



Shadow Spell

Nora Roberts

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With the legends and lore of Ireland running through his blood, falconer Connor O'Dwyer is proud to call County Mayo home. It's where his sister, Branna, lives and works, where his cousin, Iona, has found true love, and where his childhood friends form a circle that can't be broken...

A circle that is about to be stretched out of shape—by a long-awaited kiss.

Meara Quinn is Branna's best friend, a sister in all but blood. Her and Connor's paths cross almost daily, as Connor takes tourists on hawk walks and Meara guides them on horseback across the lush countryside. She has the eyes of a gypsy and the body of a goddess...things Connor has always taken for granted—until his brush with death propels them into a quick, hot tangle.

Plenty of women have found their way to Connor's bed, but none to his heart until now. Frustratingly, Meara is okay with just the heat, afraid to lose herself—and their friendship—to something more. But soon, Connor will see the full force and fury of what runs in his blood. And he will need his family and friends around him when his past rolls in like the fog, threatening an end to all he loves...

Shadow Spell Details

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From Reader Review Shadow Spell for online ebook

Melissa McHugh says

I suppose when you're Nora Roberts, you can't help but repeat yourself in certain aspects. I usually don't mind it, because the characters are different enough to support it, but her latest trilogy is just...not fun. I feel like it's a jumble of her earlier stuff.

In the first book, you've got a woman selling all her stuff and moving to Ireland where her family is. There's Jewels of the Sun right there. You've got a supernatural fight on your hands that needs to be fought on solstice with a newbie. There's Dance Upon The Air. I liked the leads, but it just felt too familiar for me.

In this book, it's even worse because I genuinely liked the romance. I liked Meara and Connor. But I felt like I was reading another entry in a trilogy I'd already finished.

I suppose this is the price I pay for having so many Nora books a year, and at the end of the day, her not so good books are better than other author's best books, so I'll suck it up, and get through this trilogy like I did the Sign of Seven and Blood Brothers, and hope another Bride Quartet is around the corner, because those were some of my favorites.

Edited for typos, because I apparently cannot spell.

Birgit says

Is it just me or is Nora Roberts getting really boring. I listened to this book (well not all of it) and as it's set in Ireland the voice actor has an Irish accent which is nice but it's a male. I'm sorry but chic lit being read by a male is just weird. As I said I did not finish it because I know what is going to happen, the two lovers will have a fight over something inane, get back together, attempt to fight the evil Cahban (not sure of the correct spelling), they will fail because there is a third book in this trilogy (obviously), marriage will be proposed blah blah blah.

I won't even attempt the third book because once again I know what will happen, the last remaining pair will get together even though they will fight it, have amazing sex, fight, split up, get back together and once again fight and finally win over the evil Cahban because this is the last book. Some magic will be thrown in here and there, some humour (I do enjoy the humour), some really long boring conversations, blah blah blah.

I have read a few of her trilogies and have enjoyed them but this one is just lame.

Bark says

Why does every other book I pick up have to be part of some ongoing (sometimes never ending) series? Why can't a book stand alone? Why do I ask stupid questions when I already know the answer? I am crabby and all I want is a fantastic standalone romance novel and I can't seem to find one this month. Is this too much to ask?!

So, here's my story of woe. I reserved this from the library via the internet without knowing it was book #2 in a series. When I picked it up and realized my error (which is clearly stated on the front for any idiot to see), I was too lazy to go back to return it and figured I'd give it a go anyway. Nora Roberts is usually an author I can count on. My mistake. I should've wasted the gas and the time and turned back. Instead I wasted 10+ hours of my time insisting to myself this book would get better. It didn't. I think this idiot has finally learned her lesson.

The entire first hour of this unabridged audiobook is spent introducing three siblings in Ireland with magical powers who are battling some evil do-er who murdered their parents. I thought the book was going to be about one of them since Roberts spent so much time with the intro's and all and just as I was feeling bad for them and getting comfy with the storyline she zips us to the future. Here we meet another group of three with magical powers who are related to the previous three. What. The. Hey?

Somewhere around hour three (yes, hour three people, you can't call me a quitter!) I am finally clued in to the fact that this may be a romance and the hero is this nice, friendly Connor fellow and I'm good with that. He has magical powers, trains falcons and is content with his happy life. He loves his siblings/cousins and has a friendly outlook on life. The heroine is Meara, his childhood friend who he enjoys teasing and touching whenever he can. She leads horse tours. She doesn't have the magical powers but she does have an affinity for the horses. She's nice enough. Together they're fine but I didn't feel much of anything but perhaps it's because I'm dead inside.

