



## 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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- Sales Rank: #644333 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-03-08
- Released on: 2016-03-08
- Format: Kindle eBook

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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](http://ARKahler.com) and follow him on Twitter at [@ARKahler](https://twitter.com/ARKahler).

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sylvia Harrington:**

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they're still students or the idea for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that query above. Every person has distinct personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great and important the book *Shades of Darkness* (Ravenborn

Book 1). All type of book are you able to see on many resources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

**Lorenzo Logan:**

Do you have something that you want such as book? The book lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, short story and the biggest one is novel. Now, why not trying Shades of Darkness (Ravenborn Book 1) that give your enjoyment preference will be satisfied by simply reading this book. Reading addiction all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world considerably better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be said constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to possibly be success person. So , for all of you who want to start examining as your good habit, you can pick Shades of Darkness (Ravenborn Book 1) become your own personal starter.

**Teressa Fernandez:**

Reading a book being new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to study a book. When you learn a book you can get a lot of benefit. When you read guides, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. In order to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Shades of Darkness (Ravenborn Book 1) provide you with new experience in reading a book.

**Brian Mejia:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard that question when you got learners? We believe that that question was given by teacher to their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every individual has different hobby. And also you know that little person such as reading or as looking at become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You will find good news or update in relation to something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is niagra Shades of Darkness (Ravenborn Book 1).

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