



## Bound by Shadow

*Anna Windsor*

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Falling for a demon can be hazardous to your heart.

Riana Dumain is a fully trained Sybil, a warrior priestess battling evil whose practical magic keeps her grounded in earthly science—and desires. She knows that gorgeous NYPD detective Creed Lowell is dangerous, and possibly a foot soldier of the evil Legion cult, using his badge and drop-dead looks to consolidate demonic power.

Creed's low-profile Occult Crimes Unit pulls Riana and her two sister Sybils into the case of a politician's son, murdered in a ritualistic sacrifice. Soon, Riana's instincts prove true. Creed, the hottest half-human she's ever known, a demon in bed and out, is guarding a trapdoor to hell. And unless Riana can find a way to tame her mystery man's treacherous inner self (and her heart), all of Manhattan may be enveloped by darkness.

Look for more sex, sorcery, and seduction in these novels by Anna Windsor

## Bound by Shadow Details

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Author : Anna Windsor

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## **From Reader Review Bound by Shadow for online ebook**

### **Celeste says**

I really enjoyed this book. Riana and Creed were SMOKIN' hot together. I can't wait to read the next in the series! Nick and Cynda seem to be pretty hot (LITERALLY ;-) themselves!

The only thing that annoyed me was her sisters' continued dislike of Creed and how they always made Riana feel bad about loving him. I so wanted them to finally accept and love him in the end too! It's the only reason I didn't give it 5 stars. I look forward to seeing them all again in the next book though, hopefully it will lend some closure on that issue!

Thanks again Shawna for recommending it!

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### **Searcy says**

It has been a while since I last did a re-read on this series, but I've always loved it. It's a go-to read when I want something a little different than my usual fare.

The world is unique and compelling and the Sibyls concept is wonderful. A group of warrior women, which means kick-ass strong heroines for each book in the series. (Each book follows a different woman, so they can be read as standalones, though if you do, you will be missing out on the interconnectivity that is awesome.) Also adds a neat new element to the demon/angel trope.

Plenty of steamy sex and hot, broody, alpha males.

Urban fantasy / paranormal romance.

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### **Amy Bradley says**

The first in the Dark Crescent Sisterhood trilogy (which I read after the second). It was okay, but I think I like the second one better.

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### **Annette says**

Dissapointed in the whole demon curson thing- I just wasn't that INTO IT.

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### **Krystyna says**

Demon or not?

A Wonderful start to the series! What is he? Can the Triad control the mayhem and destruction? This has everything - magic, strong characters, demons and romance. Beautifully written. A joy to read and recommended for anyone who likes romance, dark fantasy, paranormal and mysteries.

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### **Ladiibbug says**

#### #1 Dark Crescent Sisterhood

It's the women in this book who are leather clad, sword and dagger brandishing, kick #ss warriors! The ladies are Sybils, who get their supernatural powers from the elements (Earth, Air and Fire -- water as a supernatural element is extinct).

Each triad of Sybils protects a section of New York City against the Legion, who seek power, money and world domination by using demons.

The first 1/2 of the book setting up the series was ok, but at the halfway point the action shifted into high gear and was very exciting.

The created demons are affecting by elements as well -- so the Sybils, who use the elements to fight for good, battle demons who use the elements in a bad way. So an Earth demon might be spewing boulders, dirt and sticks, while an Earth Sybil might fight him by jerking the ground out from under him.

The author incorporates lots of cool details I've never read about in a PNR. The Sybils communicate using wind chimes, mirrors, etc. Especially smile-worthy were the scenes when the Fire Sybil, Cinda, became annoyed or upset ... she's a Fire element ... no spoilers :-)

This makes for some great fight/action scenes, with the various Fire, Air and Earth demons using said elements and the Sybils fighting back. For instance, an Earth Sybil defending against a Fire Demon.

Creed Lowell and his partner Andrea are NYPD officers assigned to the OCD, Occult Crimes Dept. who discover the hidden supernatural battle being waged. Creed is half human, half mysterious something.

