

a touch of darkness

****A Touch of Darkness: Embracing the Shadow in Art, Life, and Design****

a touch of darkness often carries a mysterious allure. It's that subtle hint of shadow or depth that can transform the mundane into something captivating and profound. Whether in art, literature, interior design, or even personal growth, introducing a touch of darkness adds complexity, intrigue, and emotional richness. It isn't about negativity or gloom but about balance—the interplay between light and shadow that creates texture and meaning.

In this article, we'll explore how a touch of darkness can enhance creativity and life, why it matters, and some practical ways to embrace this concept in various contexts. From the psychology behind darkness to its aesthetic impact, you might discover new ways to appreciate the beauty found in subtle shadows.

The Psychological Appeal of a Touch of Darkness

Humans are naturally drawn to contrasts, and darkness plays a crucial role in our perception of the world. Psychologically, darkness isn't just the absence of light—it represents the unknown, the mysterious, and sometimes the forbidden. This makes it fascinating and compelling.

Why Darkness Attracts Us

A touch of darkness in storytelling or art often evokes curiosity and emotional depth. It taps into our innate desire to explore the hidden parts of ourselves and the world around us. When used thoughtfully, darkness can:

- Highlight vulnerability and authenticity
- Create suspense and drama
- Invite introspection and deeper understanding

Darkness also balances brightness, making light more meaningful. Without shadows, colors and shapes would appear flat and lifeless. In our minds, a certain level of darkness is necessary to appreciate light, joy, and clarity.

Darkness and Emotional Complexity

Life isn't always bright and cheerful; it's filled with contradictions. When we allow ourselves to face darker emotions—like sadness, fear, or anger—we gain resilience and emotional maturity. A touch of darkness symbolizes this essential part of the human experience, reminding us that growth often comes from challenges.

A Touch of Darkness in Art and Literature

Artists and writers have long embraced darkness to add layers of meaning and evoke powerful feelings. The notion of chiaroscuro, for example, is a technique that uses strong contrasts between light and dark to create drama and volume in paintings.

Chiaroscuro: The Art of Shadows

Originating in the Renaissance, chiaroscuro highlights the beauty of darkness by balancing it against light. Masters like Caravaggio and Rembrandt used this technique to:

- Emphasize textures and details
- Direct the viewer's attention
- Convey mood and emotion

This technique shows how a touch of darkness isn't just an aesthetic choice—it's a storytelling tool that deepens the narrative.

Dark Themes in Literature

In literature, a touch of darkness can manifest through themes like tragedy, mystery, or the supernatural. Writers like Edgar Allan Poe and Mary Shelley used darkness to explore human fears and desires. Modern storytelling continues this tradition, with genres like gothic fiction and psychological thrillers relying heavily on shadowy elements to keep readers engaged.

Incorporating a Touch of Darkness in Interior Design

When it comes to decorating spaces, a touch of darkness can add sophistication and warmth. Dark colors and shadows create cozy, intimate environments that invite relaxation and reflection.

Using Dark Colors Wisely

Dark hues such as navy, charcoal, or deep greens can serve as stunning backdrops or accent walls. They provide:

- Visual depth and richness
- Contrast to lighter furnishings
- A grounding effect that calms the space

To avoid overwhelming a room, balance dark elements with natural light and lighter textures like wood, linen, or soft rugs.

The Power of Shadows and Lighting

Lighting design plays a crucial role in integrating a touch of darkness. Soft, directional lighting can cast gentle shadows, adding dimension and mood. Consider:

- Using dimmers to adjust brightness levels
- Incorporating lamps with warm bulbs
- Highlighting architectural features with focused light

These techniques help create spaces that feel both inviting and mysterious without being gloomy.

A Touch of Darkness in Fashion and Personal Style

Fashion often uses darkness to convey elegance, power, and mystery. A little black dress, for example, is a classic symbol of timeless style and subtle sophistication.

Why Dark Colors Endure

Dark shades like black, deep burgundy, and forest green are versatile and flattering. They can:

- Create slimming effects
- Serve as neutral bases for accessories
- Reflect confidence and boldness

Adding a touch of darkness to your wardrobe can elevate your look and express complex facets of your personality.

Mixing Dark Tones with Lighter Elements

To keep outfits balanced, pair dark pieces with lighter or textured items. For instance, a black leather jacket over a soft white blouse creates contrast and visual interest. Accessories such as silver or gold jewelry can also brighten darker outfits.

Embracing a Touch of Darkness in Personal Growth

Beyond aesthetics, a touch of darkness has profound implications for self-awareness and mental health. Facing one's shadow side—the hidden or repressed aspects of the self—is a key concept in psychology.

The Shadow Self Concept

Introduced by Carl Jung, the shadow self represents parts of our personality we tend to hide or deny. Embracing this darkness is essential for:

- Healing emotional wounds
- Understanding unconscious motives
- Achieving wholeness and authenticity

Rather than fearing the shadow, acknowledging it allows for personal growth and empowerment.

Practices to Explore Your Inner Darkness

You can gently explore your shadow through journaling, meditation, or therapy. Some helpful approaches include:

- Reflecting on moments when you feel triggered or uncomfortable
- Writing about hidden fears or desires
- Practicing mindfulness to observe thoughts without judgment

These steps help integrate your darker emotions, leading to greater emotional balance and resilience.

The Cultural Significance of a Touch of Darkness

Across cultures, darkness carries symbolic meanings that vary widely. It can signify mystery, death, or the unknown, but also transformation, protection, and fertility.

Darkness in Mythology and Rituals

Many ancient myths involve journeys into darkness or the underworld, symbolizing rebirth or enlightenment. Rituals that honor night, shadows, or the moon celebrate the power of darkness as a natural and essential force.

