



Shadows and Light

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Reap the Shadow, Slay the Light I don't know what I am, but I'm not human...and neither are the creatures that killed my mom. Running will only carry me so far because there's a darkness within me, ready to destroy me, and a burning light, begging for escape. It's the light that screams to my pursuers and works them into a frenzy. Though the darkness might kill me, releasing the light might kill us all... **WarWolf: Half breed** Ema fights to suppress her werewolf emotions and deny her warlock powers. It isn't easy being a half-breed, but she is determined to slide through life unnoticed by either group. When the warlock leaders team up with humans to force paranormal registration, Ema believes she must choose between her two unwanted worlds. An unexpected companion shows her not all emotions are bad, and power has its benefits. **Moved** "Werewolves are real but the legends are wrong..." It's the secret Gillian's father has tried to keep from her and the reason he's so overprotective. But, he goes too far when he exiles Gillian to a house in the middle of nowhere. Her new landlord, Racer, is more like a cute jailer who has strict orders to keep her safely trapped. Battle lines between independence and obligation are drawn as Gillian decides just how far she's willing to go to win back her freedom. And Racer needs to decide what he's willing to endure to keep her close.

Shadows and Light Details

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From Reader Review Shadows and Light for online ebook

AK Mama Reads says

I would like to avoid spoilers so this will be brief. Each of the three stories contained within Shadows and Light deal with the potential for good and evil in the world, as well as in individuals. We see three strong female leads, something which Melissa Haag does quite well, well enough to be known for her strength in female characters.

The first piece, Reap the Shadow, Slay the Light, brings us into a point of violent upheaval in Phoebe's life, she must make some quick choices that will change her life forever. She gets help she desperately needs in an unlikely friend, and she learns about her true self. I enjoyed the relationship that developed between the male and female leads here, and the fact that they each rose to the occasion once called for.

Next we have War Wolf: Half Breed, which is a confusing title before you read it because you think it's going to be about wolves in conflict and it isn't necessarily. Rather, it's about another young woman, Ema for short, who is incredibly gifted, but lonely. She has to accept who she truly is, and go with her heart, all the while accompanied by the lovable dork and true friend, Declan. This was my least favorite story, really the only reason I have is that I felt like it would have been better as an entire book! There is so much we don't know about the history and future of the supers and the registration, and about the wolves and warlocks disdain for one another.

The third and final story, Moved, was a bit different. It starts off with all but the main character Gillian knowing the who's who and what's what, though she knows a bit more than her father and his associate Larry think thanks to a letter from her mother. This one builds slowly to a beautiful ending, and though the first story is my favorite, this one is special to me too, as it most reminds me of the awesomeness that is MH's Judgment of the Six series.

Overall, this ranks at a 4.5 star rating, and even if you normally don't enjoy short stories, these are a great way to get into the format!

Kat Jones says

* Reviewer for Paranormal Romance Authors that Rock*

4 Fangs

The three novellas in this book, are amazing. I haven't read many paranormal books, even so, you could get a feel for the characters & drawn into the story.

1) 'Reap the Shadow, Slay the Light' was full of emotion. The story is about Phoebe & William. Phoebe saw many tragedies throughout her life, the loss of her closest friend & her mother (William's sister & mother) & the loss of her father & subsequent step fathers till her latest step brother brutally murdered her mother. William promised Phoebe that whenever she needed his help or protection, he would help, no question. The male characters are the shadows & the females the light. The shadows need the light as the light needs the shadows to keep peace & balance, but only with consent. Over the years tho, the shadows have overtaken the balance & seek the light with total aggression. William helps Phoebe to understand who she is, who they are & the power together they can control.

