



Shadows Across America

Guillermo Valcárcel , Kit Maude (Translation)

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A man's search for a missing girl leads him across borders and through a landscape of urban violence in this timely, propulsive, and brilliantly imagined thriller.

Ethan is living a solid, rational life as a bail bondsman in Florida when he's compelled to make a seemingly irrational decision: abandon his job and his girlfriend and head south to rescue the daughter of his ex-lover, Michelle. She appears to have been kidnapped by the Mara—vicious street gangs ripping apart the fabric of Central American life—and there's every reason to believe the girl is dead already. Except for the one that Ethan has been hiding from everyone: she is calling to him in his dreams with three desperate words...*I'm still alive.*

What begins as an urgent mission to save her soon pulls Ethan into a subterranean culture of fear, corruption, and human trafficking with a surreal connection to the most unspeakable crimes of the twentieth century. Suddenly Ethan's past has come back to haunt him—especially his relationship with Michelle and a passion that was as dangerous as it was intoxicating. Now, heeding impossible cries for help from a lost child, Ethan embarks on a journey that devolves from dreamscape to a nightmare from which there may be no return.

Shadows Across America Details

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From Reader Review Shadows Across America for online ebook

Kent Dallmeyer says

GREAT

Mandy says

For a thriller, and I have to admit to not being a great fan of the genre, this started quite promisingly. A young man sets out on a perilous quest to find the daughter of an ex-partner who has been kidnapped in Central America. The South American mafia, the Mara, are involved somehow, and not surprisingly there's a good amount of violence depicted. To be fair, the author handles this quite well and I didn't feel that the violence was gratuitous or overdone. After all, Central America is hardly a peaceful part of the world. The hunt for the girl becomes more and more complicated, but that's ok too. Up to a point. The last third of the book unfortunately went completely to pot. Suddenly a mystical element creeps in, then we get Nazis and flashbacks to 1930s Europe, then we have a prolonged and unnecessary torture scene, included, presumably, simply for the sake of having a prolonged torture scene. For me the last part of the book was a great disappointment. I'd just about kept with the narrative up to then, but finally it lost me. The supernatural element sat uneasily with the all too realistic violence of life in Central America, and I felt that the author lost sight of exactly what sort of book he was writing. Definitely a mixed bag of a book and not one I can recommend.

Julie Escobedo says

Intense story but compelling

I enjoy a good mystery and adventure so I started reading this book. It pulled me in with many twists and turns in the plot. It gave me a lot of insight into the horrible business of international kidnappings of young victims for sordid reasons. The last third of the book took an surprising turn that gave a completely different perspective. I would recommend this book to people who enjoy mystery adventures and who also have an interest in Latin American cultural history.

Diane Whiting says

desperate

Dayna says

Human trafficking meets The Strain, albeit with a vaguer demonic entity. I was interested in reading the novel because of the Maras, though adding a few ex-Nazis & the occult was a bonus. There are many

graphically violent scenes that may be upsetting to people who haven't been inured by watching the evening news recently. I received a Kindle edition from a Goodreads giveaway.