So, there is a romance happening but it didn't thrill me all that much and felt more like a secondary plot element. I'd be sad if I weren't so bored. And cold-hearted.

What is going on is kind of crazy, convoluted and not very original. There is a Big Bad who escaped from a Charmed episode or the past or some such who keeps popping up to steal "the three's" (or "The Trees" as the narrator says) magical powers. Or something. The six main characters spend a lot of moaning and groaning about how to vanquish the evil do-er. They perform some Wiccan ceremonies which never seem to pan out in their favor. It all felt really campy to me and not in the fun kind of campy way.

I will admit that I may easily have missed some heartwarming, touching and/or genuinely terrifying moments because the narrator read the book Fecking Terribly. He had a nice enough Irish accent but his American accent was atrocious and he seemed to fade in and out of it. He read the book instead of performing it and paused at inappropriate places. But the worst thing was that he made all of the characters sound almost exactly the same. I never quite knew who was speaking and the book felt as if it were 100 hours long and I feared it would never end and that this was my own private hell.

If you are following this series, do yourself a favor and skip this audio version. Find it at your library or buy the paperback or suffer like I did.

Phrynne says

I enjoyed this every bit as much as I did the first in the series, Dark Witch. The spotlight is on a different pair of characters this time and Connor turns out to be Roarke's twin brother only with magical skills. There may be a bit of predictability in the story and the characters may be just a little stereo-typically Irish but who cares! It is a fun, easy read and I am looking forward to the last in the trilogy when it comes out later this year. Hopefully it will be Branna and Fin's turn to go under the microscope.

Jonetta says

A bit of background

As with the first story in this trilogy, Dark Witch, it begins in the past with the three children of the first dark witch, Sorcha. I love this aspect as it's entrenched in the underlying mythology. Each time we learn a little bit more about Cahban, the dark sorcerer, which helps the six friends figure out a way to defeat him.

What I liked

Connor's my favorite of all the characters. His breezy, fun-loving spirit is infectious and endears him to friends and family. He's the kind of guy that is popular with the ladies but doesn't leave a trail of broken hearts. They all seem to know it's just for fun. Even with Meara, who he's known all his life, their friendship has never wavered.

After a particularly nasty encounter with Cahban, Connor and Meara's relationship takes a turn toward romance. Both are a bit unnerved but Meara especially so. Abandoned by her father, she's pretty resistant to starting something with Connor. Him? Not so much. It's a nice, new direction for him.

The strength of this story, however, is the friendship of the six. Some of the best moments are when they're all together. This is a familiar theme of Nora's trilogies, especially to me now as I recently finished the Sign of Seven series.

Narration

I have mixed feelings about the narration. Alan Smyth's Irish accent certainly helped keep me in the setting, especially during the scenes with Sorcha's children. However, I couldn't distinguish any of the male characters from one another. When you're reading Nora's stories, particularly where there's dialogue, the transitions don't always bear the character names. It's not an issue when reading print or eBooks but it was a huge one for me with this performance. I struggled knowing who was talking.

Bottom line

It's an enjoyable friends to lovers romance with a strong and interesting underlying mythology. I welcome the final chapter of the trilogy and already bought the audiobook, which is narrated by the fabulous Susan Ericksen!

Kjen says

Love this trilogy...so looking forward to book 3. Fin is Roarke's magical twin;) Connor was awesome in this. He's the sexy-lovable-sensitive hero type. Love the flashbacks to the original three, and the dream shift added an interesting twist. I read this more slowly than I usually read a Nora, but that was my life during the time...not the book. Bring on Fin in book 3!

Lisa Kay says

★★★★☆ (This is a review of the audiobook.) Okay, I've never heard this narrator, Alan Smyth, before and I won't be searching him out again. He. Pauses. Way. Too. Often. And the accent didn't sound right. I would have switched to the Kindle to read; however, I decided to speed it up - way up! - as I had a due date to finish it by for a challenge. (Plus, I was driving on holiday.) This helped some, but not enough. Disappointing, as I loved the narrator in the first book in the series, Katherine Kellgren; she was exceptional. And I know Susan Erickson (who does the *In Death* series so wonderfully) is doing the next, so I powered through.

