



## **Ignite the Shadows**

*Ingrid Seymour*

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# Ignite the Shadows

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## **Ignite the Shadows** Ingrid Seymour

Sixteen-year-old Marci Guerrero is one of the best teen hackers in Seattle. However, she'd give up all her talents to know she isn't crazy.

Marci feels possessed by what she perceives as shadowy spectres that take control of her body and make her do crazy things. While spying on the clandestine group known as IgNiTe, she's confronted by the leader, James McCray. His presence stirs the spectres inside her brain into a maddening frenzy. Her symptoms and ability to control them don't go unnoticed by James, who soon recruits her and shows her the awful truth.

Half of the world's population is infected by sentient parasites. They bind themselves to the human brain and replace the pathways for all thoughts and actions. The creatures then morph their hosts into grotesque monsters with extraordinary strengths. Winged, clawed, fanged half-humans become living nightmares. Now Marci wishes she was crazy, because the truth is worse.

She's infected.

## **Ignite the Shadows Details**

Date : Published April 23rd 2015 by Harper Voyager

ISBN :

Author : Ingrid Seymour

Format : Kindle Edition 400 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Young Adult, Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Romance

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# From Reader Review Ignite the Shadows for online ebook

## Nancy says

In this fantastic new Sci-Fi adventure with myriad unexpected twists and turns, Seymour has endowed her main character, Marci with a strong, vibrant voice. Plagued by paralyzing visions of shadows, Marci always feels inferior to her twin who was kidnapped when they were born. The father she adored has died and her mother seems barely aware of her existence. Marci thrives on taking one risk after another. The adrenaline rush keeps Marci's shadows at bay until she and her friend Xave fall into very dangerous company. Teens will love Marci! The Sci-Fi element is skillfully woven into what appears to be a very realistic plotline and is satisfyingly shocking when it is revealed. Appealing to a wide audience, consider this an essential purchase for YA librarians and voracious readers!

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## Philisha Stephens says

WOW! This story is EPIC!! This is by far the best book I've read this year! I hate to compare books, but this one outranks The Hunger Games! The premise of the story is realistic and something that with imagination could be real. I find most books that occur in first person annoying, and I end up not like the main character because they are whiny or too down on themselves - Marci isn't like that. She takes a licking and comes out fighting. She's more worried about getting lost to the shadows than whether or not her hair is a mess. I'll definitely be waiting for the next book in this series.

I love how the author ended it without the cliffhanger. Yes there were unanswered questions, but nothing that left with me with an anxious or bad feeling. It's one of those endings where you know Marci (for the time being) is safe, but her character was just pushed into a situation that will require her to work through something difficult. Can't wait to see which side the twin brother falls to.

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## Olivia (The Candid Cover) says

Thank you to Xpresso Book Tours and HarperVoyager for the review copy!

Ignite the Shadows by Ingrid Seymour is a book that is impossible to put down! Once you start reading, the ride begins and there is no turning back. This book is an action-packed sci-fi/fantasy novel that is seemingly real and harbours a female character so gutsy that the reader will be craving more.

Ignite the Shadows is perfect for fans of sci-fi/fantasy books. It is very futuristic with monsters called Eklyptors that have the ability to grow scales, wings, etc. This book tells the story of a group of people, called IgNiTe, who have been "infected" by these monsters and create a resistance to stop them. IgNiTe are in a constant battle with the Eklyptors, which makes for a gripping read!

Ingrid Seymour has created a story that seems so real, it's downright scary! Ignite the Shadows has the perfect balance between realism and fantasy. It is set in our world, so the reader won't need to adjust to an unfamiliar setting. However, there are fictional monsters that are undercover and taking over the world. As I was reading, I kept thinking about what it would be like if there were really monsters that appeared to be

human and tried to kill us all. Seymour has really depicted an incredible YA sci-fi fantasy novel that will leave readers on the edge of their seats!

The main character in Ignite the Shadows, Marci, is a character that is relatable. Marci is a strong heroine who knows how to defend herself. She doesn't need a man to defend her, Marci is perfectly capable of fighting for herself. Her kick-ass attitude rings through the novel and really sets the stage for adventure! More books in the young adult genre should be written like this to help bring down gender barriers.

