



## Shadowed Ground

*Vicki Keire*

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## **Shadowed Ground** Vicki Keire

Chloe Burke has only two choices left: run or fight.

As she wakes from a poisoned sleep with silver scars across her back, her aunt's diary may provide the only clues about the creatures of fire that hunt her.

Separated from her last living relative and the only home she has ever known, Chloe must rely on the deadly Eliot Gray to guide her through the strange world she suddenly finds herself inhabiting. It's a world where the Abandoned wear human bodies like cheap suits, where the Landing finds itself threatened by its nearest neighbors, and Chloe and Eliot must watch their every move.

A dangerous road stretches on before them, and Chloe and Eliot must learn to work as a team against the deadly predators that threaten a whole new world. As the bonds of trust grow, they must be careful not to tread upon time-honored boundaries: those forbidding Guardians to act on feelings for their Wards. Determined not to let the only home she remembers suffer the same fate as the world of her childhood, Chloe finds herself in a race to reach Gray's Landing before it is too late.

## **Shadowed Ground Details**

Date : Published March 2012 by Curiosity Quills Press

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Author : Vicki Keire

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## From Reader Review Shadowed Ground for online ebook

### Kate Copeseeley says

This will be one of my two reluctant 5 stars today. Why reluctant, you ask? Well, it's certainly not a flaw in the writing or the characters. I continue to enjoy the story, as well.

What I just can't get behind is the length of these novellas. **THEY SHOULDN'T BE NOVELLAS!** As a long time reader, if you ask me, "Would you rather have short and sweet and quick" or "wait a long time, but have a truly fleshed out book"... **EVERY SINGLE TIME** I will tell you to make me wait.

I want the whole experience. I want all the words and descriptions. I want the fullness that a good author has to offer.

That is the problem here. Vicki Keire is an **AMAZING** author, but these books are a shallow representation of that fact. When you are a great author, people don't want novellas, they want novels. Otherwise your fans might feel cheated. I didn't pay for these two, I got them for free, so it wouldn't be fair for me to feel cheated. But somehow... I still do.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go back to waiting for the third in the Gifted Blood series.

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### Jennifer (Bad Bird Reads) says

From <http://readingandwritingurbanfantasy....>

1.5 stars

#### The Good

I would have given this book one star but I have read worse books so that wouldn't be fair. So that half a star that makes it a little better than a bad book is for the fact that the little action that was there was interesting, and there was one or two scary parts that gave me the chills.

#### The Bad

Wow, where to start. First, it was painful to finish this book (or short story if you want to get technical). I did finish it only because every book I get from NetGalley I read and review no matter what. I actually liked *World Burns Through*, which was the first book in the series. *Shadowed Ground*, however, went downhill fast. First, this is not a stand alone book. If you haven't read the first book, this book will make no sense to you. It literally starts where the last book ended. No recaps.

The beginning and middle were **BORING**. Nothing happens. Chloe and Eliot talk, sleep, drive, sleep, talk... Yup, that's it. I think there was two action scenes all together, and the action finally comes at 60% into the novel.

The POV shifts within the same scenes seemed accidental since they weren't consistent, which made Keire look amateur. Then Keire decides to "tell" us everything not "show." I felt offended as a reader that Keire thought I couldn't figure out what certain actions or facial expressions meant--she had to tell me, like spoon feeding me information.

This book is also inconsistent compared to the last one. In *World Burns Through* we got a mix of POV's for each chapter. We would go from Chloe and Eliot to Chloe's mom and her guardian, then to Alexander (who is a human amongst the craziness). We got to see Alex three times in this book. Chloe's mom was pretty much non-existent. You can't write one book one way and change the format completely in the next.

I felt like I was being dragged through this whole novel. It was so slooooooow. I don't care about mundane actions and events. I don't care that Chloe likes to whine about everything in her life. At one point, I lost interest in what happened to Chloe. She became so unlikable.

The book in no way added to the overall plot of the series. Nothing new happened, nothing was moved forward or set in motion. It was all very stagnate. I am just happy I don't ever have to read this book again.