Creed and the Earth Sybil fall in lust/love. More sex than action in the first half, it got old for me real quick. Sometimes less is more imo.

Book 2: Bound by Flame

Book 3: Bound by Light

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### **Willow Keith says**

I loved it a lot!

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## **Lauren says**

### **Bound by Shadow**

4 Stars

#### Synopsis:

As a fully trained Sybil, Riana Dumain is a warrior priestess in the battle of good versus evil. When she becomes involved in a case involving the occult murder of a child, Riana suspects that NYPD detective Creed Lowell may possibly be a foot soldier for the evil Legion cult, using his badge and drop-dead looks to consolidate demonic power. Why then does she find herself so attracted to him?

#### Review:

An intense and sexy romance with an excellent mythology centering on demons and the powers inherent to the four elements. The elemental magic and symbolism are unique (at least to me) and I found them particularly appealing.

The plot is action packed and absorbing but there are moments when it drags possibly due to the need to explain the complex mythology and consolidate the world building. The story is, however, well worth the effort of slogging through these areas.

Creed and Riana are an engaging couple and the development of their relationship is one of the book's strong points. Creed is an interesting character because he is at odds with himself and must come to terms with his true nature before he can commit to someone else.

Riana originally comes across as physically and mentally strong but her insecurities are soon revealed and accentuate her conflicting emotions regarding Creed. Her inability to completely trust Creed despite everything he does for her is annoying but consistent with her characterization.

The secondary characters are also well developed. The other Sybils have distinct personalities and backgrounds, and it is great that they stand up for their principles. Some readers may find them obnoxious but I, for one, enjoy reading about strong willed, intelligent and powerful female characters. The villains are a little clichéd and it is not difficult to guess who they are, but the final showdown with them is exciting.

The book is well written and the next two installments are set up nicely within the storyline. I look forward to reading them.

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## **Jess says**

I've had this on my TBR list for awhile, and I just kept getting distracted by other books. But I've finally read it! It was pretty good, I liked it. It was definitely more of a paranormal than an urban fantasy. It was very romance based, and there was quite a bit of sex in it. I liked the concept of the triad of witches that represent the elements (except water), and the demons that they have to fight against. The reason I didn't rate it higher, frankly the side characters were obnoxious. If those women were supposedly my friends, I'd run really fast and make sure they never found me again.

I don't know how I'm going to read the next two books, especially Cynda's book. She was just annoying to all hell. But we'll see, because it will have Nick... and that will prove interesting.

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### **September Garnett says**

I think this book was a waste of my time and effort, thank God I got it as a book rental from the library.

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### **Charice Lind mehring says**

A unique story for paranormal romance. The author brings to life new characters, situations and types of supernatural characters. An interesting read overall coupled with romance.

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### **Julie (jjmachshev) says**

"Bound by Shadow" is the first book in Anna Windsor's new series, 'the Dark Crescent Sisterhood'. There are at least two other books TBR "Bound by Flame" in Aug08 and "Bound by Light" in Sep08. It would be easy for Windsor to draw out this contemporary paranormal series as her heroines fight the dark forces in 'Sybil' triads, witches that work with air, fire, and earth. No water witches tho because those were wiped out by a natural disaster hundreds of years ago (shades of Atlantis). I enjoyed reading this book and will pick up at least the other two upcoming books to see where Windsor is headed with this series.

'Legion' are the bad guys. No one is really sure what they want other than money, power, and to set themselves up as rulers. Up til now they have been a disjointed group of wealthy, intelligent people creating 'Asmodai' (temporary demons) to carry out their crimes of theft, murder, etc. But it appears that they are banding together and changing their tactics. For what purpose?

Riana is an earth Sybil and the foundation of her triad. She has gotten close to a member of the Occult Crimes Unit (OCU) to try and glean details of possible crimes and cover any possible leaks before they happen. When her OCU friend brings by her hot male partner, Creed, Riana can tell immediately that he's more than human, but not demon. She and her triad sisters decide to find out more about Creed while they are also caught up in the investigation of the occult murder of a politician's child. As the investigation heats up, so does the relationship between Riana and Creed.

Creed knows he's not quite human, but he doesn't know exactly what that 'other' part is. He's immediately attracted to Riana and so is his 'other'. He fears for Riana and tries to help her figure out what he is. He worries his 'other' may hurt Riana and searches for his brother who is 'other' like him and disappeared several years ago. The closer Riana and Creed come to answers, the more it looks like their relationship is hopeless.

I thought the world Windsor created is interesting and complex. The bad guys are textbook bad (i.e., money, power, and world domination). I enjoyed the fact that all the strong protagonists, until Creed, are women. Riana's attempts to distance herself from her desire and growing love for Creed in order to serve her mission were very heroic, even if doomed to fail. Ditto for Creed's willingness to do whatever needed to forge a life with Riana. The sex is hot without tripping over into erotica.

I'm hoping the next book will deal with Creed's brother and 'his' witch. I'll be waiting to continue my journey in Windsor's interesting world.

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### Shawna says

4 stars – Paranormal Romance

**Bound by Shadow** is the first book in a paranormal romance trilogy series about a Sibyl triad, kick-ass warrior priestesses that belong to the Dark Crescent Sisterhood, who control and wield the powers of the elements (earth, fire, and air) to fight evil. Sibyls are tough chicks in leather who worship the goddess and are trained to use their elemental powers, a vast arsenal of weapons, and various forms of hand-to-hand combat to battle the Legion. Sibyls and the Legion, a corrupt group of wealthy and politically powerful individuals who exploit rituals, magic, and elemental energy to create armies of demons, have been at war for more than a century, and now in modern times, the Legion is starting to gain the upper hand.

Creed Lowell is a detective for the Occult Crimes Unit, a secret division of the NYPD that is tasked with investigating crimes that are deemed paranormal in nature, and he and his partner Andy find themselves suddenly mixed up in the battle between the Sibyls and the Legion. Riana Duman is the leader of a New York Sibyl triad and a priestess of earthly elemental power. When she meets mysterious, sexy-as-sin, hot cop Creed, she senses right away that he's hiding a dangerous secret, and that behind his tall, dark, and handsome looks lurks deadly demonic power. Yet she can't deny their explosive, inexplicable chemistry and attraction, but is he on the side of good or evil? Creed has fought for control against his internal demon his whole life, but something about Riana rouses his demon like never before. Now as they form an alliance to solve the murder of a politician's son, killed in a ritualistic, sacrificial manner, Creed and Riana will have to fight their volatile connection or else risk the lives and future of the Sibyl sisterhood and threaten to lose Manhattan to the forces of darkness.

This is a good first book in a cool PNR series with similarities to others that deal with warriors battling evil in modern day (like the *Black Dagger Brotherhood* and *Midnight Breed* series); only in this, the warriors are kick-ass witches fighting against a potent group of evildoers hosting an army of demons, with the help of some hot-as-sin, half-demon cop brothers. There were times that the story dragged a bit due to certain aspects of the world building and explanation of the Sibyls and history of the Motherhouses, but I still enjoyed it, especially the kick-butt action and verrry steamy romance between Creed and Riana...it's smokin' hot! Creed is a majorly yummy cop hero: tall, dark, dangerous, built, and sexy...half-demon or not! Yowza!

I'll definitely continue with the trilogy, and it sounds like book two, **Bound by Flame**, that's about Riana's triad sister Cynda and Creed's half-demon brother Dominic is even hotter, so I'm looking forward to that! 4 stars!

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### Lily says

all i have to say is read the series!

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## **Leontine says**

Three Sybils form one of the triads in New York, protecting it from the Legion/Asmordai and other paranormal phenomenons. Each bear a mark of the Dark Goddess, Riana is the Mortar and holds the triad together, Cynda is the Pestle and Merilee the Broom.

When the ritualistic murder of a child is discovered Occult Crimes Unit (OCU) cop Andy introduces her partner Creed to these women. Immediately Riana and her Sybil sisters sense something 'other' in him and will not rest until they've identified that part. From this point on it signals a new period in Sybil history as Riana and Creed create some new boundaries.

With new discoveries in the case something is laid bare that will rock the Sybil community to its core...

I realized upon closing Bound By Shadow that I could welcome Anna Windsor among my most treasured author's and their novels. Reading the first few chapters I was swiftly captivated by her group of Sybils and OCU partners Creed and Andy. It was the interplay of these characters that was bold, inviting and boosted with a good dose of humor and I readied myself for a prime-time reading session.

I don't think many will not fall for Riana with her down-to-earth nature but also with a playful sensuous side. Cynda with her fiery personality, Merilee with her inquisitive side and they each seem to fit together like a glove. Something that only happens when one has known each other for many years and has experienced many dire situations together. I relished in their personalities of eating sundae hot fudge one minute discussing male cuties and the next readying themselves to fight the Asmordai's. If these three didn't get my attention then Andy with her larger-than-life personality did and I felt that whenever she entered a room, she just filled it with a life force all on her own. The dynamics between the women were incredible, they were bonded as sister's, bickered like one's too and for me a joy to read.

Now throw a spectacular man in the mix like Creed, with his mysterious 'other' half, and I could absolutely relate to Merilee and Cynda enjoying the eye candy as Riana went all uber female on him. Creed is a cop at OCU, only he never truly witnessed paranormal powers and wonders if he ever will. He is easy going in nature yet complicated as well with a side that he doesn't even truly understands and he's more than a competent cop. There's no denying in the attraction he feels for Riana, his body makes it more than evident! Now he has to face his 'other' half while also discovering an whole new world, with new rules to play by and inhabited by feisty women.

The self reflection of both Creed and Riana is full of questions about their own actions and laced with emotion. The first is always to cut the path and insecurity, responsibility toward others and newly discovered emotions make it a rocky road for both Riana and Creed. It is with the first half of the story that I totally fell for each character, the strong world building and the mysteriousness of the case and Creed's 'other' half. The thing that had to grow on me was Creed and Riana in their love story. Now, don't start thinking that there wasn't any attraction because they light up the pages with a scorching passion. But It was the balance between the physical and emotional need that was sometimes missed. All I can say is that in the second half of the story - where anguish of whether they could have a relationship - turns into acknowledgement of their feelings. Realizing at the same time that it will be a hard journey, at that moment I felt the click of connecting, of feeling both their physical and emotional desires that grabbed me by the gut. Also the silent communication between them as a couple added to the image of two people connecting on every level that is important. From that moment on everything starts to spiral into one singular motion, as if every separate thread comes together driving it to such a conclusion that had me crying, leaving me in wonder and knowing

I would read Bound By Flame and Bound By Light very shortly.

While Anna Windsor lets me explore her world of Sybil's and Motherhouses it is with the case of a ritualistic murdered child that made the ending of the plot such an enthralling one. At first it seems loosely related but in the end it is the well thought out ingenuity of the author that makes it so much more than I initially would've guessed. With bated breath I flipped the last 150 pages or so, wondering what was going on, why everything happened the way it did. The action is at times heart pounding sensational with Sybil's that use their elemental magic but also their use of weaponry is impressive. I loved how the frustrations of both Andy and Creed were portrayed as they do not have apparent magical abilities. It made them all the more real to me and speaks of a need to participate and be of use in the battle at hand and those coming.

As truths are uncovered, mysteries are solved and romance stirs to greater heights I felt that every aspect of this novel bears intensity. With Bound By Shadow I got a mere taste of what is to come and I'm hooked, for this novel transported me into an alternate world and one I can't wait to return to! Especially how things were left, with new characters to get to know and what about the enemy? Many questions arise and I can't wait to find the answers!

It is with a strong cast of characters and a distinctive own voice that this author gives romance, suspense, action and elemental magic a new home for us to devour. Anna Windsor has started the Dark Crescent Sisterhood series with a bang and I can rave even longer about many aspects of Bound By Shadow but all I can say is go out, buy the three books, and dive into the awesome world of the Sybils.

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