



## Lost in Shadow

*Cynthia Luhrs*

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## **Lost in Shadow** Cynthia Luhrs

### A CHANCE ENCOUNTER...

A relaxing vacation to Scotland turns deadly when a chance encounter with a ghostly highland warrior leads to murder. When Emily witnesses a murder no one else can see, she learns she possesses an extraordinary ability allowing her to interact with the dead.

### WITH A GHOSTLY HIGHLAND WARRIOR

Lord Colin Campbell prowls the streets of Edinburgh, a barren shell, eviscerating those who prey on humanity. No longer believing in love, unable to trust, Colin is rocked to the core when fate intervenes.

### UNLEASHES A DEADLY CURSE AND A CHANCE AT ETERNAL LOVE...

Unwittingly drawn into Shadow when she saves Colin, a terrible curse is unleashed. Now with only a week to break the curse, time is running out. Locked in a deadly fight with forces that will stop at nothing to destroy her before she succeeds, Emily must find the key.

Intensely romantic and thrilling, Lost in Shadow portrays the struggle between redemption, retribution and the desire to find a love that transcends time.

If you enjoy persnickety gods, supernatural creatures and ghosts with the ability to manifest physical bodies, then Lost in Shadow is for you. This is the first book in the series though they all may be read stand alone.

## **Lost in Shadow Details**

Date : Published May 2013 by Cynthia Luhrs (first published March 26th 2013)

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Author : Cynthia Luhrs

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## From Reader Review Lost in Shadow for online ebook

### Kirsty says

When I started reading this book, I thought that it would all be set in 1644 and that I would hate it.

What will happen will Emily, a girl from modern day South Carolina meets Colin, a Scot from 1644.

I actually really enjoyed this story. By the end of the first chapter I was hooked. I managed to read it in one sitting. However I was slightly disappointed with the ending of the book, but I do still feel that I have to read the next book in the series.

I do love books on the supernatural, but I don't read too many ghost stories. I am glad that I decided to give this one a try.

I was given a copy of this eBook for my honest review.

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### Satarupa says

I got this book from the author, free of cost, in exchange of an honest review from my side.

Firstly I would like to thank the author and Carrie, the moderator of LoP Group of Goodreads for giving me this opportunity of reading and reviewing this fabulous book.

Wow, just wow!!! What a great read. This type of concept where the hero is a ghost really excite me and when I read the blurb I just practically jumped on getting a copy for myself. I loved the plot and the story building a lot and couldn't point out any mistake in it. The characters are swoon worthy, really!!!

I loved the way the story flowed and made me swoon now and then. The love that the author depicted through her words took my heart away but it was matched with the thick mystery and suspense which kept me on the edge of my seat.

Overall a great book and I would definitely recommend it to others too. Go for it guys, you wouldn't regret reading it. Enjoy!!!

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### Daria says

\*\*I received this book in exchange for an honest review. (Lovers of Paranormal, LoP)\*\*

Amazing! Because of an accident Emily a sweet young woman that I think is an alcoholic (smiles), and she sees dead people. Her and a friend goes to Scotland on vacation, and will set a chain of events in motion. Colin a proud warrior that died by the hands of his own brother, swallowing more than one betrayal he will be forced to relive his death each anniversary. Colin is a shadow walker – he good and fights evil. He is floored when he meets Emily has no one should be able to see him or any walker, not only does she see him, Emily maybe the curse breaker.

Both Colin and Emily will be in each others company, both will have to overcome and deal with their past

before time runs out. Keep in mind there are Gods/Goddess at work as well and we know just how helpful they can be.

What a tale to tell, a story with a bit of history and magic, a bit of mystery and excitement. Sex a few scenes that will have you fanning your face, and a love that will be felt through the pages. I'm a sucker for love that is found. This wonderful story had me saying aw... and blinking my eyes rapidly (damn dust). I look forward to the rest of the books. Enjoy

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## Michelle Willms says

Lost in Shadow by Cynthia Luhrs

Shadow Walkers – Book One

Colin, an ancient warrior, protects humans from evil in Edinburgh. He was betrayed by both his brother and his fiancée in the 1600s. Emily can see beyond the normal human realm into the realm of Light and Shadow. She is visiting Scotland when she sees him engaged in battle and tries to help him. By doing so, she has been involved intricately in his life; she has one week to break his curse of being a Shadow Walker. The consequences are too grim to be contemplated.

