

She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor) By 4books.live In the begging the write captivated me with the articulate manner of her writing and enveloped me in the story of this young and starving girl but as the story progressed I didn't like what the story turned out to be. I dont want to give any spoilers but just incase this it does slip a bit dont read further**Potential spoiler alert**So the summary describes the book as Mulan meet The Heel of Achilles (never read this book) I thought Mulan.

Allow her loved ones to suffer even if it gets her what she wants (she wants what she wants and doesnt care if that hurts those she loves or love her. I'm not an English speaker but i have to say that it was quite easy to understand it even if i hope there will be also an Italian translation so i can read it to check if i missed some things. She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor) *I received a free eARC of this book in exchange for an honest review*I finished this eARC immediately preordered the physical copy and even though I only just finished it I am eagerly awaiting my copies' arrival in July. Shelley Parker Chan's writing is so gorgeous and as the tale unfolded seeing the progression of Zhu's life from peasant to monk to rebel to commander and finally to leader unfold was really stunning. There wasn't a moment that I wasn't completely engaged in the story and despite it being historical (and me having looked up the life of the real Zhu Chongba beforehand) everything that happened felt new and surprising. I also didn't expect to feel for the opposition characters so strongly as much as I loved Zhu's story it was Ouyang and Esen that made me cry! The conclusion to their arc was so emotional and even though I knew why it had to happen in the same way that Ouyang did I wanted them to somehow find another way. Her realisation that with Zhu she would have freedoms that she wouldn't otherwise be afforded and that she would be able to live life her own way made me so emotional for her and the combination of tenderness and gentle teasing in their relationship is a perfect dynamic. It seeps off the page portrays queerness not merely as sexual orientation but as a fundamental breaking of heteronormative restraints offering characters new self crafted paradigms through which autonomy is possible even amidst a rigidly hierarchical society. I can't tell you how much I've yearned for this as a former East Asian Studies student and lover of Chinese history as a queer reader as someone deeply hungry for queer lady romances and non binary characters and high quality writing all at once. As someone who is weak for well portrayed character foils and whose first exposure to cultural queerness was in the history of eunuchs and the passion of the cut sleeve etcetcetc. As a lover of Chinese dramas this book definitely gave me the emotional high of watching an epic C drama the alliances the betrayals the love but it just kinda left me thinking meh ☹️☹️ I always gage how much I like a book by how mad my imagination runs with imagery in my head and the whole time reading this it was just so colourless and monochrome. It means it could be a standalone although I for one can't wait to see how it concludes! I just hope Zhu doesn't become completely lost to the darker side of their choices nor do those around her,

From the poignant character arcs to the similes to the balance of mingled history and fantasy: I'm so grateful to live in an era where this kind of story is possible in mainstream English publishing, She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor) So I rated a 3 because i definitely didn't think it was a 5 or 4 star but I didn't think it was a 2 star either, I think she is a villain and not even the redeeming type of one! Also the geberal turned in to a dark M/M with out the sexing scenes but innuendosand hints of it, Also he destroys his own last shred of goodness in his life, It didn't leave me feeling good but instead depressed and anxious. Yuck! The writing is very good and plot is very well developed along with the characters but definitely not the good time story I thought it was going to be: The action scenes and battles and martial arts I was hoping didn't happen and instead it was dark and twisted and left me feeling off, She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor) She Who Became the Sun I devoured this book in two days, It gripped me from the beginning the struggle of poverty and hunger in the opening pages was so real.

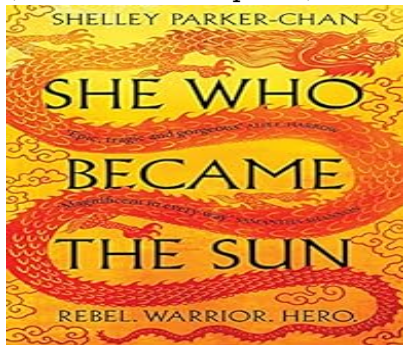
The hate: And the scale of the book and the rebellion were just amazing to behold, I enjoyed Guy

Gavriel Kay's *Under Heaven* and Ken Liu's *Grace of Kings*. It's a re-telling of the founding of the Ming Dynasty already an epic rags to riches tale but Parker Chan renders it into full color on the page: I went out and bought it in every version I could you know so I have it on my keeper shelf in case of zombie apocalypse and the power goes out. But also to help the author because I want this book to do so well that it sells movie rights and make action figures: *She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor)* This book did disappoint me I'll be honest: After seeing all the hype and the buzz around this I really thought it was going to blow me out of the water.

A character I actually kind of enjoyed. I felt like the MC had an absolute personality changed come the end of the book totally out of the blue and not really for the better in my opinion, I did prefer the other side characters a lot more and was intrigued and involved on their side: Ma is such a sweet character and I liked how she brought a little something out of Zhu that I couldn't find anytime else: Although I was not expecting the spice that was just thrust upon me so out of the blue. My jaw literally hit the floor with what was being described to me: Again out of the blue hahahhaa I did enjoy the multiple POVs and the jumps in time. I know others found them very spontaneous and chaotic but I really don't mind: I was disappointed at the lack of fantasy elements it really was just historical fiction for me. I did pick this up as it was made out to me to be a fantasy. My interest would peek up and then just disappear but it did keep me picking it back up, I didn't originally know that it was a trilogy I believe in the making. I do think I will still pick up the next but maybe won't be in a massive rush to do so: *She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor)* Where to even try to start with this review: This was a brilliant debut: Adult.

The review that made me buy this book said: *Mulan meets The Song of Achilles* and I got curious, I loved the book I'm also so happy that it's a sapphic story with super interesting female characters. This was SO good that I'm actually struggling to put it into words, Also while I'm here? I'm in love with Ma Xiuying and also her relationship with Zhu. 5/5 Stars and 100% recommended! *She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor)* Whilst it's not held my attention I feel I'll go back to this at some point, However it's a bit overly convoluted and whilst the plot is complex it's not firing story onward which is bizarre, 78 shipping *She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor)* Holy smokes: First my head was spinning with comp titles the whole time: It's *Games of Thrones* than *Song of Achilles*. It's like *Captive Prince* but without the misogyny and fetishization of queer men, I've never read a fantasy that so thoroughly understands every aspect of what queerness is and it's completely raised my expectations of what I read and what I write: THAT is what queerness means to me in my heart of hearts and to have it expressed in fiction like this is everything to me, And I don't even know where to begin in terms of craft: I've never been in the hands of a writer who is so skilled at prose and plot and characterization. Everything felt perfect hero female warrior trials and hardship but ultimately over-coming: What it slowly morphs into is a girl who will do anything and from there the story just continued to grow and grow and grow with each page, The main character was just so bland and one-note and I just really couldn't connect with her at all. The only time I ever felt anything towards her was when she was with Ma Historical fiction queer fantasy taking inspiration from the Yuan dynasty, Her next was going to a monastery where eventually she was allowed to join the Buddhist monks as Zhu Chongba, Throughout her time there we get to know the things Zhu Chongba endures the friendship she makes with Xu Da and how she comes to then leave the monastery: From there she bests General Ouyang (who we met prior to this) in battle almost by accident, This sets up the continuing war that not only rages between the 2 factions but between Zhu and Ouyang. Finally we have Ma Xiuying who despite initially being promised to another ends up marrying Zhu Chongba: While others believe her to be marrying a man Ma is fully aware at this point that Zhu is a woman, It initially is a marriage of convenience but love does eventually blossom between Ma & Zhu, Zhu is driven to make certain decisions that are hard to read, Make no mistake this book pulls no punches on moral choice: The start of a line towards the end really sums it up I didn't mean to be cruel. Yet despite not meaning to Zhu often has to take that path, Her ability to

read people & situations was a match to Zhu and I just found myself rooting for her immediately. It is pretty hefty in size but I was so taken in by it I was astounded to suddenly realise I was almost finished, I did buy the audible version after I read it & I'm grateful I did as it helped bring together a lot of the pronunciation particularly to names & places, This is a duology & while the end allows further exploration in another book it isn't on a cliffhanger: 5/5 stars ☐ She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor)



. It's so selfish and dark. Such a let down. I don't want to continue with the story. And all of the schemes and plotting were amazingly done. I loved R.F. Kuang's Poppy War. But this book.this book I swooned for. Just kidding about the action figures.Can't wait for Book Two. So I can bawl my eyes out again. She got and unlikable as she went along. Ouyang was definitely intriguing and so conflicted.The love interests on both sides I did like. For it being a historical war fiction and wars are long. I did want to see how it all faired in the end. She Who Became the Sun (The Radiant Emperor) \$11. Like The Poppy War without the misogyny but with queerness.You begin with a girl her brother Zhu Chongba and father. Her brother was destined to greatness. However both her father & brother died. So she became Zhu Chongba. The 1st big decision that changed her life. Zhu skirts through in the grey area most of the time.Ma though brings light to the darkness. Zhu is Yin to Ma's Yang.Despite this I found Zhu likable as a character generally. Ma though is who I loved the most.I was thoroughly absorbed by this book