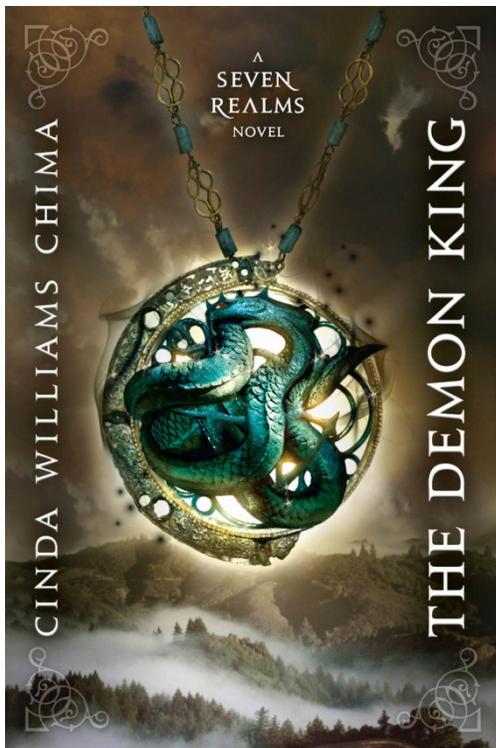


# The Demon King

by Cinda Williams Chima

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit



## About the Book

Times are hard in the mountain city of Fellsmarsh. Reformed thief Han Alister will do almost anything to eke out a living for himself, his mother, and his sister Mari. Ironically, the only thing of value he has is something he can't sell. For as long as Han can remember, he's worn thick silver cuffs engraved with runes. They're clearly magicked – as he grows, they grow, and he's never been able to get them off.

Han's life gets even harder after he takes a powerful amulet from Micah Bayar, the son of the high wizard. The amulet once belonged to the Demon King, the wizard who nearly destroyed the world a millennium ago. With a magical piece so powerful at stake, the Bayars will stop at nothing to reclaim it from him.

Meanwhile, Raisa ana'Marianna, princess heir of the Fells, has her own battles to fight. Although Raisa will become eligible for marriage after her sixteenth name day, she isn't looking forward to trading in her common sense for a prince with a big castle and a tiny brain. Raisa aspires to be like Hanalea – the legendary warrior queen who killed the Demon King and saved the world. But it seems that her mother has other plans for her – plans that include a suitor who goes against everything the queendom stands for.

The Seven Realms will tremble when the lives of Han and Raisa collide.

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## Book Details

**The Demon King** written by Cinda Williams Chima  
Hyperion, 2009. ISBN 9781423118237. Ages 12 and up. 760 Lexile.

Hyperion Teens website:

<http://un-requiredreading.com/books/the-demon-king>

**The Demon King** (2009) is the first book of four in the **Seven Realms** series by Cinda Williams Chima. It was listed as a VOYA Perfect Ten book, VOYA's Best Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror Booklist 2009, was named a 2009 Barnes & Noble Best Teen Book, and was on the 2011 ALA Best Fiction for Young Adult list.

**The Exiled Queen** (2010), the second book in the **Seven Realms** series, follows Han and Princess Raisa on their adventure while they flee from those who hunt them. This novel is full of uncertain friendships, cut-throat politics, and the irresistible power of attraction.

**The Exiled Queen** was the winner of the 2011 Teen Buckeye Book Award.

**The Grey Wolf Throne** (2011) is the third book in the **Seven Realms** series, continuing a tale of fierce loyalty, unbearable sacrifice, and the heartless hands of fate.

**The Crimson Crown** (October 2012) is the final book in the **Seven Realms** series.

Cinda Williams Chima has also published several books in a contemporary fantasy series set in Ohio. **The Heir Chronicles** include:

**The Warrior Heir** (2006) follows the story of Jack Swift, a high school student in Cleveland, Ohio who discovers a secret about himself. He has become a target of the ruthless wizards of the Red and White Rose. Jack is a Warrior Heir, the last of a dying breed, sought after the Roses to fight in the tournaments that are used to allocate power among the Wizard Houses.

**The Wizard Heir** (2007) tells the story of Seph McCauley, an orphan who has bounced from one private school to the next for the past three years. Seph tries to cope with the truth about his past, and tries to come to grips with his magical powers.

**The Dragon Heir** (2008) brings all the characters together – Jack Swift and Ellen Stephenson, Seph McCauley, Madison Moss and others – and introduces new characters including Jason Haley to battle demons, find their source of inner power, and overthrow old traditions.

There will be two more books in this series, tentatively titled **The Sorcerer Heir** and **The Enchanter Heir**.

Learn more about the characters, places, and magical terminology of **The Heir Chronicles** here:

[http://www.cindachima.com/Warrior\\_Heir/About\\_the\\_Heir\\_Chronicles.htm](http://www.cindachima.com/Warrior_Heir/About_the_Heir_Chronicles.htm)



Photo credit: Augusten Burroughs

## About the Author

Born in Springfield, Ohio, Cinda Williams Chima grew up with talking animals and kick-butt Barbies. She began writing poetry and stories in third grade, and novels in junior high school. She is a graduate of the University of Akron and Case Western Reserve. She lives in Ohio with her family, and is always working on her next novel.