Emily was riding in a car with her then boyfriend, Charlie, as he sexted another woman. Charlie lost control of his vehicle, crashed, trapping Emily the car, under water. She was dead for about 10 minutes before being revived. She sustained many injuries, required several months' recuperation, physical therapy, and she still felt seething anger toward men. Charlie walked away from the accident virtually unscathed, further adding to her bitterness.

Emily and her best friend, Kat, are touring Edinburgh when Emily hears the words, Beware the Day Walker...he comes for you." Kat heard nothing. Day Walkers prey upon humanity; Shadow Walkers fight Day Walkers. They are both invisible to humans, unless they want to be seen. Then, there was Emily, able to see both fighting on Samhain's Eve. What does this mean for the fight overall?

Cynthia Luhrs' writing is exquisite. She creates a world of pirates, high intrigue, ancient gods, overly curious and protective policeman, evil immortals, kind and wondrous immortals, almost saintly mortals, and hope. Of course, there is also steamy passion. Luhrs understands that it is extremely important to incorporate scenes of passion into the context of the story and not to include such scenes simply for the sake of a sex scene. She is a master of plotting; her characters are divine – they almost created holograms of themselves, and walked off the page before me.

This is a must read. It is important to read this book before any others that may come out in the series. This book will provide important background information about the characters that will help if you intend to become an avid reader. This series is appropriate for both men and women but does have sex scenes, so if you're easily offended, it's probably not for you.

I received this copy through Goodreads' Read for Review Program in exchange for an honest review.

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## JoRead says

Lost is Shadows starts as I'd like my next vacation to start, set in Scotland along my best friend fulfilling the dream of a lifetime, which by the way, it's the same for me too. Our heroine Emily is a strong, independent American woman who happened to survive a very traumatic accident at the hands of her ex-cheating boyfriend. This has made her wary of loving again. And what better way to overcome the betrayal and hurt

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than to travel to the place she's dreamed of since she was a child. Once in Scotland, Emily realizes something strange is going on around her but thinks it's just a consequence of the dreaded accident. Later, during a guided visit to one of her beloved castles, she strays from the group and finds herself alone, only to face danger and ends up helping an injured "man" that was being attacked other men. Before she could help him anymore, all of the men disappeared leaving her confused and somewhat scared. What does a normal girl do? She doesn't think herself crazy and is resolute to figure out what really happened, even though everything she's finding out points to that man not being alive at all. So she continues her quest, exposing herself and friend to more danger, in a different country, where she knows no one. Luckily, she makes a friend in Inspector Monroe, who had an agenda of his own and is only helping and humoring Emily with her stories because he's trying to solve an unsolved murder case and is willing to believe anything in order to have justice served.

Emily continues her quest until she finds him, and this time she ends up saving him from a sure death. Now, this man, Colin, is no simple man, he is part of a legion of warriors called Shadow Walkers, sworn to protect humanity from the Day Walkers, that is, the bad guys. What Emily doesn't know is that by saving Colin, she set the clock in motion and they will have to work together in order to break a course that affects them both. And if they don't, they will have to live with the consequences for the rest of their lives, for however long that may be.

As strong and independent Emily is portrayed, it was not enough to save her from the silliness that sometimes was so out of character in the story line. To be more exact, the beginning of the story was fun. It was entertaining and although for moments it sounded a little too YA I was still ok with it because it keep me going and turning the pages. But as we are submerged into the worlds of the Walkers, I got lost into what was going on. It was like I was reading another story. They needed to break a course, but for several days it was never mentioned. They just lived leisurely, like there was no one trying to kill them, like there was no war going on, and like they had all the time in the world. Not only that but it went from *I like them together* to *whoa!* , with the sudden *I'm so hot for you right now and I want you on my bed day and night*, which is not an actual quote from the book but that's what it sounded to me.

After the blissful days where there seemed to be nothing else but happy clouds in their midst, the book kind of picked up again. Which makes me think perhaps this book was aimed to a different audience when first laid out but then changed tracks and more steamy content was added at a later point to target a wider crowd. Also, and please let me know if you do get it, but I don't think it is clearly explained how the course can be broken. I waited for that through the end but I never really got it.

All in all, I really liked the premise of the book and the overall plot. I only wish it had a smoother transition from page to page and I didn't have to keep wondering how much better the story would have worked if I didn't have that feeling that it was two different stories put together. 3 1/2 stars.

