

MEET

Shea Michaels

Shea Michaels is a licensed clinical counselor and meditation teacher. As a lifelong devotee of folklore, her background in psychology and eastern philosophy inform her approach to character and myth. Her words interweave themes of resilience and transformation with the resonant power of the feminine spirit as it answers the call of the unconscious. By reimagining the truth of Baba Yaga's life, she hopes to give a voice to the misunderstood and erased stories of women from humanity's past.

She lives and writes in Maine, surrounded by the wild woods that inspire her fictional landscapes. *Young Yaga and the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms: Tears of the Alkonost* marks her debut novel



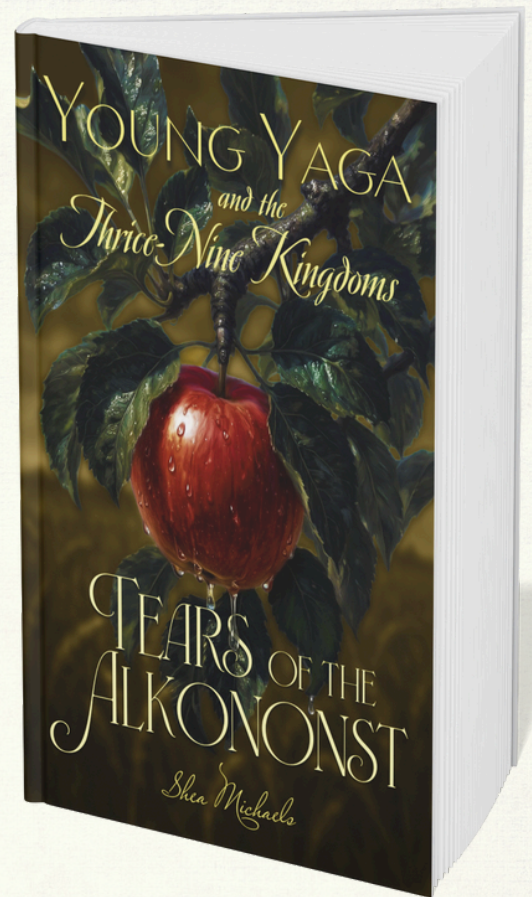
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ABOUT THE BOOK

YOUNG YAGA *and the* *Thrice-Nine Kingdoms*

TEARS OF THE ALKONONST

Shea Michaels



They will call her a monster—the truth of who she was, erased from memory.

But before the demon-Witch of legend—before the crone of fire and bone—there was a young woman who never asked to become a savior.

The year is 650 AD, and Yaga Luchanova's world is changing. The Old Gods have faded across the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms, their magic slipping ever-further through the cracks. A realm on the edge of upheaval, dark forces now churn restlessly from the shadows.

When the fate of a child hangs in the balance, Yaga must open herself to a power she barely understands. Rising against the encroaching darkness, she will be forced to rely on unlikely friendships with fellow misfits. And as an unexpected bond with a newcomer grows, it will challenge Yaga's isolation—renewing her faith in a world to which she never felt she belonged.

Long before her story was twisted by the mouths of men, Yaga was a young Witch poised to protect a realm. Hers is a tale of learning the truth of who one is—and discovering who one must become. As her journey unfolds, Yaga will be forced to decide: remain hidden in the quiet life she's built for herself—or step into a destiny that could change the world.

Discover more at www.yagabooks.com

PRESS RELEASE

Debut Adult Romantasy Series Launches with
Young Yaga and the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms: Tears of the Alkonost

*Novel Reimagines the Infamous Baba Yaga as a Young Heroine
in a Romantic, Female-Centered, Folklore-Inspired Fantasy Saga*



Blending Slavic mythology, romance, and spiritual realism, Shea Michael's *Tears of the Alkonost* opens a sweeping nine-book saga exploring the feminine spirit, resilience, and transformation within the world of the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms.

About the Book

Set in 650 AD, the novel follows Yaga Luchanova, a gifted herbalist and Witch challenged to rise up against an ancient darkness threatening her world. When the fate of a child hangs in the balance, friendships forged in unlikely places help Yaga learn the truth of who she is—and who she *must become*.

About the Author

Shea Michaels is a licensed clinical counselor and meditation teacher based in Maine. Her background in psychology and eastern philosophy informs her approach to character and myth as she weaves ancient wisdom into modern, emotionally resonant storytelling.