With its jam packed storyline that seems so real and it's amazing main character, readers are going to enthusiastically enjoy the Ignite the Shadows series. Similar to the Shatter Me trilogy by Tahereh Mafi, Ignite the Shadows will satisfy the needs of fans of the fantasy genre. Ingrid Seymour is going to have many fans waiting desperately for the next book (myself included)!

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### **Claudie Arseneault says**

IGNITE THE SHADOWS is a fantastic YA book, halfway between science fiction and urban fantasy, with just a dash of creepy horror--enough to make your skin crawl without this book really being horror. It follows Marci, a sixteen-year-old hacker, martial artist, bike lover and all around incredibly great and complex character, who's had to deal most of her life with shadows at the edge of her vision, threatening to take over. Turns out that she, like most of the earth, is infected with parasites who overtake the bodies of their host, and she joins with a small team dedicated to fighting against them.

I really don't want to say too much about the plot. It's a fantastic thriller, that drags you in very early on and refuses to let go. Ingrid Seymour's writing is brilliant -- I honestly have serious jealousy over her skill for carrying emotion and punching you in the gut with it. Add this to a cast of complex characters (can't get enough of James, damnit), all of which seem to have several layers of goals, desires, and secrets, and you've got an incredible story. I loved it from the first to the last page.

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### **Lynanne Carroll says**

(4.5 stars :-)

\*I received an e-copy in exchange for an honest and fair review\*

After devouring the first installment of the Morphid Chronicles, I had high expectations for Ignite the Shadows—because Wow. The MORPHID CHRONICLES (jaw-dropping, seriously. I loved it. You can check out my review of Keeper here: <http://tinyurl.com/p2pzb7m>. I also have the review up on Amazon and on here at Goodreads)...which is probably why I was in such a state of upheaval for the first eighth of the story.

I'll be frank: I was so excited to get started I forgot to re-read the synopsis before I dove in ^\_^', and because of this, I had little to no idea what was going on with Marci for the first five or so chapters. It was frustrating. So...read that synopsis, and keep in mind that Marci is infected, and the shadows are real!

You're going to love this book.

### *World*

Ingrid Seymour has a knack for creating believable, uber-cool and uber-creative 'species'. I was really impressed by the level of scientific explanation given for the Shadows' existence, especially because she integrated it with somewhat fantastical elements. Get excited. It's stellar :).

### *Characters*

In the beginning of the story, Marci wasn't very likeable. Sure, she could hack—cool. Karate skills? Way cool. But her attitude problem, combined with her occasional bouts of irrationality (emotionally contradictory), got under my skin. As I got to know her, though, she really grew on me, and by the end, I loved her. She was unreasonable at times, but she had a lot of spirit.

As for the other characters, well...sometimes they left me scratching my head. I had trouble understanding most of their personalities and motives, never really sure if they were acting. This was especially true of Luke (sure that was intentional, so ok), James (ridiculously tight-lipped level: secret agent), and Aydan (bi-polar?). While a brilliant way to showcase Marci's lack of trust in others—and create suspense/sustain tension—it was grating at times.

### *Plot*

There were moments I flipped pages madly and moments where I meandered, but overall, I really enjoyed the story and I think you will, too. Two things I want to highlight: choices and secret-keeping.

You always have a choice. Yet Marci frequently employs “what choice do I have” thinking to justify her next step(s).

Used once or twice, I guess I could see it, but Marci used it so many times it became an excuse rather than a legitimate plot device. I'm not saying the circumstances weren't tense or serious or undemanding of attention and/or action; it was that her justification of her own involvement, when prefaced with this statement, became questionable. Almost as if it undermined the events themselves, if that makes sense.

For curious people who NEED to know why \*raises hand\*, Ignite the Shadows is somewhat unkind. As the story progresses and more information is laid out it gets better, but I had some serious struggles with the answer withholding. If I was in Marci's shoes, I don't know that I could've trusted James. Kudos to her for braving the open sea during a storm...and kudos to you if you can make it through without berating Marci in your mind (or aloud).