**\*I was given this book in exchange for an honest review (LoP)\***

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## Anne says

*Thanks to NetGalley for a copy of this book*

*Ehhhhhhhh.*

Ok, what we have here is a self-published title, and I *hate* to be the asshole who slams those kind of books. It takes guts to put your hard work out there for the world to see, and without a professional team behind you, there's a lot of things that can go wrong. So what I'm going to do is make this review short and...well, *not* sweet. But it will be short, because I feel like a big enough jerk already.

Lost in Shadows is...no.

Amazon has the paperback edition listed at \$8.99, and the Kindle edition a t \$3.99. So, this is not a super-

cheap freebie book.

Just...*no*.

There are technical issues, like jumping from one character's introspective thoughts to a fight scene in a different realm with no warning whatsoever. This is probably a product of being self-published, so I won't dwell on it.

The plot is a bit convoluted. There's just too much random stuff with too many characters that aren't important to the plot.

The dialogue is cheesy, and the love scenes are nothing to write home about. Although, there are only so many ways to say, *He pinched my titties and I liked it!*, so that's low on my list of complaints.

I'm going to give you two examples of the things that happened in this book, and then I'm done.

For this one, you need to know that he's been in a fight and is slashed all to hell. She's squeamish about blood, but is sewing him up with a needle and thread. *Don't ask me why a doctor wasn't called in to do this.*

***It was harder than it looked. It was difficult to go through skin, not to mention the needle made a popping noise as it entered the skin. She could hear the thread making that squicking sound as it pulled through the skin, tissue, and blood.***

And then they start making googly eyes at each other...

***His groin tightened, he shifted to ease it, Gods, he burned for her.***

M'kay. That's just gross. I get that guys think about sex all the time, but I'm willing to bet that getting sewn up on a table (without anesthesia) after getting knifed would be the exception to that rule.

For this one you need to know that they were attacked by bad guys on the way to his castle. The weather is horrible and it won't stop snowing. He killed the guys, took off his clothes, and pushed their car (with his bloody clothes and the bad guys inside) off a cliff, so that the evidence of the fight would go up in a fiery explosion. Also, they have a flat tire.

*Wait for it, wait for it...*

***Colin quickly replaced the flat, slipping in the snow, cursing as he worked. Finished, he opened the trunk, pulling on a change of clothes.***

Why in God's name wouldn't he put his clothes on first?! I've seen my husband squat down to change a flat, and it wouldn't be pretty if he attempted to do it naked. Much less in the freaking snow! Hello? I don't care how Immortal a guy is, a frozen nut sack is a frozen nut sack.

Ok, I'm done.

Also reviewed for Addicted2Heroines

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## **Maria Dodd says**

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review, Lovers of Paranormal.

I loved the concept of this book. The history behind the characters was covered well. The characters drew me in and I wanted to know more about them. The two main characters were well-written and were

surrounded by a good 'supporting cast'. I liked that fact that we got to know Emily and her friend separately from any interaction with Colin. I also liked the scenes of Colin in the past before Emily stumbled upon him. This gave us a bit of perspective of the individual characters. I found the American terminology in some places didn't quite fit in but was easily overlooked.

The major draw back for me is that this book is very similar to one of my favourite series of books - the Dark Hunters. I spent the first part of the book mentally trying NOT to see the many similarities. The immortal warrior finally finding his soul mate and changing the course of his curse is one of many. Had I not already read 22 or so books in that series I would have enjoyed this book even more.

I hope that this series continues to include the current main characters as I would like to see how Emily develops and their family grows.

A really good read.

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### **Angela says**

LOST IN SHADOW by Cynthia Luhrs is a paranormal romance with a new world of Shadow Walkers. When I read the synopsis of this I kept thinking; how would the author create a relationship between a ghost and a person? My imagination got away from me and I imagined creative love scenes with pantomime. (I'm a little twisted, I know.)

After reading LOST IN SHADOW I can confirm that the author creates of very real and unique world with a physical, passionate relationship between Colin, the sexy highlander and Emily the southern belle, who sees dead people.

This story has all the paranormal romance elements but the story is definitely a stand alone in it's originality. Vampires and werewolves are the bread and butter of this genre but I was happily surprised with a ghostly twist.

I could tell the author was deep in this world and excited to share because there were scenes that over-shared rather than letting the story unfold while peppering in the important informational bits. This definitely interrupted the flow of the story but it's also very forgivable since this is her first novel and I think she did a beautiful job of creating this world.

