulfilled that potential for me. Her character, along with all the other characters, felt underdeveloped, as if Hanley was just making up their personalities as she went along. Consequently, they felt like puppets doing what the author told them to do rather than like people whose story the author was sharing with us. All the relationships felt perfunctory. Bryn and Kiran's relationship was devoid of any real chemistry, the various friendships lacked depth, and Bryn's rivalry with Clea failed to deliver the tension it was obviously meant to create. The dangers contrived. All in all, a disappointing read.

This and my other reviews can be found at [daughter of a humble stone cutter](#), is whisked off to the Temple of the Oracle as she has a natural talent for making prophecies. But not all is right in the temple and Bryn is in terrible danger from those inside the temple. *The Light of the Oracle* is a really good companion novel to *The Seer and the Sword* and *The Healer's Keep*, which was a charming and sweet read, with interesting magic around birds. I liked Bryn as she was kind and a bit naive, and I enjoyed her journey from being an outsider to being accepted. I liked this book and would recommend to have enjoyed Victoria Hanley other books. ([Download Book](#)) ? *The Light of the Oracle* ? Bryn Is The Daughter Of A Humble Stone Cutter So No One Is Surprised Than She When The Master Priest Seeks Her Out To Become A Student At The Famous Temple Of The Oracle A Training School For Future Priests And Priestesses But Her Innately Gifted Nature Proves A Threat To The Evil Embedded Within The Temple, And Bryn Encounters Unimaginable Danger Is She Able To Struggle With The Unknown And To Save The Whole World From Untold Misery Or Will The Powers Of Darkness Succeed ? *The Seer and the Sword* is one of my favorite fantasy books of all time, and when I found out it was a trilogy, I was beyond thrilled. I enjoyed the second book in the series *The Healer's Keep* a lot as well. This book was good and I liked it, but it is not related to the other two books at all. There is an offhand reference to the kingdom of Bellandria where the first two books are set near the end of the book and that's it as far as I can tell. The story was interesting enough and the

political situation was well developed and explained I liked Bryn as a heroine as well Honestly, the book is good, but calling it a companion novel to *The Seer and the Sword* was a bit of a turn off for me 3.5 stars. I coincidentally came across this book without reading the first two books I have to be honest I really wish I read the two before this one first There are spoilers in this by the way, don't read it if you haven't read the book I have to say, I was really close to putting the book down in the middle of it because it didn't really seem to spark anything and the story line didn't seem to be going anywhere I'm glad I didn't put the book down because I actually really liked it towards the ending of the book It could've used dialogue and action The fact that a bird's feather gave power was an interesting thing and I thought it was a good change to a fantasy book I especially liked the feather of the black swan The fact that there were pagan gods, that brought the interest down a little but it was surprising how good this book was, it's not the best book but it is good The detail was amazing though, I have to say I thought so at least I don't usually pay attention to the detail like I do to the dialogue and I always end up skipping detail but I wanted to go through it word by word so I didn't miss any important detail The only thing I wasn't really happy about was the change of point of view It would change from Bryn, to Kiran, to Selid Oh how angry I was to know that Selid had to die Bryn really caught me as very very odd At first, I thought she was crazy because of her chasing the thistledown Then it made sense later on I like that she's really really quite and endures Clea's words then goes out on her later on She falls for things quite easily and in some ways she reminds me of myself She is very kind and loving towards people and animals alike She doesn't care what people say about her but she despises it when people talk about her friends She's even gained a lot of guts throughout the book towards the end There was just something about Bryn, just the way she acted and treated everything She had an innocence about her, there were things she didn't know and didn't understand She knew nothing of manners or eloquence She wore filthy rags and did innocent things without a care in the world Being the daughter of a stonecutter really caused flame to go her way, and despite how much she went through, she hung on Clea really ticks me off, she's just some stuck up, spoiled, rich kid and people like that just really want me to rip their heads off She thinks she can walk all over people and just because she's with the feathers doesn't mean she can be such a jerk I really wish Bryn had done something to her in the beginning of the book when she first met her but I was quite content with Clea getting cursed by her own feather She honestly didn't even deserve getting the vulture's feather Why would someone like her get a feather that has too much power for her own good She always ganged up on Bryn and her friend Dawn She had lured Bryn to believe that she really wanted a friend and wanted to show Bryn her feather Bryn of course, fell for it, although she was skeptical at first Then when Bryn laid eyes on the feather, Clea curse Bryn I really don't like her If she was real, I would avoid her in an instant or constantly fight with her There were constant similes that described how the thistledown reacted when Bryn would follow them For example, This plume shown through

the cold as though from within by silvery fire The constant use of the similes kept me into the book despite how tempting it was to put the book down It s just a good book all together and I recommend that if you want a book that is different from most fantasy then this book is the one for you But it s not the best one, just letting you know. I read this years and years ago, so I don t remember much about it except the bare bones of the plot and just how bad it was I m talking author insert fanfiction bad The protagonist is a Mary Sue in the worst way she has virtually no flaws except being mopey because she s such a unique and special snowflake complete with unique and special snowflake powers and no one understands her Plus, you get to spend a huge chunk of the book watching her get picked on by the mean girls and the teachers who hate her for some reason that I can t remember because she s poor I understand trying to identify with your target reader demographic, but I was in that demographic when I read this book, and even then I was annoyed by how many pages were spent on that one subplot in case you can t tell .If I have to say something good about The Light of the Oracle, it s that I did enjoy the idea of birds determining a person s magic The bowing as communication concept was cool too, if, ultimately, a little pointless. Light of the Oracle was not at all what I thought it would be I didn t really like the plot The whole idea of her being in danger just doesn t sound good.You don t get to know Brynn enough to like her The author doesn t dig deep enough into her characters While I was reading the book I was struggling to keep continuing It s just strange that she is gifted by the wind Okay I don t really get that How can you be gifted by the wind or some bird like the other characters The book is too short and lacks content The storyline is okay, but it needs work. Poor misfit girl with the power to see the future gets chosen to live in the place where the oracles are trained She struggles against bullies, evil magic, and discouragement She makes friends who help her to discover an evil plot and they work together to defeat the bad guys She finds a special bond with one of the other students.No swearing, no sex, a bit of violence.

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