### *Overall*

Ingrid Seymour is *incredibly* talented. I'll be snatching up her work in the future; she's secured a spot on my list of favorite YA Urban Fantasy authors :)!

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## **Ingrid Seymour says**

God, how I loved writing this book!!!

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## **Nicola says**

*Ignite the Shadows* is so fast-paced and action-packed that I found myself tearing through the pages. We are thrust straight into the action which makes for a really strong and intense opening. It is a sci-fi story but with enough realism that you can easily picture the events happening in our everyday world.

Marci has lived most of her life being plagued by what she calls "shadows": spectres that take over her body so much so that she loses control of herself. When she and her friend, Xave, are spying on a group known as IgNiTe, she gets more than she bargains for when the leader recognises the agony she is facing and quickly persuades her to join their group. He too is a sufferer and reveals that there are many more just like them; people who have been infected by monsters known as Eklyptors, and IgNiTe is a resistance group determined to eliminate them.

I really liked Marci. She is strong and independent and spends her time creating code and hacking computers. She rides around on a motorcycle and isn't afraid to speak her mind or stand up to people. I also liked the leader of the resistance, James, and found him to be very intriguing. He's a bit mysterious and I wasn't always sure if I could trust him but ultimately he was very likeable. I think the characters as a whole are excellently written. There's a mixed bunch of people and everyone stands out; they each have distinct personalities, and I could easily remember who was who. With that being said, I would have liked some of the characters to have had more development. For example, there is a subplot of Marci's long-lost twin brother, Luke, being rediscovered and I wanted to get to know more about him. I think there's going to be a lot more from him in the next book though so I can understand why he was a bit missing here.

There is a small romance element and I actually really enjoyed it. It is in the very early stages as Marci and Xave are just beginning to learn how to be more than friends but there was a real chemistry between them which I appreciated. Xave is really likable and I'm looking forward to seeing how that develops.

The Eklyptors were downright *creepy* which is exactly as it should be. These monsters have the ability to grow scales and other unworldly features and spend their time infecting other people. IgNiTe are fighting against these monsters and hellbent on destroying them which results in some dangerous situations which were extremely gripping. Those that have been infected, such as Marci, also have the ability to develop their own "powers" which was fascinating.

Overall I think this was a good sci-fi with a very fast-paced and intriguing plot. The revelation in the epilogue has left the door open for an exciting sequel which I'm looking forward to reading.

*I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.*

*All reviews are also posted to my blog: Nicola Reads YA*

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## **Bstaib says**

What an amazing book! This author always delivers a fast paced treat that doesn't skimp on rich characters. We get another kick ass female lead in Ignite whose also a bit of a computer geek. (LOVE IT!!!) And your mouth will literally drop when you realize what is actually going on. Awesome, awesome read!

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## **Rhea Dsouza says**

I could start off by saying *Ignite The Shadows* was a “gripping read” or it was “addictive” or may be the blogger-favorite “unputdownable.” But that would be a crock of shit because, to me, *Ignite The Shadows* was *fucking amazing*.

I’m not into the whole Sci-Fi thing, and I only read Sci-Fi from authors that are big names in the industry or I’ve read before—which should tell you exactly how picky I am about this genre. But I picked up *Ignite The Shadows* based only on the synopsis, and might I tell you that it was so much more than I expected.

*Ignite The Shadows* starts off right in the middle of the action. With not one slow moment in the book, something always happening to keep you engrossed, you get a fair idea of what the book is going to be like just by reading the first five pages. We are introduced to Marcela “Marci” Guerrero and her best friend Xave. Both are running from...something, that is later introduced to the reader as “IgNiTe.” This group of extraordinary people, led by James McCray know more about Marci than she’ll care to admit. The problem is, she doesn’t know whether they’re lying.

I think most readers will love Marci. Sure she made some shitty choices but really. Don’t we all? And in today’s YA scene where everyone is just sick and tired of the weak, scared, prawn heroine, Marci shows more balls than most men in the book. She’s strong but sensitive, brave but selfless, so there’s quite a bit to be said about the stuff she does in the book.

