

New Australian Author Book Release

# THE RAIDEN

SHELLEY CASS

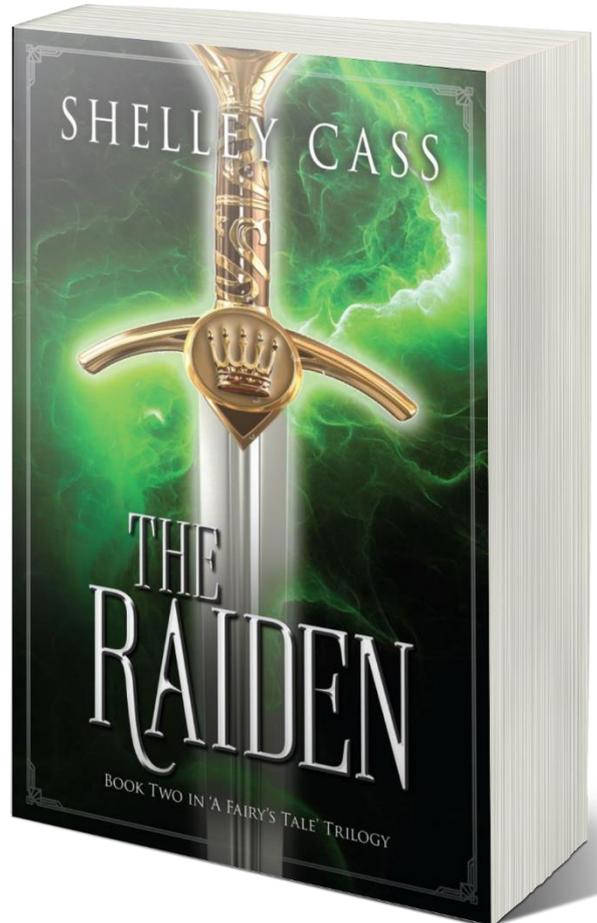
**While their country prepares for war, they prepare for the battle of their lives.**

Dalin is destined to lead all mortal races against the Sorcerer's threat. Yet this means he must even accept the soldiers of Krall, who are now determined to take Kiana for their own. Dalin must battle his own mistrust if he is to truly become *'The Raiden'* who can unite them all.

The Gods have given their warning. A deadly threat will be born at the end of the ninth age and will find a divided world easy to consume. All will be destroyed in a storm of ice and fire, unless three can be found to stand against the threat, and to bring all magical and mortal peoples together. A huntress and two runaways have been drawn together for an impossible Quest. Their world is threatened by disunity, by the growing sickness of Mother Nature, and by the ambitions of a Sorcerer who is hunting down one magical race after another.

**In book one, 'The Last Larnaeradee', the Three began their Quest against the Sorcerer's threat. The Quest continues in 'The Raiden'.**

*The Quest will conclude with 'The Army for the World'.*



Visit [shawlinepublishing.com.au](http://shawlinepublishing.com.au) for more details on the author, Shelley Cass.

**RRP:** \$28.95

**Trade Price:** \$12.50

**ISBN:** 9781922594426

**Genre:** Fiction, Fantasy

**Format:** Paperback

**Audience:** Young Adult, General

**Location:** Craigieburn VIC

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# A Conversation with Shelley

## What does literary success look like to you?

It looks like many hands, of different ages and colours, turning the pages of my books. People who have never met me, reading for the joy of what I have given them.

## What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?

I have never purposefully been on a literary pilgrimage. Though my travels to different places have often sparked inspiration for different settings I'd love to write about. A trip through the rainforest in Port Douglas, and a beautiful sinkhole garden in Mount Gambier inspired my ancient Sylthanryn City to come to life.

## When did you write your first book and how old were you?

I was fourteen when I started on my trilogy. Book one was re-written almost yearly until I was twenty-nine and I told myself to just stop it. To stop pretending it could ever be perfect and hiding behind that as an excuse to do nothing with it.

## How long do you spend researching before beginning a book?

I slip in and out of Google searches as I traverse through my writing, checking, and clarifying certain facts as I go. Unless I am specifically aiming to venture into the realm of impossibility, I try not to accidentally say something that might make a reader suddenly stop in confusion or disbelief. For example, my sister pointed out to me once that I had been describing a mighty and terrifying beast ... before later accidentally stating that it was four feet tall. It went from a lurking menace to a small and comical thing in her mind at once. (Best to check units of measurement!)

## What is the best money you've spent as an author?

I spent an AWFUL LOT of money on an editor for my first novel, 'The Last Larnaeradee', back when it was double its size. When the edits came back, and I saw the kind of work that needed to be done, something within me clicked. I became much more objective, and realised that, as an English teacher, I spend a good portion of my life being an editor and supporter of the writing craft of other people. I should be able to do this myself!

So, I swapped hats, from the tortured writer to the cutthroat editor. And oh, how I chopped. How I polished. How it gleams now.

## Does your family support your career as a writer?

My mum has read every single book ... even sometimes before I've done the massive editing chop. She read my trilogy back when the books were like bricks that could be used as weapons. Not light reading in any case. Get it?

## Who inspires you to be your best self?

I actually do. I have extremely high, sometimes unfair expectations of myself. I am strict with myself and the importance of being a good person, an organised person, a giving person, a person who has done everything on every list. I am my own nightmare sometimes! It's hard to rest.

## Why did you write the 'A Fairy's Tale' trilogy? What inspired you to write it?

Every scene and event that I wrote for the 'A Fairy's Tale' trilogy was a reflection of what I needed to write and to express. Things I felt in the angsty days of teenagedom, things I daydreamed so vividly that they just had to be painted onto a page in words. Characters' moods could reflect my moods because scenes did not always get written in sequence (and in fact, breakthrough moments often involved me having a 'vision of the future' for my characters. These would give me purpose in going back to fill in the story that would lead to that future).

But a deep undercurrent, and then a driving plot point of my novel was a focus on our world. I was often most worried, and most moved, by what I could make of the state of nature and humanity.

I was inspired by the beauty of nature, and also feared how this complex, miraculous thing could be so mistreated – this thing that we most need to support and be supported by. Symbolically, the terrible threat, the sickness of magic, Mother Nature and the world in my novels, correlated to the lack of connection and care of the peoples living on it.

I was scared of how divided this world can be, how in modern times we seem to be pulling even further apart from each other, growing colder on a global and local scale. So I would look to the real world examples of individual kindness, of people reaching out to each other, to feel better.

*"A continuation of the series which does not disappoint the adventure hungry reader...wonderful characters and great imaginings form a talented author..." Dale, Indiebook reviewer*

## *Praise for book one in the 'A Fairy's Tale' trilogy...*

*"A magical and wonderful first book in this series and an exciting adventure for all ages to savour and be enchanted...a great new voice in the genre and a very talented author...looking forward to book two in this trilogy..." Amanda, Indiebooks reviewer.*