



The Thirteenth House (Twelve Houses series Book 2)

By Sharon Shinn

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The first book of The Twelve Houses, *Mystic & Rider*, was hailed as “spellbinding” (*Publishers Weekly*), and introduced readers to the troubled land of Gillengaria. Now, national bestselling and award-winning author Sharon Shinn continues her epic tale, as a beautiful shapeshifter finds that intrigue and danger can be found even in the safest of havens...

After joining an unlikely band of soldiers and sorcerers to rescue the regent Romar Brendan from a cabal of rebellious minor lords, the shiftling Kirra returns to her home of Danalustrous—and learns that her half-sister, Casserah, has been proclaimed heir to the land.

Though Casserah is obligated to attend a circuit of social events held by the great Houses of Gillengaria, she obstinately refuses to go. So Kirra shapeshifts into her sister’s form and makes the rounds for her. In the royal city of Ghosenhall, she unexpectedly joins up with her steadfast compatriots from her previous adventures, and together they embark on a tour of the Twelve Houses acting as guardians for the enigmatic queen of Gillengaria and her alluring daughter.

The motley group of mystics and warriors faces many dangers in their travels. But Kirra places herself willingly in peril when she falls in love with the irresistible—but already married—Lord Romar. Revealing her true identity to him, Kirra begins a tempestuous affair that places them both in mortal danger, and leads them both into the stronghold of the devious lords of the Thirteenth House...

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Restless shape-shifter Kirra, having just fallen for a married man and been disowned by her otherwise loving family, needs a break at the start of bestseller Shinn's outstanding second novel in her Twelve Houses series (after 2004's *Mystic and Rider*). Kirra's younger sister, Casserah, provides her one. The newly titled Casserah is supposed to appear at the summer parties thrown by major lords of Gillengaria, but she could care less. Assuming Casserah's form, Kirra sets out on the social circuit in her stead to learn more about the nobles plotting to overthrow the king. Instead of taking the side of the ostensibly oppressed, Shinn dares to be a royalist, though not without sympathy to the underclasses. She brings back Kirra's companions from *Mystic and Rider*, adds several enjoyable new characters and paints their journey with a lyrical grace and deep appreciation of camaraderie reminiscent of Diane Duane at her best. Only the one-dimensional villain (always Shinn's weakest point) and the forehead-slapping stupidity of the infatuated lovers mar this superior fantasy series. (Mar.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Declared heir to House Danalustrous, one of the Twelve Great Houses in politically troubled Gillengaria, Casserah must make a summer circuit of social gatherings and balls hosted by each house in turn. With Danalustrous arming for war, however, she refuses, feeling that her place is with her people. So her shape-shifter sister, Kirra, goes instead, disguised as Casserah, to scout out Casserah's potential suitors and discern which houses are aligned with the king. In Ghosenhall, Kirra is surprised to find some warriors and mystics she considers friends and with whom she bands to protect beautiful, quiet young Princess Amalie as she, too, makes the circuit. En route, Kirra begins an affair with Amalie's regent, Lord Romar, and that puts the whole party in great danger. Attacks on the princess, Romar, and others begin; innocent people start dying; and the question arises, who is so serious about controlling the throne? One of the Thirteenth House underlords? Lethra, the mystic-hating head of a group of religious extremists? Or someone much closer? *Paula Luedtke*
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About the Author

Sharon Shinn is a journalist who works for a trade magazine. Her first novel, **The Shapechanger's Wife**, was selected by Locus as the best first fantasy novel of 1995. She has won the William C. Crawford Award for Outstanding New Fantasy Writer, and was twice nominated for the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer. A graduate of Northwestern University, she has lived in the Midwest most of her life.

Users Review

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Paulette Cantu:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book titled The Thirteenth House (Twelve Houses series Book 2)? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or

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Lisa Knight:

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