#### The Snuggly

The possible relationship between Chloe and Eliot was annoying, and I really don't care if they get together. The inner angst got too much for me. This book is clean sexually.

#### Overall

I was surprised that some people liked this book. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe this just wasn't the book for me. Either way, in my personal opinion, *Shadowed Ground* is not a good read. I do not recommend it at all. I will no longer be reading the series.

#### Quote

She just manages to get one leg into the jeans and was starting on the other when her dressing room door crashed open.

Eliot stood there, his face chalk-white, eyes wide with alarm. He didn't appear to notice or care that she was in the process of getting dressed.

She didn't even ask what was wrong. "Damn," she swore, and shoved her other leg into the jeans. "How many?"

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### **Julie Baker says**

I think I just might die now. This series is seriously good. I'm really enjoying all the characters and the situations they are getting into. I don't want to have to wait for the third book! I wish it was out now! Oh Chloe and Eliot, I'm going to miss you!!

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### **Jessie Verino says**

This is the second in the series, and while it didn't have as much tension and action of the first, it was a good read. There was more of the character's history, which was interesting and not boring. I'm enjoying the growing relationship between the h/h, forbidden as it is. Looking forward to the final book.

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### **Stacey Conrad says**

Chased by the Abandoned, Chloe and Eliot struggle to stay alive, and healthy. With a secondary storyline happening to the enemy Ravenwood clan, I expect the two to have to come together in the third installment of this series.

As before in the first book, the writing is fine. I'd just like for the story to be all together. If I were to buy this as an ebook it should be priced under five dollars, for sure. I'd pay \$10.00 for the whole trilogy, although, I'm beginning to wonder if it will wrap up in three segments. The story moves along nicely but upon reflection it doesn't feel like a lot has happened. But--I want to keep reading and am annoyed when I get to the end. I have questions!

-Will the Ravenwood boy be accepted by Chloe and Eliot when he comes for their help?

-Can there be more between Chloe and Eliot than Guardian and protected? Why not?

-Where did the Abandoned come from? How can they be stopped?

-Will Chloe see her mom again? Will their relationship change? Recover?

-Why does Eliot hate his mom?

I need more story! Now!

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## **Stacy Sabala says**

Book Review- Shadowed Ground by Vicki Keire

In book two of The Chronicles of Nowhere, Chloe has healed from being burned by the wraithfire. She and Eliot are hiding in the cabin that Calista owned. He has also given Chloe her diary. He hopes it will help Chloe learn who she is and what she is to do. Chloe still has no idea who she really is.

Chloe is shocked and angry. How could her parents lie to her? She attempts to read her aunt's diary. The information shared really shocks her. Then when Eliot tries to teach her how to defend herself, her anger gets the better of her. She calls the wind again and breaks out all the windows in the cabin. Eliot decides to take Chloe to the Landing but the safest way is the long way. They need to leave immediately. Her powers draw the Abandoned.

She fights the truth but trusts Eliot to keep her safe. They steal a car and travel as far as they can stopping at a motel. They ditch the car at a truck stop and buy another one. Chloe finds out that Eliot has fake identification for them both and money. Soon Chloe decides she needs to stop and get clothes and essentials. The Abandoned eventually find her and Eliot. A battle ensues and she has to face one on her own. She instinctively figures out how to fight it. Chloe has to take control when Eliot is injured. She needs to learn as much as she can and she has to face her past and her future.

This series is getting better and better. I love how the story is evolving. Eliot is protecting Chloe. Cass is protecting Miranda. Both groups are making their way to the Landing. As they go Cass and Miranda gain a lawyer by saving him. Then they have also gained an ally in Alexander Ravenwood. He fears for his sister and what is happening at his house.

There are battles, near misses and chases. The journey that Chloe is on is full of danger and shocking revelations. Chloe is getting better at dealing with it. She only throws a couple of tantrums in this one. So as a character Chloe is slowly getting better and dealing with things. She isn't yet a character I truly love but hopefully she is on her way.

The scenes at the Ravenwood residence adds a side story which is interesting. I wonder where Alexander fits in. As I read the story I would speculate why these things are important and what would happen next. I love books like this. I give it a 4 out of 5.