At the cost of giving away a small part of the book, the “shadowy spectres” that you’ve read about in the synopsis are actually these parasitic nightmares that essentially take over the host’s body, called Eklyptors. No one knows their origin, however it is known that Marci is infected. A few instances of what happens to the host after the agent takes complete control are shown, but I’d like to have seen more. I’d like to have seen how these infected people blended seamlessly with the rest of humanity. So, to put it shortly, I thought that maybe I needed to see some more world-building. They were so many things that I thought were touched upon, but not really dived into. Bummer.

But of course, *Ignite The Shadows* is a series and keeping that in mind, I’d say a lot of groundwork has been laid, spectacularly, might I add, for the rest of the series. Many things lie unsaid, many secrets that Marci still does not know about, which brings me to the next big thing about the book.

James McCray. The mysterious leader of IgNiTe, this guy is bound to get on every one of your nerves. And yet, HOLY SHIT PEOPLE. After Marci, he was my favourite character in the book. He was annoying and brave and a true, true leader to his band of misfits. Marci might have to be careful because damn, James might just become my favourite in the books to come :D

The romance was...meagre. I’d have loved to see more, and yet I understood exactly why it was hardly there. Something I hope gets corrected in the books to come!

I’d refrain from recommending *Ignite The Shadows* to a particular group of readers, simply because I’m not the greatest fan of Sci-Fi and yet I LOVED this book. So if, like me, you’re looking to push out into a new genre, this book is definitely for you :)

\*I was provided a free ecopy of this book in exchange of an honest review. This did not in any way, however, influence the content of this review.\*

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## **Jason LaPier says**

I'm not usually one for YA, but this one kept me turning pages through and through. I felt like it had a bit of a Matrix feel - and not in the sense that the world is a simulation (it's not, but there are plenty of astounding secrets lurking in the shadows), but in the sense that I think a brazen techno soundtrack would fit right in. 16-year old Marci Guerrero can hack, she can fight, and when she really taps into her power can do even more. She's a blast to follow through the dangerous underground of Seattle as she discovers that much of the world is infected by parasites that control their bodies, sending their minds to the back seat to sit and watch it happen. I was gripped by the first chapter and unable to let go until the very end!

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## **Kimber Wheaton says**

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

It has been a long time since I read something creepy enough to make my skin crawl. Ignite the Shadows has the whole eerie, creep-factor down pat. Ms. Seymour did an amazing job building the suspense with the shadows' effect on Marci, leading up to the big reveal of her true affliction and just what those shadows really were. And boy was it a rather shocking reveal at that. Of course, I didn't read the synopsis prior to reading the novel, so I suppose I deserved to be shocked!

Marci was a truly amazing character. It's really hard to fathom that she managed to live with the shadows plaguing her mind. I loved the descriptions of her turmoil-- they were so well-written that the reader could easily see just how awful the shadow presence was for Marci. I felt an immediate connection to her, even though she was angry, rough, and abrasive at times. With what she endured on a daily basis, it was impressive that she chose to fight and not give in to the shadows.

The secondary characters were odd-- I suppose you could say they all had unique character flaws or perhaps quirks. There were several times when I wanted to hit one of the annoying characters upside the head. It did make for some interesting scenes.

While I enjoyed the plot, found it intriguing, the overall pacing could be a tad uneven at times. I would go from desperately flipping pages to almost boredom at times. There was a lot of suspense and tension as the plot was slowly unveiled, but there were still so many secrets. I spent much of the book wishing the author would reveal just a bit more, for Marci's sake, if not the reader.

There were a lot of action scenes in the novel which were quite engaging. Expect some romance, though it takes a backseat to the creepy monster plot. Ignite the Shadows is book one of a series, so I'm looking forward to learning more about the characters and the creepy Eklyptors in book two.

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## **Laura Liddell Nolen says**

This book is NONSTOP AWESOME! I love the main tension: Marci versus the monster inside her own brain. She's a smart, strong protagonist who fights with everything she can. I love the action, the romance,



and especially the ending, and I CAN'T WAIT for book two.

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## **Toni says**

WOW.

Yeah, that's what comes to mind right now.

I've read one other book by this author - a new adult romance - and my honest opinion is that it was a decent book. But this story? WOW. This genre is her forte -- no doubt about it. What she put into this one really shines through. Bravo, Ms. Seymour!

