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# The Serpent's Shadow: The Kane Chronicles, Book 3



## Synopsis

When young magicians Carter and Sadie Kane learned how to follow the path of the Ancient Egyptian gods, they knew they would have to play an important role in restoring Ma'at (order) to the world. What they didn't know is how chaotic the world would become. The Chaos snake Apophis is loose and threatening to destroy the Earth in three days' time. The magicians are divided. The gods are disappearing, and those who remain are weak. Walt, one of Carter and Sadie's most gifted initiates, is doomed and can already feel his life force ebbing. Zia is too busy babysitting the senile sun god, Ra, to be of much help. What are a couple of teenagers and a handful of young trainees to do? There is possibly one way to stop Apophis, but it is so difficult that it might cost Carter and Sadie their lives, if it even works at all. It involves trusting the ghost of a psychopathic magician not to betray them, or worse, kill them. They'd have to be crazy to try it. Well, call them crazy! With hilarious asides, memorable monsters, and an ever-changing crew of friends and foes, the excitement never lets up in *The Serpent's Shadow*, a thoroughly entertaining and satisfying conclusion to the Kane Chronicles.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours 23 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Brilliance Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 1, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B007Z96OAE

Best Sellers Rank: #130 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy #234 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fiction

## Customer Reviews

Apophis is rising and chaos is about to destroy the world. And only Carter and Sadie Kane can stop him. But the only ones left to stand with them are the young magicians of Brooklyn House as their allies are being attacked, the House of Life is divided and on the brink of the civil war, and the gods themselves stand apart. To put an end to Apophis they need to find a spell that has been lost for a millennia and the only one that can lead them to it is the ghost of a deadly magician. Can Carter and

Sadie do the impossible one last time? Or will the world fall into chaos? In this third and final book in the Kane trilogy, Riordan once again weaves his magic to create an epic battle and a memorable story. Riordan weaves a tale that will keep the reader on the edge of the seat through the twists and turns that are created, wondering and hoping that all of our heroes survive to do battle one more time. There's plenty of humor, some romance, the return of old friends, and lots of fun twists in this tale. And possibly a hint or two of future adventures to come. It's an epic read and I highly recommend it.

The *Serpent's Shadow* brings the Kane Chronicles to an end as the third (and probably final) recording of Sadie and Carter. Just like the previous two novels, this one has a great hook: "Sadie Kane here. If you're listening to this, congratulations! You survived Doomsday. I'd like to apologize straightaway for any inconvenience the end of the world may have caused you. The earthquakes, rebellions, riots, tornadoes, floods, tsunamis, and of course the giant snake who swallowed the sun • I'm afraid most of that was our fault. So there you have it: Apophis swallowed the sun! That's one burning question down, and a whole lot of others to go • like, how did they survive Doomsday if the snake got away with his plan? Well, I guess that's when you need to read and find out. However, I did have some other very serious questions at the end of *The Throne of Fire*: Are they making the right decision? Despite Ra being a crazy old guy who played with cookies, he was rather needed. Is this a trap? Everything's a trap! You need to go with it anyway. Why would anyone try to ride a double-headed snake? Clearly this earned Carter some serious street cred. It was totally necessary. What's with the zebras and the weasels? Well, Zebras are clearly awesome and Ra's very favorite • and Weasels are sick • though not beyond salvation. Who'd make a better boyfriend, Walt or Anubis? The answer is • YES. So many things go wrong as Doomsday approaches • go figure. Sadie and Carter, along with Walter and Zia, the Brooklyn House, and any stragglers • er, supporters, of the First Nome, must fight the greatest threat to human kind. What could possibly go wrong? Well, they survive to tell the tale, so clearly a few things go right. *The Serpent's Shadow* is driven not only by the impending deadline of the end of the world • as Sadie and Carter search for a way to defeat Apophis and vanquish him • but also by the

characters' interactions, hilarious events (just imagine a kindergartener running around with crayons, screaming "Die! Die! Die!"), and senile senior gods who just want to partake in the fun of fighting the forces of chaos. The third and final installment of this trilogy may not tie everything into a neat little bow (because we know Rick Riordan loves his loose ends) as do we, since it leaves the possibility of continuing the tale), but it is a satisfying end.

<http://doodlesandwords.com/2014/12/02/a-trilogy-comes-to-an-end-with-the-serpents-shadow/>

**SPOILER FREE:**My son is now 11 years old and just finishing up 5th grade, and he is an avid Rick Riordan fan. He enjoys the fantasy aspects of the stories, the descriptive passages of the books, the excitement inherent in the extreme time compression (stories take place usually within the course of a week or less), and the humor (take that last one for what it's worth - if you've ever listened in on 11 year old boys and their jokes, you know what I mean about that). With *The Serpent's Shadow*, Riordan has made yet another solid contribution to the world of apocalyptic kid lit. As with previous installments in this trilogy, the story is told in the alternating voices and points of view of Carter and Sadie Kane, which can be jarring for kids who are used to books that are written entirely from one character's point of view or from an omniscient narrator's point of view. I think the device works well, once the reader gets used to it, especially since both protagonists are carefully drawn and very consistent in their characterizations. It also allows Riordan to pack a lot more action into his plots, since the reader can be two places at once, and it builds cliffhangers into each character's separate journeys as the reader switches from viewpoint to viewpoint. Which brings me to my favorite aspects of the books: I enjoy the storytelling almost as much as my son does. But, apart from the fact that the books are well-written, funny, and move along quickly, I love love love the way they hook my son into exploring vocabulary and world history on his own. And I think they are genius at exploiting the opportunities that are available to kids via today's technology. You don't need an e-reader to enjoy reading these books as books - they are wonderful on their own - but if you have an e-reader with a dictionary and a browser, they become completely amazing educational tools. The day we got this book, my son's teacher had sent home a love note indicating that he was way WAY behind on his dictionary (students were told at the beginning of the year to keep a list of words they learned while reading independently, and my son had about half the number of words his teacher wanted to see by this point in the school year). Enter *The Serpent's Shadow* and my kindle application. As my son read the book, he was able to highlight new words and words he wasn't sure of and get their definitions straight from the app. He also delved into

Egyptian history and mythology as he read, taking time to look up the gods' official stories and compare them with the characters presented in the book. Any book that arouses that kind of curiosity while managing to entertain on the most basic level gets five stars from this mom. With bonus points for tight writing and a well-crafted plot that, for a story about gods, relies surprisingly more on logic and character development than it does on deus ex machina. There is enough explication in this book to enable the reader to understand what is going on even if he or she has not read the first two books, but I really do recommend starting at the beginning. The series goes fast, and it's well worth reading. I also suggest having research and vocabulary tools available, whether online or in hard copy, because there's a lot of enrichment to be had within these books.

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