Mentor Books: Night Embrace by Sherrilyn Kenyon; Kiss of Midnight by Lara Adrian

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### **Angie ~aka Reading Machine~ says**

Emily Laurens isn't like everyone else. She can see ghosts, spirits, and other supernatural creatures. Emily's ex Charlie caused an accident that left Emily with thses strange abilities. Emily is on holiday with her best friend Katherine (Kat) Chandler in Edinburgh, Scotland. Emily has always been fascinated by foreign accents from a young age. Emily discovers the most uniiely thing~ ghosts having a battle with real blood shed. Baron Colin Campbell has know much tragedy, betrayal, broken heart, and vengeance. Colin is also a Shadow Walker cursed forever unless he finds his mate. Colin cannot believe that Emily can see him and Day Walkers as well. Emily barely fights because she knows the truth from Terya. Terya is the mother of gods and goddess and she's choosing to fight against Dayne. Dayne seeks to end all life including ending the

existences of Shadow Walkers for all time. Thorne tries to keep the balance going for human and walkers for life. Your answers await you in Lost in Shadow.

I've read a lot of books with ghostly elements. Yet I find that this book used in such a way that leaves all other books on ghosts in the dust. I thought the author did an excellent job of creating this lore. The lore provides is unique and well thought out. I will definitely be looking for this author's work in the future.

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### **Allyson says**

I received this book for free for my honest review of it thru lovers of paranormal. I loved the sound of the book when I read what it was about that's what sucked me in to want to read it. Ok so Emily sees supernatural things like ghost and she sees a ghost while on holiday with her best friend. We find out his name is Colin and is a Scot from 1644. The author maybe new and her first series of books ever and doing it all on get own but I loved this book! I don't care about everyone else had written about this book and I hope it doesn't make you not read it because you will be missing out on this book with an awesome world the Author puts you in. Thanks again for letting me read and review!

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### **Carrie (Book Fairy) Fort says**

Favorite Lines **“Emily—a stray dog is one thing, a stray man is a whole ‘nother ballgame, sweetie.”**

**“Could he let her into his battered heart, take the chance and trust again?”**

**“Did you know the stars are made out of tears?”**

**“I was lost the moment ye tried to help me in the Vaults, the compassion in your lovely gray eyes, the color of a stormy sea—so beautiful, so kind. I wanted to grow old with you, give you the big family you always wanted.”**

**“I was lost in shadow, devoid of hope until you appeared and blazed a shining path through the darkness. I want you to stay in Scotland with me. I love you, for all eternity.”**

**“Gods Emily, ye hold my heart in your hands, able to crush it with a single squeeze if ye so chose.” He took a deep breath, exhaling hard.**

**Tears in her eyes, she held them back. Her savage warrior had been profoundly changed. She'd died for him, would love him throughout eternity. Her voice choking, “Your heart is safe in my keeping, I'll never hurt or betray you.”**

**“Your love gives me life.”**

Okay I went a little crazy with my favorite lines but I just loved so much of this book! Colin is an amazing character! He is a strong alpha male you was brutally betrayed! He closed his heart off and caged it in ice, steel, diamond, and every other thing he could use to close off his heart and emotions. I can't blame him though his so called brother and fiancé betrayed him something horrible! The betrayal is what led him to become a Shadow Walker, a race of men that defend humanity against the crazy Day Walkers who murder humans by stealing their essence and draining them dry!

Emily is visiting Scotland! She's dreamed of visiting here and after her ex gets caught sleeping with another woman he and her best friend can't get there fast enough! Emily has a weakness for men with accents. I agree with her when she says she could listen to them talk forever. So when she's on a tour and sees what she thinks is an replay of a battle from long ago she's floored until she realizes that it's actually happening. One of the fighters takes her breath away! So of course she helps him when he almost loses.

These two are freaking adorable. Colin may fight it a little bit but even he can't deny that Emily is wiggling her way into his heart and soul.

Can Emily break the curse that every Shadow Walker lives under? You must read to find out! It's an epic love story with some kick booty action and some amazing Shadow Walker men! Love this book! Can't wait to get to the next book!

I was given this book by author in exchange for an honest review

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## **FIVE SHADOW FAIRIES**

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### **Carrie Slager says**

[Full disclosure: I received a free ebook through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.]

The whole unavenged ghost thing was really starting to wear on me before I read Lost in Shadow. Not because I had read many books about it, but because it seemed in pop culture there were no really new, unique takes on it. Pretty much every story sounded the same. That was until I read Lost in Shadow, of course.

