



The Shade

Tara S. Wood

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Cillian is a Shade, a man who walks among the world of Other Realm, spreading the seeds of discord and chaos into the Dreams of mortals as punishment for a life ill-lived. As he casts the sands of Nightmares into Everly Whitcombe's dreams, he finds himself taken with the haunted beauty. He defies his vocation by visiting her Dreams more often than he should and trying to comfort when he should destroy. As he commits his transgressions, he puts them both in danger. Can he find a way for them to be together, or are they destined to only meet in Dreams?

The Shade Details

Date : Published August 27th 2012 by Belle Ombre Publishing

ISBN :

Author : Tara S. Wood

Format : Kindle Edition 47 pages

Genre : Romance, Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Paranormal

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From Reader Review The Shade for online ebook

Jennifer says

Wonderful story! A unique twist on those that visit our dreams or nightmares. The story ended way to quick and on a cliff hanger. I cant wait for more. I NEED to know more about Cillian!

Natalie Gibson says

Spoiler Alert:

The story is unique and that is something I can really respect. It was fast paced and happened mainly in the dreams of Everly, nightmares brought on by Cillian. I liked it but didn't love it. It read like the first half of a novelle I would love. The ending was rather abrupt. They get away from the Sandman, but now he is angry. What are they going to do...not sleep anymore? Their enemy will always be right there waiting for them to drift into dreamland. He has an army of Shades to do his nightmare bidding.

I enjoyed the rich setting and the race through nightmares kept me reading until the end. The mythos was something unlike anything I've read before. It was well thought out and made sense without us being weighed down with the technicality of it all. The characters were good. Perhaps the problem is that it had too much potential to be so short and end so suddenly. I just can't get over the disappointment of the ending. A longer battle with the Sandman, perhaps a few nights only, and another erotic scene and I would give this five stars.

Bella Doerres says

The Shade

By Tara S. Wood

Everly is a writer with a sleeping problem. It seems that the Sandman has sent one of his Shades to keep her from getting any rest. Cillian is a Shade. He has been sent to deliver nightmares and create nightly terror for Everly. What starts as a regular assignment for Cillian turns into a realization that he has found the woman of his dreams. Knowing he is doomed he wants just to speak. Things move swiftly in the dream world and Everly realizes she is in love with a dream walker or is he. Why is he always in the terror. Will they meet. Can the two find love. What monster chases her through her sleep time.

Tara Wood has given us a wonderful paranormal fantasy that shows that something remarkable can happen in a few chapters. Take a leap and read this exciting story. Will you find your self trusting the Shade at the end?

I am hopeful that Tara S . Wood will write more episodes of this story.

Bella Doerres Ma/Ed 10/24/2012

Kevin Hammond says

Okay so what i got from this is that you have a writer who doesnt feel the need to add a long fluffy build up

to a story. it is as simple as there is the deep end and in you go. the story unravels through action, it is dark, at times eerie, sometimes frenetic and very creative.

i think the lynch pin upon how the story evolves, and when you read it you are going to notice, is that creative language and sentence structure used all through the story. the short sentences and the variety of language propels it along so much so that you read it and before you know it you are finished. i think that is the mark of a good story and the sign of a writer who understands their craft very well.

i dont think it would be enough to say i liked this story. i think it would be better to tell you, the reader, that i am impressed by it

Kym Grosso says

"The Shade", Cillian, who lives in another realm, is forced to bring nightmares to people's dreams. His tormentor, "The Sandman", sends him after Everly, a romance writer. During their dreamstate, Cillian falls in love Everly. She is scared of him at first, but then becomes obsessed with seeing him in reality. Cillian knows that it is against all rules but still finds a way to meet Everly while she is awake. Rhe Sandman will not tolerate his disobedient ways; determined to punish Cillian, he sends a demon to kill Everly.

This is a delightful, well written short fantasy read, which left me wanting more. I really wanted to know what happens to Cillian and Everly in the end and hoping for a sequel!

Ella Medler says

Beware Tara Wood! She is one of those authors who writes the kind of books that make you miss your bus, burn your toast, be late for work, and ignore your family.

The Shade is not a long read, but what it lacks in length, it more than makes up for in intensity. As far as suspense goes, you couldn't do better. I could not put it down.

Tara Wood takes a simple story and gives it first a dusting of eerie, then she twists it into a second dimension, and ups the stakes. She is incredible, the way she plunges her readers straight into deep mystery and suspense.

With few characters, you'd think the plot would lack depth. Not so. Not by a very long way. Everly Whitcombe is hoping to finish writing a book in the relative peace of her grandmother's house on the Isle of Wight. At least, she would if the nightmares let her find her peace. Cillian is a Shade, and he deals in dreams. Nightmares, to be precise. The problem is that they are attracted to each other.

The descriptions are brilliant – you can't fail but know exactly where you are, all your senses saturated, until you are one with the character. The pace just picks up and picks up, and then picks up some more, all the way to the end.

I can't find fault with Tara Wood's writing. Very, very rarely, can you find an author who simply has the talent. Whose writing flows effortlessly and who can make your blood pump through your veins from the first page to the last.