Tears of the Alkonost is her first novel.

Key Details:

- Title: Young Yaga and the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms: Tears of the Alkonost
- Author: Shea Michaels
- Genre: Adult Romantic Fantasy
- Publish Date: November 17, 2025
- ISBN:
- Formats: Paperback, eBook, hardcover

Availability:

Young Yaga and the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms: Tears of the Alkonost (Book One of the Maiden Trilogy) will be available through independent bookstores and major online retailers such as:

- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble

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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT YOUNG YAGA

Face the darkness. Awaken the legend.

Folklore Villianess *Reimagined*
Young Yaga and the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms is a sweeping nine-book, folklore-inspired romantasy series that reenvisions the life story of the infamous Baba Yaga.



1



Rooted in an Ancient,
Diverse World

As the opening to *The Maiden Trilogy*, *Tears of the Alkonost* draws heavily from Slavic folklore, staying close to Yaga's early, localized perspective. As the series unfolds, however, it expands into a wide geopolitical and cultural landscape—introducing major characters and philosophical influences from North and East Africa, the Middle East, and Central and East Asia.

2

Craft What You Know
From brewing soaps to wild-crafting herbs for medicine, much of Yaga's world comes from author Shea Michaels' real life experiences.



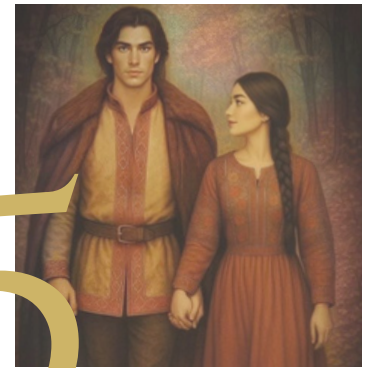
3

The Heart of a Healer

Yaga's compassion is her greatest strength—and her greatest risk. Hers is a magic born not of a will to control, but of *care*—an ancient reminder that true power often begins in empathy.



4



5
A Story of Love and
Becoming

While *Tears of the Alkonost* explores dark and mythic forces, it is, at its heart, a tale of love—between kindred spirits, chosen family, and the self that waits to be found. It's a journey of courage, connection, and awakening—the first step in a legend that begins where fear ends.

Excerpt from

CHAPTER ONE

Yaga stared blankly at the table before her, the vision of her own hands fuzzy and distant as she pictured her mother's fingers running over the pages of the grimoire late at night. Occasionally, as Yaga peaked over her shoulder, Vesna had shown her daughter the drawings it contained—ethereal beings and strange beasts depicted within its pages. Yaga's eyes would sparkle as she stared in wonder at the creatures—half expecting them to come alive, leaping off the paper into the room around her.

Yaga's gaze came back into focus. She stared down at her own hands as she played absently with the twine. Her face rumpled slightly as she recalled that even at a young age, she felt it odd that her grandmother Stasa—a simple farmer herself—would have kept such a curious book of ritual magic and beasts tucked away. Surely there was a story there—of how the book and Yaga's mother had made their way into her grandmother's life. And yet, Stasa, like the grimoire, seemed to hold tight to the secrets of Yaga's world—and about her mother's past.

The book itself provided a record of things that had all but disappeared from the Thrice-Nine. Now, magic was more than uncommon—as was the meddling of the gods in the affairs of humans. Those with magic were scarcely encountered at all these days—even if small enclaves existed scattered across the Thrice-Nine Kingdoms.

She shrugged as she recalled the peculiarity, continuing to run her fingers over the twine on the worktable as she uncoiled it. With a small knife and the flick of her wrist, she sliced a succession of pieces off, tossing them onto a small pile.

Pausing, she glanced at the shelf where the grimoire sat. As she did, it seemed to shimmer—just slightly, as though it could feel her eyes upon it. A bit of enchantment that Yaga was used to. As with other things, the book seemed to respond this way on occasion—to wiggle or vibrate when Yaga was near. The grimoire was special beyond measure to her, having been a significant part of Yaga's life with her mother. Now, it was like an old friend, and Yaga had thumbed over every page more than once since she was a girl. For her, it was a strand of memory tethering her tightly to her mother.