Still, I'm enjoying this enchanting series. Roberts does a nice job with the "time travel" or reincarnation aspect - if you can call it either of those. Usually, I don't like long prologues, but with this series you get an update on Sorcha's three children set in Medieval times, from whom these present-day cousins are descended. They are a delight. In addition, the solidification of the idea that joining of these six friends is what will ultimately win the day is what shines as this series progresses.

This is a "friends to lover" story for Connor and Meara, nicely done. I also like that Conner, who, although he deals with the darkness of the sorcery of Cabhan, is himself cheerful and pleasant. If you're looking for a dark and brooding alpha male, you won't find him here. Nice change of pace, that.

Ashley Christensen says

The second book of the Cousin O'Dwyer series was better than the first (which I reviewed here), in my opinion, because I actually loved the male protagonist, Connor.

The book centers on the friendship and then romance of Meara and Connor. Meara and Connor have been friends for years, and even were each other's first kiss. There hasn't been romance between them before, but it's obvious there are hints of it here and there- Connor talking about what a beautiful gypsy Meara is, Meara talking about Connor in a way only a girl who loves someone deep down can... there are hints everywhere!

This book starts off again with the original three, mainly Eamon, and again, goes on about 40 pages. But again, I found this part to be quite entertaining. It talks more of the evils of Cabhan, his lust of women, and his weakness for power. And throughout the book, Connor and Eamon (being the only males of the three) stories twist together through dream-like scenes in which they talk, and bring protections to each other.

There are several intense encounters between Meara and Cabhan. It's interesting because Meara does not have powers, but Cabhan knows if he takes her, he weakens the six.

I also loved the scenes this book at the place where Connor, Meara, Boyle, Finn, and Iona all work. The hawks and horses just sound so wonderful.

To be honest, a big part of the reason why I loved this book so much wasn't even because of just Meara and Connor's romance, though friends falling in love is one of my absolute favorite romantic storyline things. It was the friendship, again, of the six. Even Boyle seemed to talk and express more than he did in Dark Witch. And, the romance that is stirring between Branna and Fin... I really cannot wait for it finally to come

together. Though I am interested, as well, in the final battle between the six and Cabhan. I thought for sure they were going to get him towards the end. Of course, there is another book so I should have known it wasn't going to end that way, but they really were so close!

(Also seen on my blog -<http://www.beautyandthereads.com/2014...>)

Olga says

Me ha gustado, sobre todo la parte del pasado y los encuentros entre todos los antepasados y los presentes... sobre la historia de amor, en esta saga la veo flojita y me hubiera encantado que se le hubiera dado mas protagonismo porque tenia potencial.... Connor es un amor, paciente, sensible y con un toque de picaresca y Meara tiene todos los miedos del mundo derivados de su pasado pero es fuerte y compensa todos los defectos... A por la historia de Branna, que ganas!!!

Karen says

Nora Roberts is one of my favorite authors. I have read every single book she's written. that being said, I felt completely let down by this book. It seemed to be a collaboration of many books she's already written. I felt I was rereading the same lines from so many other books. Connor used the same sentences that Roarke uses in her death series. The Irish theme I think has played itself out. I love a bit of supernatural, but the characters did not excite me. As a super fan, I will continue to read her books, I just hope they don't turn out as stale as this one:-)

Miki says

Ok, I know I said I wasn't going to read the second book in this series but I couldn't help myself. It's like driving by an accident scene-it's horrific but you can't stop trying to see more.

I just can't decide what is the worst thing -the recycled plot, the stick people characters, or the overdone, awful stage-Irishness. This one had all the bad things of the first one, plus a few more. I confess that I'll probably read the next one, if only to reach closure. Sigh. At least I didn't buy this one.

Holly says

Oh, how I enjoyed reading about Meara and Connor falling in love. They had so much chemistry, and I absolutely love these characters. Their relationships with each other are heartwarming, fun, and very deep. This circle of friendship is tight, a bond links them together through their ancestry and secrets. And I love it when they're all interacting with one another. Even when they're teasing or fighting, they still look out for each other. And I love that it's set in Ireland, because I adore how these characters talk. The circle is my favorite part of this series. :)

The story-line is a bit predictable, but I find that I don't mind it so much. I just wish there was a little more action. But the plot is constantly moving, with a few quiet moments thrown in as well. I love the magickal elements and how lyrical the writing is. It makes for a very enchanting read.

