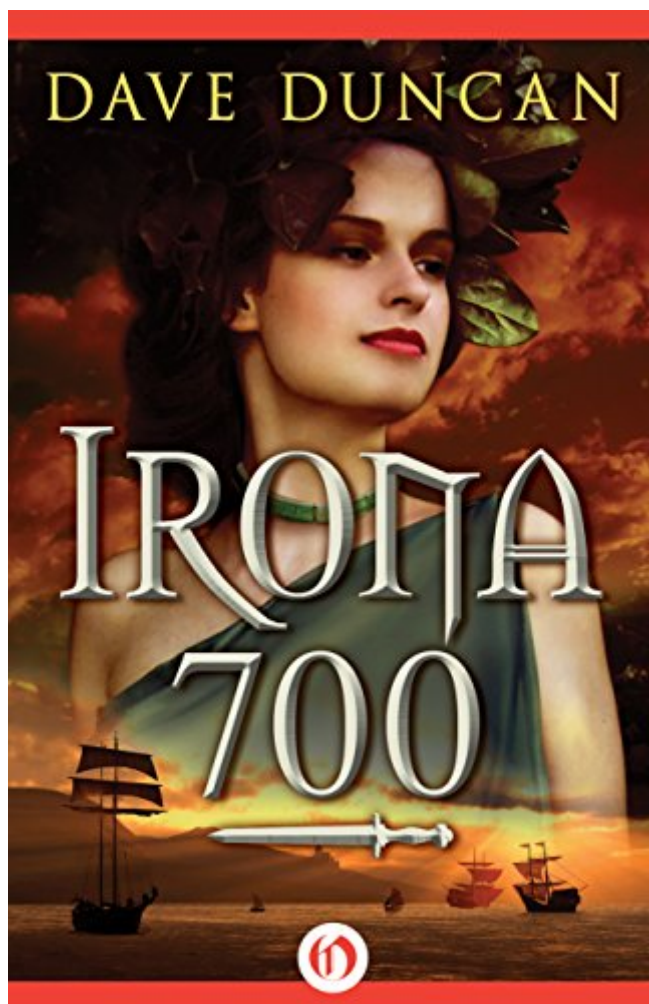


The book was found

Irona 700



Synopsis

Fantasy at its most enchanting: An original and absorbing tale from a master storyteller about the profound effects of a single life on the battle against ultimate evil. It is Midsummer Day, the beginning of the year 700, in the city of Benign. All the children born in the year 684 celebrate their joint sixteenth birthday by passing in front of the statue of the blind goddess Caprice—but only one will become the Chosen and join the Seventy who govern and guide the city. Much to her surprise, Irona Matrinko, one of the many children of an impoverished fisherman, is chosen. Irona moves into the palace and, with the help of a new mentor, recognizes and cultivates her great talent for guiding wars: strategy and tactics, leadership and inspiration. As Irona gives her life to the city, an ancient enemy, Maleficence, attacks again and again, corrupting Irona's friends, destroying her lover, and continually defeating her grandest plans for peace and harmony. Along the way, Irona becomes a masterful politician, a shrewd judge of character, and, even at great cost to her personal happiness, a true heroine.

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Customer Reviews

I really wanted to like this book. This is a genre I usually enjoy, the world seemed intriguing, and it

was nice to have a strong female lead for what is basically the standard commoner-saves-the-world plotline. Given the summary, I wasn't expecting anything epic or especially complex, but rather a fast-paced adventure with strong characters and interesting plot twists. In the end, I was disappointed.-- Plot -- The plot, while pretty straightforward, actually managed to get confusing - not because of interesting twists, but because the storytelling was choppy, disconnected, and uneven. I kept wondering where the editor had gotten to when this book was coming along, since it seemed like entire paragraphs were misplaced or pointless. And the flow from beginning to end didn't follow a logical story arc, but that's because of the...-- Narrative -- Far worse, the author repeatedly tells us about significant developments rather than showing them to us, making for a very, very dull narrative. The storytelling, itself, has some great moments, particularly at the beginning. Sadly, whole chapters of the story are replaced by italicized plot summaries (written a lot like a Star Wars movie intro) that gloss over character development, world-building, and even actual action. ** minor spoiler** For example, chapter 2 is prefaced by a quick synopsis of several years of the main character's life, telling us that she changed her attitude twice, learned a lot, and discovered that she was "brighter than some of the other Chosen." We're then introduced to a main character who has very little in common with that of chapter 1, and I was left wondering why chapter 1 existed.

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