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### **Emmanuelle says**

This sequel follows perfectly in the footsteps of Worlds Burn Through. The adventure continues without pause. I love learning more and more about Annwynn and the history of how they made it on earth. I wish book 3 were out already because I want to know what happens next with Elliot and Chloe.

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### **Heather Harrison says**

This second book was more fun than the first. The character interactions were fantastic, and the pace was faster. I just wish these books were LONGER. I knew from the first that it was going to be short and was still SHOCKED when my ireader was like "you just finished blah." \*Mad Face\*

Recommended for fans of paranormal/urban fantasy wanting a quick read. A good read.

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### **Sandra Gilbert says**

I love the way this story is progressing. More questions were answered and I started to get a glimpse of the epic design of it all.

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### **Marsha says**

Shadowed Ground is the second book in the Chronicles of Nowhere series. Chloe Burke is desperately trying to come to grips with being burned and pursued by emotional vampire like creatures called the Abandoned. Her guardian, Eliot Gray reveals details of their past that have been wiped from her memories. However, he does not want to say too much; so, he hands Chloe the diary left to her by her aunt. Only Chloe can open it. As she reads through the diary secrets that are sometimes better left unveiled are revealed and she is devastated. However, if she is to survive she cannot wallow in pity. She must be trained to protect herself as she and Eliot travel to the one place they will be safe, Gray's Landing.

There is a secondary and third story line taking place within this novella with the second featuring Alexander Ravenwood, a brother desperate to save his sister from the Abandoned who have taken over their home. Charlotte is slowly being drained of her emotions and it is clear she will not last much longer. Alex has no choice but to try to get her away to safety. Unfortunately before that can occur, Charlotte succumbs to a deep disturbed sleep. So, Alex enlists the aid of his friend, Carson who quickly assesses the situation and realizes that if they are to survive, Alex must cross the river to Gray's Landing.

The third story line consists of a lawyer, Heironymous Tuttle, Esq. whose lover has left him and who has been fired by his firm for questioning their business practices. As he indulges in drink after drink he is interrupted from his stupor by Chloe's mother and her mother's guardian. They ask for his assistance in taking over their case before they are attacked by the Abandoned.

This book and series has great potential; however, because of the haste in which it is told, readers do not get to experience any resolution to the various story lines. In my humble opinion, each book in series should be drawn to its logical conclusion. That is not to say that a book should not be allowed to have a cliffhanger. It just means reader should not be left hanging book after book, scenario after scenario. Additionally, when novels are too fast paced it is difficult to become emotionally invested in the characters of a series. You cannot believe characters are falling in love when it just happens too quickly. This is the reason for my 3 star rating. I liked this book; but I just did not love it.

One final note: This book has several typographical errors. At location 53 the beginning of the sentence is missing. The sentence begins with ....'they managed it.'" Additionally, at location 270, the author writes, "stink of fire" instead of "sting of fire." These errors need to be corrected before the final release of the book.

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## Court says

I love Eliot more and more with every installment. Shadowed ground is a quick read that is beautifully written and most of all entertaining. There was not one dull chapter. With that being said, I am looking forward to the next....cannot wait! Vicki, you are absolutely amazing! Bravo!

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## Gretchen Hohmeyer says

This review first appeared on my blog, My Life is a Notebook, here. Follow the link to read a review with spoilers and other reviews!

There is one important thing everyone needs to know about The Chronicles of Nowhere. If you read the first book, you already know this, but for anyone else's knowledge: The Chronicles of Nowhere are NOT novels. They are serialized stories. This just means that every installment (so far) is only 100 pages or so.

But here's the thing. I am legitimately confused by this installment. For me, the logical train of thought is: If this book is going to be so short, let's pack it with action—or, at least, things that move the plot along. Shadowed Ground ... didn't. Perhaps this isn't the right mind frame for serialized stories, but that was the mentality I went into it with. It was, I guess, the wrong one.