I can't wait to find out what happens next, and I'm especially excited about Branna's and Fin's story. I think these two may just be my favorite of the characters, and I want them to have a happy ending so much.

Shadow Spell was another wonderful book in this magickal series with amazing friendships and deep family ties, charming Irish scenery, and the knowledge that light always wins.

November, 2013:

I cannot wait to watch Meara and Connor fall in love! <3

? Kimberly says

Five Reasons to Grab a cup of Coffee and Curl-up with *Shadow Spell*:

1. If you liked tales of prophecy, witchcraft and fate. The Dark Witch gave her powers to her children, and told them "their blood, her blood" would one day defeat Cabhan the evil sorcerer who took her life. He killed their father and sent them into hiding and away from their beloved home in County Mayo, Ireland. The time is now. Three cousins of their blood have gathered along with their friends and formed a circle to defeat him and fulfill their destiny.
2. If the friends to lovers' trope is a favorite, you are sure to enjoy the romance that develops between Conner and Meara Quinn. Conner is tall and strong with a twinkle in his eye. He walks comfortably in his shoes and speaks to his hawks. He is patient and loyal, and you cannot help but adore him. Meara tends horses, does horseback tours and cares for her elderly mother. She guards her heart after it was damaged, but she is loyal and loves her friends. From that first jolt of electricity that ran through them when fear opened the door to their feelings I felt their connection.
3. If small-town settings make you want to get cozy by the fire then *Shadow Spell* will delight you. I loved how Roberts brought the Ireland countryside to life. She gives us a sweeping view and I long for the fields, the forest and gardens. The O'Dwyer cousins have surrounded themselves with good friends, and I loved the plotting to destroy Cabhan and intimate "family" dinners. Their friendships are strong and enviable.
4. While there is predictability in both the plot and the romances, Roberts' weaved in hair-raising spells, strong friendships and an overall story arc filled with danger and suspense. I could feel the fog rising, taste the power of their spells and smell their fears. We even dream travel and get to meet the three children of the Dark Witch. The tale of destroying Cabhan is front and center as Roberts' creates twists and danger. She continues to flesh out her characters and the story while serving up a delightful side of romance. Providing just the right amount of heat to curl your toes.
5. It's rural Ireland, and I loved the language to their way of life. I suddenly have a need to go Hawking, ride a horse, and eat Guinness stew and then perhaps partake in some dancing. I also have to teach my hubby those Irish terms of endearment Conner whispers in Meara's ear..*swoon*!

Sandra Mariscal says

Reseña completa

Tengo que confesar que comencé esta novela con un poco de miedo porque los comentarios y reseñas que había leído sobre ella era que iba un poco cuesta abajo en cuanto a los libros de la serie, pero he de decir que a mí me ha gustado más que el primer libro. Ya os dije en la reseña de Bruja Oscura que la protagonista no me cayó bien hasta la mitad del libro más o menos, y en cambio en este los dos protagonistas me han gustado desde el principio...

Hechizo en la niebla es una buena segunda parte de esta serie. Aunque menor en acción, la que hay se eleva en intensidad por lo que no te puedes despegar de sus hojas en ningún momento. Además cuenta con dos grandes protagonistas y con ese toque de magia que me gusta encontrar en las novelas de la autora y con unos secundarios maravillosos a los que tienes que conocer.

Ari says

DNF

I love Nora Roberts' books. Her, Linda Howard and Sandra Brown are my trio of favorite comfort reads. And this trilogy has everything I usually love. Tell me a book is set in Ireland or New Orleans and I'll read it.

But I can't keep going.

It's the same thing over and over again, everything happens so fast, so abruptly; the constant get togethers drive me insane when they just repeat what I, as the reader, already know has happened. They sound so stiff and cookie-cutter. I can barely feel the chemistry between the two leads. I'm well aware that Cabhan will be beaten in the end so I'm not missing much there.

I read these books for the ride, for the fun of it, but that's lacking greatly.

What happened to the adventure of Three Sisters Island, or the Key Trilogy, or the Circle Trilogy, or Sign of Seven?! Some of my favorites by her.

Not sure what happened to Roberts with these books, but they're lackluster.