2) 'WarWolf (Half-breed)' is about Ema (Evanal May Amberday) & Declan. Ema - the daughter of a Warlock

& Werewolf, has become somewhat of a recluse till her step father insists on her getting out! She yeilds only to go to get a pizza when she meets Declan- a werewolf, and he follows her home. Turns out that Declans father knew Emas mother. When the Warlock leaders agree with the Humans to start a register for the 'Supers' (Warlocks, Werewolves, Witches) Ema & Declan run to the Westcoast to register but Ema is unwilling to do so as she doesn't want to be forced to choose one super over the other. The whole time they travel they are shadowed by patrols that are making sure the supers are pursued to register. As much as Ema has reservations about Declan at the beginning, they stand by each other till their feelings for each other are realised.

3) Moved - Gillian lost her mother when she was young but her mother left her a letter that explained who she was. She was home from college visiting her dad & Larry when her dad noticed someone outside their home, when asked who it was, everything was thrown in the air and Gillian was moved away for her protection. Racer was now to be her protector for nine months or until her stalkers were found. In the middle of no-where & effectively under house arrest, Gillian isn't the easiest at staying under control. Racer is pushed to his limits by her but then their emotions come into the picture. Gillian eases up on him & him to her, then her stalker finds her. Once Racer has him restrained & her dad & Larry see him for themselves, do they realize, that they are in love with each other & Gillian wants to stay with Racer.

All three stories are definately stories i would love in full length books, and would appeal mostly to the YA group but its a great read for everyone!

Deissy says

So entertaining! From start to end

Loved them all! Short stories bundle together. My favorite one was shadows and lights! But all the 3 were fun to read!

Sarah says

The first is interested and dramatic and the only darker story. Towards the end at the climax, I found myself having to slow down to get what was going on darkness and light and who's getting what when. Still, a good read.

The second was by far my favorite. The male lead was wonderful and I couldn't help smile throughout most of the story. Really delightful. Ema's transformation was a bit abrupt, but for a short story, it got the job done.

The third had me snorting with laughter. The female lead was brilliant. She took cruel and unusual punishment and made it an art form!

Haag does a brilliant job telling the stories through the female leads while giving just enough hints to know what is going on for our leading guys. Her subtle touch shows without telling making the journey one of discovery with the characters instead of the dissatisfying info dump seen in a lot of indie authors. Looking forward to reading more!

Becca says

Alright! Let's do this!!

So I was lucky enough to be a beta/arc/given this in exchange for an honest review, sort of thing and I am always honest. I just happened to love every one of these novellas.

My review is going to be different from my normal ones because this was three novellas in one book, cool? Cool.

So overall, I loved the mix of two humorous stories and one more serious, darker story. I thought while they stories were shorter they were complete, would have I liked to have seen more of each? Well yeah I love Melissa's writing of course I did. I think that if she never decided to dip farther into each one of these worlds she totally could. I think though for short, easy, fun reads these were perfect.

Now a little more in depth about each one!

Reap the Shadow, Slay the Light

I really enjoyed the concept of this story, we start off very in the dark with Phoebe, which I think works really well for the story. I enjoyed that we got this very much darker story than the other two were. This was intense, it was get your heart-racing, and what will happen next sort of thing. There was mystery, a bit of gore, but over all just awesome-ness. I enjoyed the relationship between Will and Phoebe. I LOVED Will, so much he was not going to let Phoebe be a hermit and waste away. The entire novella was very creative and interesting. I had never really seen anything like this and I loved it. So very much! Very intriguing.

WarWolf: Half breed

Don't let the name fool you, it is not about a werewolf going to War.....yeah I didn't totally think that when i first saw the title or anything.... hahaha...anyways this was a fun little tale about accepting who you are, even if you are a mix amounts of races. I really enjoyed the different-ness of Declan, he was funny, and sweet, but very emotional. At first I felt a little awkward with him but he really grew on me and I did end up falling for him, much like Ema. She is also a very interesting character who tries to control exactly how she feels, but she indulges both of her sides, Warlock, and Werewolf.

