

Shadow of Night

Deborah Harkness

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Following Harkness's first book, "A Discovery of Witches", "Shadow of Night" tells of the complicated relationship between Matthew de Clairemont, a moody vampire, and Diana Bishop, a strong, unpredictable witch. At the end of "A Discovery of Witches", Diana used her powers as a timewalker to transport Matthew and herself into the past to locate Ashmole 782 and find Diana a teacher who could help her control her new powers. "Shadow of Night" starts with Matthew and Diana's arrival to the past and how they quickly adapt to the different period of time around them. In the past, they encounter Matthew's old friends, family, and even some secrets that have still yet to be talked about. Together, Diana and Matthew search for a watch worthy of understanding Diana's unique capabilities and the manuscript that speaks of the supernaturals' birth into this world and the key to immortality and reproduction between species. Along the way, the couple faces many challenges, each of them teaching the couple how to love and accept each other, despite their differences.

This series is by far one of my favorites. Not only is Diana funny and smart, but Matthew perfectly balances her personality out, with his sarcasm and funny remarks. The couple seems to be matched in heaven, each of their weaknesses being the other's strengths. It's honestly incredible watching them grow as a couple, understanding each other through their mistakes in this new time period. The coolest part of this story was Matthew and Diana's effect on the future. Each choice that they made that changed the past (almost all of their choices) caused a butterfly effect, changing the future ever so slightly with each passing day. Harkness explains this thoroughly, introducing new characters as a way to explain the couple's effect on the future. It was by far the craziest thing to think about! I found myself becoming very fond of Marcus, Matthew, and Phillippe. Something about the De Clairemont's makes them all so interesting! Each of them harbors so much pain, yet use humor to escape it, and love to forgive it. I also loved Gallowglass and his cute personality. His determination to protect Diana for Matthew was so admirable, and his hilarious comments always ease the tension in the room.

I would recommend this book to people ages 16 and up due to its more intimate scenes and violence. I would highly recommend reading in a quiet, relaxing setting since this book is guaranteed to sweep you into its plot! This story will bring out so many emotions, ranging from happiness to sadness to anger. I swear I would be laughing one minute, and then crying the next! Not only is this story complex, but Diana and Matthew's relationship is the absolute cutest, and will for sure grab you into their everlasting romance.

Recommended Titles:

The Book of Life by Deborah Harkness

Opposite of Always by Justin A. Reynolds
Inception by Bianca Scardoni