



Shadowmancer

By Taylor, G. P.

E Rutherford, New Jersey, U.S.A.: Putnam Pub Group, E Rutherford, New Jersey, U.S.A., 2004. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. From Booklist: In a post-Potter world where Oscars accrue to films set in Middle Earth, publishers' "big" books (the ones that receive the lion's share of publicity) are often fantasies. Such is the case with this debut novel, which was purchased by Putnam in a \$500,000 three-book deal after it made headlines in the UK, having given Harry Potter a run for its money. Expect requests for this novel, especially after the author appears on the Today show, but the real question is whether it will continue to circulate after the initial buzz fades. Originally self-published by a country vicar (a quaint fact that contributed mightily to the media cachet in the UK), *Shadowmancer*, set in an English village of the 1500s, pits two children against a corrupt vicar. We're not talking skimming from the collection plates; a lust for power has led the vicar to devil-worship, which is hastening the world to Armageddon. A visitor from Africa serves as the children's comrade and spiritual guide, proselytizing a religion with the maxims ("In our weakness we will..."



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