



Shades of Darkness (Ravenborn Book 1)

By A. R. Kahler

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American Gods meets *The Secret History* in this “eerie, wistful” (Karsten Knight, author of the Wildefire series) start to a fantasy trilogy about Kaira Winters, the murders that keep happening at her artsy boarding school, and the lengths she must go to in order to protect the people she loves.

When Kaira Winters decided to go to Islington—a boarding school deep in the woods of Michigan—she thought she could finally get away from everything she has tried so hard to forget, including some things from her past that she refuses to believe ever actually happened.

Everything seemed great until the bodies of murdered students started appearing all over campus. The victims seem to have been killed in some sort of ritual sacrifice. And even worse, Kaira’s dreams are giving her clues to the killer’s identity.

Though she tries to resist, Kaira quickly realizes that she is the only one who can stop the violence, but to do so she must come to terms with her past. She’s going to have to listen to the voice that is buried deep within her...the one that claims to have unimaginable power...the one that claims to be an actual goddess.

But even if Kaira can harness the power within her, will it be enough to stop the darkness that has fallen over her school? And if it *is* strong enough, then what’s to stop the goddess from wreaking her own havoc once she’s released?

Filled with murder, mystery, and a little bit of magic, this fresh genre-bending novel is a thrilling page-turner you won’t be able to put down until the very last page.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 10 Up—A contemporary American gothic with evocative details but an unsatisfying payoff. While attending the Islington Arts Academy, a private boarding school in northern Michigan, Kaira begins to have flashbacks to a violent episode from her past. She tries to suppress the frightening visions while focusing on her friendships and completing her senior thesis, a series of paintings based on Tarot cards. But when her classmates start dying mysteriously, the protagonist becomes convinced she is somehow responsible. The particulars of winter at boarding school leap off the page; well-drawn descriptions of frozen lakes, silent woods, neo-rustic architecture, and the pleasures of hot tea and waffles bring the setting to life. The narrator and her friends are an appealing bunch of quirky visual, musical, and performing artists with a heavy dose of adolescent hormones and what-happens-next senior angst. Their teenage banter and trash-talking is quite funny and helps define their relationships, although the narrator's reference to a gay friend as "homo" may give readers pause. The book's central mystery, what happened to Kaira and how it's related to the deaths, unfolds at a frustratingly slow pace and is only partially resolved in the final pages. The ending sets up a second volume in the series. VERDICT An additional purchase for horror collections.—Beth Wright
Redford, Richmond Elementary School Library, VT

Review

"I love AR. Kahler's writing and *Shades of Darkness* is no exception. Mythical. Magical. Murderous. But grounded in the real world. I devoured this book and can't wait for the next one." (Julie Kagawa NYT/USA Today/International bestselling author of the Iron Fey and Talon series)

"Destiny, death, dating, and daubs of paint: *Shades of Darkness* perfectly captures the art school experience with a dastardly magical twist that will leave you hungry for more." (Delilah S. Dawson, author of Servants of the Storm and Hit)

"A.R. Kahler's *Shades of Darkness* is an eerie, wistful meditation on love, sacrifice, and the demons we struggle to leave behind. The arresting final image is going to linger with me indelibly." (Karsten Knight, author of the Wildefire series)

About the Author

A.R. Kahler is the author of the Cirque des Immortels trilogy and the post-apocalyptic YA fantasy series, The Hunted. When he's not writing or climbing in the rafters, he's probably outside, staring at the clouds. Visit him online at ARKahler.com and follow him on Twitter at @ARKahler.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward Baca:

The book *Shades of Darkness* (Ravenborn Book 1) make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can use to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make studying a book *Shades of Darkness* (Ravenborn Book 1) for being your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your current

capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You could know everything if you like wide open and read a guide Shades of Darkness (Ravenborn Book 1). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Guadalupe Ramsey:

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Robert Dougherty:

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Ella Straw:

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