Colin is now one of my new favourite love interests, not only because of that Scottish accent I seem so attracted to, but because he actually has a believable backstory for becoming a Shadow Walker. Despite his terrible past he's also never that typical bad boy who needs to be shown the fun side of life by the heroine. It's actually quite a refreshing change, especially when you consider how easily Cynthia Luhrs could have fallen into the cliché trap with the whole Scottish warrior/modern American girl dynamic.

At first Emily seems like a typical romance heroine in that she's gone to Scotland to recover from a failed relationship and stumbles onto a great guy with a mysterious past. But what I loved about Lost in Shadow is that Emily is allowed to grow out of this two dimensional role and becomes a strong heroine in her own right. She doesn't always just stand by waiting to be saved but at the same time she's not one of these instant action girls that kicks butt constantly. Her past combined with Colin's makes for an interesting relationship dynamic to be sure, but that added layer of the Shadow Walker curse makes it even more interesting.

I love how Cynthia Luhrs could have written a typical romance novel with very little world-building but didn't. The Shadow Walker and Day Walker conflict is fascinating and we even get to see how the two types of 'ghosts' came into being. Throw in a mysterious way for Shadow Walkers to break their curse/gift and you've got the makings of a great fantasy novel as well. The romance between Colin and Emily is obviously still the main focus but despite my general distaste for romance novels, it didn't bother me at all. In fact, the romance in this novel actually contributed to both the plot and the character development. It was a refreshing change.

I saw the ending coming a mile away, but I guess every once in a while you have to have endings like the one in Lost in Shadow, right?

I give this book 5/5 stars.

## **Suzanne says**

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review (Lovers of Paranormal).

A relaxing vacation to Scotland turns deadly when a chance encounter with a ghostly highland warrior leads to murder. When Emily witnesses a murder no one else can see, she learns she possesses an extraordinary ability allowing her to interact with the dead.

I enjoyed the story and will continue on to the next book but I found it a little rushed and unrealistic since Emily was so against starting a new relationship after the last horrible one she experienced but then feels she's in love with Colin after 2 or 3 days.

The story was also tough to follow at times when the point of view jumped around without warning or page breaks. I had to go back a few times to figure out if I missed something and determine who was talking now.

I did enjoy the action and adventure and the concept of the Shadow Walkers and the Day Walkers. They are immortal ghosts who use natural energy to fight and heal themselves. Day Walkers, serving under the evil god Dayne, want to enslave the human race so they can use their energy to take over the world while Shadow Walkers, who serve the less evil god Thorne, stop them and protect people.

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## **Nicole says**

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review (Lovers of Paranormal).

I was excited to read this because the blurb sounded like it would be a good story, and for the most part it is. However...this isn't as enjoyable as it has the potential to be; and by that I mean the story feels rushed, almost like the author was trying to make everything happen immediately, instead of letting the story unfold naturally. There are no subtle transitions between scenes (you know, like there is an obvious separation in a chapter so that way you know you are now reading a different scene? Not in this book). Also some inconsistencies, an example being when Emily and Colin were trapped after the cave-in, the area they're in is described as being pitch black, but at one point Emily hands a bottle of water and chia seeds to Colin who takes them. If it's pitch black, how in the world can he see what she's offering? Another glaring problem is that it's sometimes hard to figure out which character is actually speaking.

It irritated me that Emily (who has decided to take a break from men after the last debacle with her ex almost ended her life), was all "I'm falling in love with him", after knowing him for exactly 2 or 3 days. No girlfriend, you're not in love, you just wanna know what he's got going on under that kilt. And Colin? At least he seemed a bit more realistic in that he didn't want to get close to anyone, especially a woman, after his fiancée from eleven thousand years ago betrayed him.

An okay book that could be better with proper editing.

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## **Cheryl Duval says**

I received this book in exchange for an honest review from the “Lovers of Paranormal” Group on Goodreads.com and the Author.

I really enjoyed this book and I am having a hard time with the fact that there are so many negative reviews. When I read a book for review I don't focus on the technical issues unless they are bad enough to distract from the story. I think the author did a wonderful job. We move back and forth between the 1600's and modern times. I think the way it changes between times is very easy to follow. I love the main characters Emily and Colin and I think their back stories were wonderful. There is enough action, adventure, drama, mystery and romance to keep anyone interested in this story. Ignore all of the negative reviews and give this book the chance that it deserves. I liked the book very much and highly recommend it.

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