This book is entirely Chloe and Eliot centric. It almost feels as if Alexander and Chloe's mom are no longer important. However, it got worse when it seemed that Alexander's and Chloe's mom's storylines had the most juice in them, but we never got to see them. Out of 15 chapters, 2 were Alexander and 1 was Chloe's mom from the viewpoint of a drunk, recently dumped and fired lawyer, if memory serves. These not only had the potential for the most plot juice, but also the most action as well but they were mostly forgotten.

Chloe and Eliot's story had no real plot juice. First they're talking. Then he's trying to teach her how to fight. Then they're talking. Then they're driving. Then they're talking. There's finally \*spoiler cut\* over halfway into the book, but by then I'd lost my steam. I understand that Chloe is trying to deal with a lot, but the writing didn't deal with it well. She spends so much time whining and freaking out that she becomes unlikable. Eliot is a cool character, but I don't follow his schizo personality switches. They came without warning and seemed really out of place.

I really didn't want to give this two stars, but I honestly couldn't justify giving it three. So, it's two and a half stars is my compromise. This book WAS better than a two star rating, whenever things were really going

down or no one was talking (and Chloe wasn't whining). Honestly, I just became far too frustrated with the lack of movement within the very short story. Keire clearly has the potential to write a really fast paced ride, but this just wasn't it.

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### **manda-rae says**

Honestly, I have to say I enjoyed this book more so than the first. And the reason why? Even though the ending wasn't really an ending (in the sense that this is a series), it was a million times better than the ending in the first book. With the first, I felt like I was kicked off a cliff at the end. With this one, I felt like it closed with a sense of hope that they will get through this.

This book was full of a lot of action. Looking back on it, a few things were explained that satiated my curiosity. But not a whole lot was explained. But that's okay because I got to see a lot of kick-butt fighting.

And the relationship between Chloe and Eliot? It could just be my hopefulness that makes me think there's something between the two of them. Or the fact that I like Eliot a lot. Who knows, we'll see when the next one comes out.

And now I'm left wondering when the third book will come out... What's my recommendation? If you like urban fantasy reads, then I recommend you read the first and second book in this series together. Do not treat them as separate books. Since they're short stories to begin with, it's easy to treat the two as one novel (and you'll feel better about the ending).

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### **Lovey Dovey Books says**

Vicki Keire has again created a story that'll knock your socks off! The next addition to *The Chronicles of Nowhere* is top notch.

*Shadowed Ground* focuses more on Chloe and Eliot as they begin their travel to Greys Landing. The action is just as packed as in *Worlds Burn Through* and Mrs. Keire manages to keep the story rolling as Ravenwood Manor becomes a hotspot for danger.

From Miranda Burke to Alexander Ravenwood, the characters seem to fall into place. Everyone's side of the story helps readers see the bigger picture, even though the story is nowhere near over. It's clever when different periods of the story show the characters facing the same dangers from the Abandoned. They all face the same threats, but at the same time they're on their own.

It seems that Mrs. Keire has ratcheted emotions in this volume. For example, in *Worlds Burn Through* I noticed how Alexander and Eliot had really strong emotions, particularly rage. In *Shadowed Ground*, I see that there's so much more depth to these hard characters. Alexander is motivated by his love for his sister, even though he loves to defy authority and play the bad boy role. He's an entirely different person than I thought he'd be. Eliot struggles with his role as Guardian; reading his thoughts and seeing him through Chloe's eyes shows how difficult his struggle is. Eliot keeps everything inside, but allows bits of anger, confusion, and sadness seep through, making his emotions much more potent. There's so much that he doesn't know and his challenge is dealing with the past and keeping himself and Chloe safe.

There's more to be discovered, about the characters and their individual missions, as the journey continues.

*Shadowed Ground* is proof that *The Chronicles of Nowhere* will only get better.

\*eGalley for review provided by Netgalley on behalf of Curiosity Quills Press.

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### **CATHERINE says**

Second one in the series, we get some more back story and Chloe starts growing into her powers as her relationship with Eliot becomes more dependent. The second story thread doesn't progress that much, will this become a love triangle? Still a bit on the short side for a satisfying read but interesting enough to want to read the third one.

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