Moved

This. WAS. FANTASTIC. Seriously. I adored this novella. It was hilarious, it was sexy, it was just totally utterly amazing. It had to be my favorite out of these three, and I just loved, loved, loved Racer, and Gillian's chemistry. I loved Gillian's pranks and attics, omgod so funny i was laughing my ass off through out most of the entire book. I enjoyed the splash of action that we get ^.^ cause yay! Love that, and I enjoyed the sort of "we are in the dark" but not quite that much vibe it had. I really just loved this novella, and I can't wait to re-read it again, and again, and again.

Ercilda says

3 short stories, 3 different worlds but oh so good. Funny but serious too. I love that even though Melissa writes Werewolves she always mange to give us a different version of them and in different worlds

Reap The Shadows, Slay The Light: A bit dark but it had it's funny moments. I loved the support Willam gave to Phoebe. She endured a lot at such a jong age but mange to rise.

WarWolf Half Breed: I laughed out loud a few times. Declan Is defiantly one that will grow on you. I could relate Ema (Evanal May Amberday) being some what of a loner.

Move: Gillian antics had me Loling. Poor Racer. I really wanted more of their story though. I liked the ended but it still doesn't feel finish.

Erin says

An eclectic mix. All 3 different & good

*** Shadow & Light**

A sweet modern day creation story/morality tale. I kept thinking: this doesn't make sense. Everything created continues to exist only if it can find a way to balance nature. And that was the point.

*** War Wolf**

A very different fast-paced romantic comedy of a warlock/werewolf who tries to avoid being herself & the emotional & sincere werewolf who attaches himself to her.

*** Moved**

A cute teenaged story of mistaken identities & werewolf love. A YA classic "life isn't fair, no one treats me like a grown up ... Hello six-pac abs."

Desiree Gorman - A Love Affair With Books says

I actually really enjoy novellas and love Melissa Haag so this was a no brainer for me. I was especially intrigued when I saw that she was mixing it up with dark and funny stories. I do know that if I want my paranormal fix, Melissa is definitely the person I go to. Her "Judgment of the Six" series is one of my favorite paranormal series out there.

This series was fun and serious at the same time. I found myself eagerly waiting to find out what was going to happen next. Each character was developed beautifully and it was cool to get to know them even if for a short story.

With paranormal it is always an interesting find to me. You've got your stereotypical spins on vampires, werewolves, etc. and then there are these authors that can create an entirely different storyline for a

supernatural creature we've been reading about for years. That is what Melissa does. She creates these worlds and scenarios that just absolutely entertain.

I know I didn't go much into the actual stories themselves because, to be honest, they are novellas and I will end up giving it away. The synopsis above is dead on and better than anything I could have done. The only thing I can add is for those of us who like a little romance with our paranormal, this delivered (but its NOT steamy so don't expect that!).

Jackie says

The 3 stories are very entertaining. "Reap the Shadow, Slay the Light" is the first story, is sort of on the dark/heavy side (my least favorite of the 3 stories in this book, & it's not a bad story, just not my preference). "WarWolf: Half breed", the second story is entertaining with werewolves & witches. And then there's "Moved", the third story, humans & werewolves, is totally hilarious, the female character, Gillian, is so perfect, I love leading lady type characters like this!! I loved this story, I've read the 3rd story, "Moved", 4 times now. I would love to see an expanded version of "Moved", or even a male's (Racer's) point of view since he's the strong silent type werewolf similar to another werewolf character (Clay) from Melissa Haag's series "Judgement of the Six" & would love to know some of his thoughts thru the story. Definitely reccomend this book.

melinda barstow says

Getting better

Read Touched by this author first. Good premise but too bare bones. Liked this one much better. Will continue reading the series she wrote and see where it goes

Blue Rose says

Yes yes yes

These short stories are sweet, beautiful, and quietly thought provoking, not necessarily in that order. ;) Definitely a must read.

Cat says

Three short stories, each one beautifully told. Honestly, I could have done with the latter two being full on novels, but I'll take what I can get.

Reap the Shadows, Slay the Light

Of the three, this was probably the darkest story. It still has a good ending, though, so don't despair too

much. The author has a captivating style that drew me in, which wasn't so good in this case, since it's a bit depressing. But still, kudos for the imagery. Or not. You know what I mean...