Take a leap into the future in this fast-paced, action-packed adventure with an awesomely bold female lead! It's dark, it's daring, and it's full of thrills and chills. It's so over-the-top that it makes a full circle and becomes reality in the reader's mind. Does that even make sense? I certainly hope so.

There's something for everyone in this story; science fiction, fantasy, romance, and even laughter. The plot is full of depth that pulls you under and makes you wish you'd taken a deep breath first. You will not regret picking up a copy of *Ignite the Shadows* if you're a fan of this genre. I may actually be reading it again in the future, which says a great deal because I can count on my fingers (no need for toes) how many times I've re-read a book.

I will be praising this book and recommending it to everyone I know!

Please....

In case you didn't already come to this conclusion, *Ignite the Shadows* is going on my Favorite Reads of 2015 list!

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## **Bri says**

**What I liked:** This book drew me in because of the whole sci-fi/fantasy combo. While not a huge fan of sci-fi, I'm a die-hard fan of fantasy and some of my recent books have shown that, yes, there are great books out there that have melded the two genres together in a way that complements one another and make the story work. *Ignite the Shadows* was another book for me that melded the sci-fi/fantasy genres together in an urban setting. The kicker about this book is that the Eklyptors (the parasite things that the summary speaks of) can make humans into the stuff of legends and nightmares. The people out to stop the Eklyptors are calling their group IgNiTe, and the tale the story weaves to interlock these two groups in the story was gripping and I never wanted to put it down! The way they were portrayed, as the Eklyptors being around for so long, was something that was both thrilling and terrifying at the same time. Marci made a great character to follow in this story. She's a hacker, which is a pretty impressive thing on its own, but she's also a fighter, which is made clear with how she battles against the Eklyptor that's trying to take over her mind.

**What I didn't like:** I felt like IgNiTe was reluctant to tell Marci what the grand plan was, even though they wanted Marci to help them. This, undoubtedly, always leads to characters mucking up everything. And I kind of felt like some subplots were there but not really...explored in this book. Like Luke, I wanted to get to know him better since I felt like he would be important in the story. Yet, he kind of faded into the background rather quickly and I was a little disappointed by that, hopefully the sequel will answer some of the questions I have still and bring Luke in more as a character.

**Overall Review:** This was a really great read that kept me entertained for quite a while (400 pages!) but never made me want to put it down because I always wanted to know what was coming next. I thought the plot was great, and paced extremely well and I look forward to reading the sequel when it releases next year to see what happens next!

**Recommend?:** If you like sci-fi/fantasy melded together, I recommend this one! If you're a fan of sci-fi or fantasy, I recommend it to you as well to check out!

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## Kaitlin says

\*I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

*Ignite the Shadows* was good enough to make me curious about a sequel, but I didn't get into it quite enough to call it a memorable read. I still like it, though. The romance, concept, and heroine especially were things that made the book worth reading.

There was some romance, but it was mostly in the build up/sorting out feelings state. The couple started out as best friends and had to navigate newer feelings for each other. They had decent chemistry, which I appreciated.

The parasites were like aliens invading and taking over human bodies. The concept of the shadows was *creepy*, and I liked that. On the other hand, I wasn't always on the same page as the conflict. Sometimes things didn't feel as important or exciting as they supposed to be. I did really like the action-packed scenes, though.

Marci was a cool heroine! She was really into computers, code, and hacking. This girl had a great tough attitude, too. She got in people's faces often (for both good and bad reasons), though she did have a softer side that she kept hiding. So, sometimes she was direct and sometimes she skirted topics (depending on the character). I liked this because it made her feel more real.

Luke wasn't that great of a character, though he has a lot of potential. I would've liked to see more dimension in him. His role in the book felt too obvious and he was just . . . meh. The other characters were better, but everyone could've used a little more dimension (even Marci). If they had more of it, then I may have become more invested in the story. Characters are what make me get really into a book, and if they fall short for me, the entire book tends to fall short.

Overall, *Ignite the Shadows* was average. It was good, but not *great*. I liked many pieces, but I wasn't as into the cast of characters or the conflict as I wanted to be. I might read the sequel! It's not high priority, though.

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