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# The Hush



## Synopsis

In a world where music is power, one boy's discovery that he can hear the song will change everything. . . Chester is on the road, searching every town for clues about his father's disappearance. But when he's caught accidentally and illegally connecting with the Song as he plays his beloved fiddle, Chester is sentenced to death. Only a licensed Songshaper can bend music to their will. The axe is about to fall . . . But there is someone else watching Chester. Someone who needs his special talents. Who can use him for their own ends. And who is hiding in the Hush, where Music can be deadly and Echoes can kill you with a touch. Susannah is that someone. The young captain of the infamous Nightfall Gang has plans for Chester. Finally, she will have her revenge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A fantastically imaginative and original story of music-based magic and Robin Hood-style outlaws. If you loved Firefly, this one's a must-read. I've been handing The Hush to everyone I know."

—Amie Kaufman, New York Times bestselling author of Illuminae and These Broken Stars

"Chester Hays has been on the road for months, searching for his vanished father. The 17-year-old plays his fiddle in return for room and board, but one night at a Hamelin saloon, he's caught tapping into the Song, the source of life in a world where Music is magic and only licensed Songshapers are allowed to connect to "the heartbeat of the world." His punishment for committing this blasphemy: death. Fate intervenes when the ambiguously "tan" Chester is rescued from the chopping block by the infamous Nightfall Gang. There's mercurial, burly, white cowboy Sam; white lesbian Dot, an

inventive Songshaper; foppish, brown-skinned lady's man Travis; and pale-skinned, trouser-wearing redhead Susannah, their headstrong captain. This group of teenage, Robin Hood-esque outlaws travels in their echoship through the Hush, a terrifying distorted parallel reality formed from excess Music and populated by deadly Echoes. The Nightfall Gang may hold the clues to Chester's father's disappearance, but the only way he'll find out is to go along with a very dangerous plan that might cost Chester his life. The story is beautifully paced as it unfolds one tantalizing, shocking detail at a time. Masterfully drawn details are so crisp, so tangible, that readers will be surprised they can't just reach out and touch this rich world. A steampunk-tinged fantasy adventure with plenty of breath-holding action." [Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review "[T]he narrative gathers momentum, delivering twists . . . a fascinating view of the power of music." [School Library Journal](#) "Spectacular and breathtaking, The Hush is a coming-of-age story with revenge and friendship where Music is magic, beautiful, and dangerous." [Seattle Book Review](#) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Skye Melki-Wegner is an Arts/Law graduate and the author of the Chasing the Valley series.

**Pre-reading Thoughts:**I didn't even really know what this book was about when I requested it from Sky Pony Press. I saw it on someone's booktube channel and I knew I had to read this book. Now that I have read the synopsis, I can't help but think, why isn't this book everywhere. It sounds so good. And so far I have heard nothing but good things about it. This book sounds absolutely amazing. I cannot wait to jump into this world because I just know that I am going to enjoy it. Thank you so much to Sky Pony Press for providing me with a copy of this book to review. Just a small little disclaimer for those reading this review. I received this book for free. No money from my pocket was spent in getting this book. Please note that in no way does this affect my opinion. All thoughts still remain my own.

**Writing Thoughts:**The writing in this book was incredible. It flowed like a well written piece of music. No hiccups and enticing. The words seemed to flow into one and create a beautiful image. I didn't read this book, I watched it from my seat on my bed. It was truly a master piece.

**Plot Thoughts:**This plot and this book is nothing I have ever read before. It was perfect and constantly interesting. There was never a dull moment. Things kept happening but at the best pace possible. It wasn't too much where it felt like everything was happening all at once. Instead it was laid out in such a way that you weren't able to put the book down in fear something bad happening. My heartbeat was frantic through all of the dangerous parts and I couldn't help but feel what the characters felt.

**Character Thoughts:**These characters are all my little marshmallows. And no can tell

me otherwise. They are just all so precious. Dot with all her theories. Susannah with her compassion. Travis with his incredible humor. Chester with his raw passion. And Sam, who felt everything so deeply that it hurt to read about him. Final Thoughts: This book was a masterpiece. Something that I will read over and over until the author finds a way to write more books in this world, because I need more. I want to feel more. I.. It was just perfect. Do I really need to say more? Can I really say more? I loved every moment. Thank you so much to Sky Pony Press for sending me a copy to review. It was an incredible experience. One I won't forget. Yours in Reading, Melleny

**\*\*Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy\*\*** In *THE HUSH*, there's music and there's Music. One is magical, the other isn't. Untrained Musicians (capital M) are considered blasphemers. They are hunted down and executed since the only people that should harness the Song are Songshapers. So much of *THE HUSH* is balanced on the world-building. If you're not completely enthralled then the ending of the novel loses its impact. The book is full of description but I never got a real sense of the world. Towns seem to be in a western, frontier setting. There are farms, cattle barons, sugar barons, trains, and guns. There was real potential for mixing a growing industrial society with a magic system. Unfortunately, neither the world nor the magic system were well-developed enough for that kind of payoff. Chester is on the road looking for his father. When he performs in a village and is sentenced to death for playing Music, he's saved by a band of thieves who need his help. Chester is a likeable enough main character but I wish there had been more exploration of his backstory. Knowing more about Chester's rural home, his exposure to cruel cattle barons, and his father's life as a soldier, would have added so much. Susanna seems like a competent leader for the Nightfall Gang but doesn't act ruthless, or cunning enough, to be committing these grand exploits. Something goes wrong on every mission we see. I wanted Susanna to commit large-scale crime without missing a beat. Even though Susanna's tragic past is tied to the plot, and is what drives her to thievery, there's no real sense of repercussion. It's always fun to read about a heist. Even when each character is a stereotype, it's still enjoyable because you know the bones of the adventure that you're tucking yourself into. The world building is what lets the story down. There's no personal investment in the world. It's not clear how important it is that this gang is ignoring a religious rite until the end of the novel. Answers that should have been asked throughout the novel are smushed together into the villain's monologue. The prose of the novel is good but it excels when describing

music and sounds. You definitely get a sense of the author's love for music and instruments. Overall THE HUSH is a fun story but it lacks the depth it needs to be the twisty, revolutionary novel it wants to be.

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