WarWolf: Half Breed

This one was a definite change in tone from the previous novella. I did laugh out loud a few times, and I loved the creative use of magic. The author manages to cram in a lot of information in this novella, since she has to explain what the current state of the world is. I liked the characters and, again, the magic was awesome!

Moved

Gillian. I wanted to dislike her, since she comes off a bit too stubborn at first, but she's really a good kid and loves her dad. Can't fault her for that. Not too much, anyway. This novella moves a bit slower than WarWolf, and tone-wise might be right in the middle of the two preceding stories (not quite so happy, not quite so dark). Still, I loved the build up and the ending was nice and swoon-worthy. Last thing I want to say about this: Racer!

Melissa says

This really isn't my own rating. I wanted to add something to share a little side story. My dad recently retired. With all of the time he has now, he offered to read my book, provide corrections, and give general feedback...I can't recall my dad ever reading a book. Wait, not true. When I was about twelve, I remember him reading one. Anyway, I wasn't about to say no.

Here's what he texted me: "Done with the book. Liked story 3 the best. I am very impressed with my daughter. Love you." Go ahead, "aw" the moment with me. :D

I had to add this because when you read the novellas, you'll notice family connections in all three. So this is my shout out to family bonds and love. Happy reading!

Anna (Enchanted by YA) says

I haven't read many books made up of individual, unconnected novellas; only novellas that are part of a series, so this was new but really exciting. I found it was actually really easy to get into the different stories even being really short which my one worry was. Saying this though, they were each about 80 pages so still a decent length (but not long enough).

Now, to be honest I wasn't quite sure how to review this book, whether to do mini-reviews for each novella or a general one but since the 3 synopsis above are better descriptions than I could have done without spoiling too much I won't go into that kind of detail.

The characters were all well-developed so (and I know I will keep referring back to this) even though they're not described to the extent they would in a full length novel, you had a good feel for them and could understand where they were taking the story. Melissa also managed to convey the story brilliantly well, with no sudden information drops that you'd expect from a novella with no series backing it up. This meant it kept an even pace, and this worked for all 3 novellas.

I have to say the concepts were equally as good, and not the classic vampire/werewolf/angel stories which made it interesting. I have nothing against those stereotypical paranormal stories and if you've seen any of my reviews you'll know I love them, but everyone wants that unique story which will stand out from the rest and stay in your head. Melissa did this effortlessly, with not just 1 but 3. If they were full length novels I'd still read them in a heartbeat, but it was nicely done this way I'll admit (I almost forgot they were novellas and when the last one abruptly finished it took me a while to get over it!).

Posted on: <http://enchantedyaya.blogspot.co.uk/>

Kelly says

I thoroughly enjoyed all three of these stories. While I'm admittedly a sucker for the werewolves (WEREWOLVES!), I got a kick out of the whole set.

Reap the Shadow, Slay the Light: A different take on the eternal battle between good and evil and one I found intriguing. Phoebe's panic and pain over what she experienced is compounded by all the things she doesn't know about herself and what she is. Loved Willam's restraint and his desire to be there for her.
thumbs up

WarWolf: Half Breed: A sweet, little story about a half-breed who is determined to deny both supernatural sides of herself and the werewolf who shows her that being her isn't bad. I kinda loved Declan. From his first slightly loopy appearance to that moment when he stands beside Ema no matter what. Which isn't to say Ema wasn't fun (watching the stranglehold she kept on her emotions crumble under Declan's relentless presence was a hoot), but Declan made the story for me. I like werewolves, okay! I LIKE WEREWOLVES!

Moved: Not going to lie, Racer and Gillian had a hilariously sexy thing going on. You know, as she attempted to drive him batshit crazy with her antics. Poor Racer had no idea what he was getting into when he took her on as a new tenant. Again, I LIKE WEREWOLVES!

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal
