



# King of Shadows

By Susan Cooper

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Only in the world of the theater can Nat Field find an escape from the tragedies that have shadowed his young life. So he is thrilled when he is chosen to join an American drama troupe traveling to London to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a new replica of the famous Globe theater.

Shortly after arriving in England, Nat goes to bed ill and awakens transported back in time four hundred years -- to another London, and another production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Amid the bustle and excitement of an Elizabethan theatrical production, Nat finds the warm, nurturing father figure missing from his life -- in none other than William Shakespeare himself. Does Nat have to remain trapped in the past forever, or give up the friendship he's so longed for in his own time?

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## **King of Shadows** By Susan Cooper Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

"Cooper brilliantly weaves past and present together, using London's Globe Theatre as a backdrop, to demonstrate the timelessness of Shakespeare's works and the theater at large," said PW in a boxed review.

Ages 10-14. (June)n

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From Library Journal

Grade 5-8-Orphan Nat Field is chosen as part of an American theater group to perform at the new Globe Theatre in London. Nat's big role will be Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. However, his debut is pushed 400 years into the past when he is put to bed with a high fever and wakes up in Elizabethan England. Forced to adapt or be discovered, Nat figures out his situation quickly with judicious questions that result in naturally occurring explanations of the times, the plays, and the theater. The time-travel element is well constructed. Through occasional flashes to the present, readers learn that a boy presumed to be Nat is being treated for bubonic plague. Nat Field has switched places with the infected Nathan Field, who is just about to arrive at the old Globe on loan from another company-thus, thanks to modern medicine, Shakespeare and his plays are saved for the ages. Something in the boy attracts the attention of Will himself and Nat soon becomes his prot?g?. The father/son relationship between the two fills a need for Nat, whose suppressed sorrow at his father's suicide after his mother's death is finally expressed. The circumstances of his father's death and Nat's reluctance to deal with it are hinted at rather clumsily in the beginning of the book and dispatched succinctly when finally addressed, and come off as clearly secondary to the involving theater experiences. Still, Cooper's readers and fans of Gary Blackwood's *Shakespeare Stealer* (Dutton, 1998) will revel in the hurly-burly of rehearsals and the performance before the queen, the near discoveries, the company rivalries, and some neatly drawn parallels.

*Sally Margolis, Barton Public Library, VT*

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From Kirkus Reviews

When Nat Field, an orphan living with his aunt, is chosen for an all-boy acting troupe traveling to London to perform Shakespeare in the reconstructed Globe Theatre, he hopes it will help him escape from his family's tragedy. Instead he finds himself switched in time with another Nat Field, who carries the Plague. In the past he performs with the Bard himself, who becomes a surrogate father and helps him deal with his sorrow, while preparing to play Oberon to Nat's Puck in a performance before the Queen. Cooper is in top form here; her confident prose, at once muscular and lyrical, vividly conveys the sights, sounds, and smells of Elizabethan London. Most powerful are her descriptions of the story and imaginative staging of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which should have readers scurrying for the original. Her poignant characterization of Nat, whose grief is released by Shakespeare and healed by his words, captures perfectly an adolescent in thrall of the theater, in all its grittiness and grandeur. A dramatic and sensory feast. (Fiction. 10-14) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Elisabeth McBee:**

The book King of Shadows make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make studying a book King of Shadows for being your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about a number of or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like open up and read a e-book King of Shadows. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this publication?

**Blake Nixon:**

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day every day to reading a reserve. The book King of Shadows it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book possesses high quality.

**Sharon Edwards:**

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**Elaine West:**

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