Prior to becoming a full-time novelist, Chima was a clinical dietitian. She filled several clinical management and leadership roles at the Cleveland Clinic and the MetroHealth System in Cleveland, where she directed the Clinical Nutrition Department and established the Diabetes Self-Management Program. Chima was also a freelance contributor to *The Plain Dealer* (Cleveland) and other local and regional publications, focusing on health-related topics and personal essays about family life.

Chima's best-selling young adult high fantasy Seven Realms series launched with ***The Demon King*** (2009), followed by ***The Exiled Queen*** (2010), ***The Gray Wolf Throne*** (2011), and ***The Crimson Crown*** (2012).

Her Heir Chronicles young adult contemporary fantasy series includes ***The Warrior Heir*** (2006), ***The Wizard Heir*** (2007), and ***The Dragon Heir*** (2008), all from Hyperion, with two more books forthcoming.

Chima's books have received starred reviews in *Kirkus* and VOYA, among others. They have been named Booksense and Indie Next picks, an International Reading Association Young Adult Choice, a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, to the *Kirkus* Best YA list, and the VOYA Editors' Choice, Best Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror, and Perfect Tens lists. Her books also appear on numerous state awards lists, including the Buckeye Teen Book Award. Both series are *New York Times* bestsellers.

Chima was a recipient of the 2008 Lit Award for Fiction from the Cleveland LIT, and was named a *Cleveland Magazine Interesting Person 2009*.



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## Author Resources:

### Cinda Williams Chima's official website

<http://www.cindachima.com>

### Author page on Hyperion website

<http://un-requiredreading.com/authors/cinda-chima>

### Cinda Williams Chima's Blog

<http://cindachima.blogspot.com/>

### Author Magazine video interview with Cinda Williams Chima

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXjWDPotew4&feature=share&list=PLF15D48352C9DF443>

### Q & A with Cinda Williams Chima on Goodreads

<http://www.goodreads.com/group/show/38390-q-a-with-cinda-williams-chima>

### For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

To email Cinda Williams Chima directly: [cinda@cindachima.com](mailto:cinda@cindachima.com)

Literary agent: Christopher Schelling, Selectric Artists, [christopher@selectricartists.com](mailto:christopher@selectricartists.com)

## Talk About It!

*Topics to share when discussing **The Demon King** with young readers.*

- How does Han change as a character as he travels from Marisa Pines and his clan family and Ragmarket with his mother and sister?
- What made Fire Dancer so angry after his and Han's first encounter with the wizards (Micha Bayar and the two Mander cousins)?
- Compare Princess Raisa and her mother, Marianna. Then compare Raisa to her sister Mellony. How are these three women similar? In what ways are they different?
- Talk about the different social classes present throughout the book. How does each class view the world around them?
- The two protagonists in this story are very different. Discuss the ways in which Han and Raisa are similar. How do their differences lend different viewpoints for the overall story?
- Characters are clearly divided into groups in this story – wizards, clan, royalty, and commoners. Do you think the real world is this clearly divided? How can each of these groups relate to a "class" or group you see in our social system today?
- Why do you think Princess Raisa can't ever know about the connection between the Grey Wolf Line and the Byrnes, particularly her connection with Amon? What do you think will happen to their relationship in the coming books?



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- Han and Raisa are both viewpoint characters, yet they only meet briefly in this book. How do you see their paths crossing in the future? How do their stories relate to each other? Are they separate stories, or will they eventually join and tell one story together?
- If you were “clan”, what would your name be and why? Would your name change often as you grow and change? Think about how many names you would have had growing up. What do you think your permanent clan name would be? How would that name reflect your “trade” or passion in life?

## Explore More!

*Additional ideas and resources to use with **The Demon King**.*

### **Try your hand at writing both high fantasy and contemporary fantasy:**

Create a story about a contemporary character in a contemporary setting. Then alter the story to include a fantasy setting. How do the characters change from one setting to another? In what ways are the characters the same?

### **The Seven Realms Series Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/Seven.Realms>

The official page of the *Seven Realms* series.

### **Heirs to the Seven Realms Tumblr Site**

<http://heirstothesevenrealms.tumblr.com/archive>

Read fan discussions, drawings, fan fiction and post your own to the “Heirs to the Seven Realms” tumblr – a fansite for both of Cinda Williams Chima’s fantasy series.

### **Books for Writers, on Cinda Williams Chima’s website**

[http://www.cindachima.com/Resources/Books\\_for\\_writers.htm](http://www.cindachima.com/Resources/Books_for_writers.htm)

An extensive list of books about writing, publishing, and promotion, compiled by Cinda Williams Chima.

## About Choose to Read Ohio

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: <http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>.

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