I, for one, will be reading more from this author. For The Shade, Tara Wood receives a very well deserved five stars from me.

Robert Zimmermann says

A shade, different realms at play, and a passion strong enough to risk eternal damnation for. That's what can be found within the pages of Tara S. Wood's The Shade.

Wood does a beautiful job of setting up the world in which Everly dreams. The descriptions threw me right into the story running along side by side with the MC. I felt what she felt, I feared what she feared. The real world settings were also just as descriptive, painting a picture just as beautiful but still allowing the reader to feel there was a difference in mood between the dream realm and the real world realm. The third realm that shows up in this novella is just as well written. This is the one in which The Sandman and Cillian dwell. It's not a nice place.

The passion The Shade, Cillian, has for the human Everly is what drives this story. While there are more aspects of this story than the romance, they aren't as played out for the reader to grasp onto. It's a non-stop journey through the different realms as Cillian attempts to work his way into Everly's world and Everly tries to figure out who this mysterious man of her dreams is.

Don't worry, there's conflict worth reading about as well. Aside from Everly being utterly confused by the mysterious Cillian, the fear from her dreams reaches its way into her ever day life making it difficult for her to function. She's a writer. Even writers need some sleep to work better. I thoroughly enjoyed the reveal of what the embodiment of this fear was. And what takes place after that...well I can't tell that here.

With the great settings and enjoyable characters, this book was a great read. The ending left me a little on edge, and it was great. I hope Tara plans on putting out some more novellas. She worked well in this short form of writing.

Lucy Pireel says

The Shade by Tara Wood
Reviewed by Lucy Pireel

This short story is fun, fast paced and mildly steamy. I enjoyed the hour it took me to read it. Dreaming can be quite disturbing after reading this story, but also quite enjoyable. Unless our dreams aren't dreams at all? The author has a nice way of taking us into her dreamworld, with references to known themes yet bent to fit this story.

I'd say well done. A short, but sweet read, maybe a bit too short. Some parts could have been worked out a bit more, but as is, it is a fun read.

Crystal says

Pretty good story. I never knew what was going to Happen. Makes me wonder with the way it ended it there is more to it or not. I hope so because I would like to know more.

Conny says

I loved this book. I got it as a free download and quickly devoured it. It got me guessing until the end and I really like the writing style of Tara S Wood, and I can't wait to read more of her work. Well worth your time.

Lindsay Avalon says

Note: I was given an advance copy of this book to beta read. I did however buy the final book upon its release and this unsolicited review refers to the purchased copy.

What I liked:

At only 47 pages, this is a very short book, but I hardly noticed the length when I was reading. Tara wasted no time in immersing the reader in the story, and truthfully I felt I knew Cillian and Everly better than I have the main characters in some full length novels. I also loved the unique premise of the story. Rarely do you find a story centered around The Sandman. At first, I was a little afraid that I would find the physical attraction between Cillian and Everly hard to believe given the short length, but Tara did a beautiful job of making it quite believable. The blend of tension, both sexual and from the conflict of The Sandman, kept me enthralled. I also want to note that the editing of this novella was superb. I can't remember any areas where mistakes jumped out at me.

What I didn't like:

Honestly, I wish this could have been a bit longer. This story was so interesting, the characters so rich, and the villain was wonderful. I hated that it had to end! I also wish there had been a little more dialog between Cillian and Everly. That's a minor gripe though, because you get plenty of insight into the individual characters.

Overall Verdict: 5 Blue Duckies!!

K.S. Haigwood says

That was a trip I want to take again. Ms. Wood opened up a bright new world in Paranormal Romance. Just when I'd thought every subject had been covered at least two-hundred times, Tara S. Wood finds another loophole and throws something unique, original and exciting at the world.

I want a Shade like Cillian.

Wow! I can't wait for the 2nd book.

My only complaint is that it wasn't long enough. More please!

5 stars.

Stuart Laing says

Hugely enjoyable read that is packed full of romance, danger, mystery and big hungry beasts that chase you through frozen forests in the dead of night.

Cillian loves Everly, Everly loves Cillian but The Sandman is determined to put an end to their love and is prepared to go to any lengths to finish it and them!

Great short story that kept me turning the pages until I reached the end and left me asking what happens next?

This is the sort of thing that dreams are made of.

Trish Dawson says

The Shade finally made it to the top of my massive TBR list last night and once I started this novella I couldn't put it down until I was reading with one eye open. I took a break only to sleep and clean my house, then went right back into the story. I LOVED THIS BOOK!

Cillian might be my new Paranormal Fictional character crush! "If she died tomorrow, there would be no regrets."

With a story that has a new paranormal twist that I have yet to read, a villain that will haunt my dreams tonight, characters and description that you can feel and see - the only thing that I didn't like about this story is that it was over too soon! I do hope there is more to come. The ending left me dangling, wanting - scratch that - NEEDING to know what happens next. Great job, Mrs. Wood - now, when is The Shade 2 coming out?!

Caroline says

Great little read!

Well balanced with allot of information about the places, sounds, smells etc. Wonderfully descriptive.

Loveable lead characters and villains you love to hate. Really well edited.

I am looking forward to the next instalment. Hence 5 stars