Modern Pop Culture and Darkness

Today, movies, music, and visual arts continue to explore themes of darkness to challenge norms and provoke thought. From gothic subcultures to noir films, a touch of darkness remains a potent source of inspiration and identity.

In life, art, and design, a touch of darkness offers more than just a visual or emotional contrast—it

invites us to explore complexity, depth, and authenticity. By embracing shadows rather than fearing them, we unlock richer experiences and a fuller understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Whether through a moody painting, a deep color palette, or the courage to face inner fears, a touch of darkness is often the secret ingredient that makes everything more compelling.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'A Touch of Darkness' about?

'A Touch of Darkness' is a contemporary fantasy romance novel that reimagines Greek mythology, focusing on the story of Persephone and Hades in a modern setting.

Who is the author of 'A Touch of Darkness'?

The author of 'A Touch of Darkness' is Scarlett St. Clair.

Is 'A Touch of Darkness' part of a series?

Yes, 'A Touch of Darkness' is the first book in the 'Dark Elements' series by Scarlett St. Clair.

What genre does 'A Touch of Darkness' belong to?

'A Touch of Darkness' is primarily a fantasy romance novel with elements of mythology and paranormal fiction.

Where can I read 'A Touch of Darkness'?

'A Touch of Darkness' is available on platforms like Amazon Kindle, Audible, and other major book retailers, as well as libraries.

Is 'A Touch of Darkness' suitable for young readers?

'A Touch of Darkness' contains mature themes and is generally recommended for adult readers or mature young adults.

What makes 'A Touch of Darkness' popular among readers?

The novel's blend of modern romance with Greek mythology, strong character development, and steamy romantic scenes contribute to its popularity.

Are there any adaptations of 'A Touch of Darkness'?

As of now, there are no official TV or film adaptations of 'A Touch of Darkness,' but fan interest remains high.

Who are the main characters in 'A Touch of Darkness'?

The main characters are Persephone, the goddess of spring, and Hades, the god of the underworld.

What themes are explored in 'A Touch of Darkness'?

'A Touch of Darkness' explores themes such as love and sacrifice, identity, power dynamics, and the struggle between light and darkness.

Additional Resources

A Touch of Darkness: Exploring the Allure and Complexity of Dark Themes in Contemporary Media

a touch of darkness is a phrase that resonates deeply within various creative industries, from literature and film to video games and visual arts. It encapsulates the deliberate infusion of darker elements—whether in mood, theme, or aesthetic—into narratives and designs that traditionally might lean toward the lighthearted or purely optimistic. This subtle embrace of shadow adds depth, complexity, and sometimes a provocative edge that appeals to diverse audiences seeking more nuanced storytelling or immersive experiences. Understanding this phenomenon involves exploring how darkness functions not only as a stylistic choice but also as a narrative device that challenges perceptions and evokes emotional responses.

The Significance of Darkness in Modern Storytelling

Dark themes have become increasingly prevalent in contemporary media, reflecting shifting cultural appetites and a growing appreciation for stories that confront ambiguity and moral complexity. A touch of darkness often introduces elements such as psychological tension, ethical dilemmas, or existential questions. These components enrich narratives by pushing characters—and by extension, audiences—into less comfortable, more reflective spaces.

From a psychological standpoint, darker narratives can provide catharsis or a safe exploration of fears and anxieties. For example, the rise of noir-inspired films and television series demonstrates how audiences gravitate toward stories that blend cynicism and hope, light and shadow. This interplay mirrors real-world complexities, making the content relatable despite its fictional nature.

Darkness as a Narrative Device

In storytelling, darkness serves multiple functions:

- **Conflict Amplification:** Introducing dark elements often heightens tension and stakes, driving character development and plot progression.
- **Mood Setting:** A somber or foreboding atmosphere can immerse audiences, enhancing emotional engagement.

- **Symbolism:** Darkness frequently symbolizes unknowns, fears, or inner turmoil, allowing for layered interpretations.

For instance, Gothic literature relies heavily on darkness to evoke mystery and dread, while modern thrillers employ shadowy settings to sustain suspense. This versatility is part of what makes a touch of darkness a compelling tool across genres.

The Aesthetic Appeal of Dark Themes

Beyond narrative, a touch of darkness manifests visually through color palettes, lighting, and design choices. In graphic design and cinematography, the use of muted tones, deep shadows, and chiaroscuro techniques creates striking contrasts that can emphasize emotions or themes without overt exposition.

Dark aesthetics are also prominent in fashion and interior design, where incorporating darker hues suggests elegance, sophistication, or rebellion. This visual language resonates with audiences who associate darkness with mystery and depth.

Comparing Light and Dark in Visual Media

A comparative look at light versus dark aesthetics reveals:

1. **Emotional Impact:** Light tones often convey optimism and clarity, while darkness can evoke introspection or unease.
2. **Focus and Attention:** Dark backgrounds can draw attention to highlighted elements, guiding viewer focus.
3. **Symbolic Meaning:** Light and dark often represent dualities such as good versus evil, knowledge versus ignorance.

This duality is instrumental in storytelling and branding, where a touch of darkness can subvert expectations or add sophistication.

Darkness in Video Games and Interactive Media

The integration of dark themes in video games illustrates how interactive media uniquely harness a touch of darkness to enhance player immersion. Games like “Dark Souls” and “Bloodborne” are renowned for their oppressive atmospheres, challenging gameplay, and morally ambiguous storylines. These elements work synergistically to create experiences that are both demanding and rewarding.

Gameplay Mechanics and Dark Themes

Darkness in games is not merely aesthetic; it often influences mechanics:

- **Difficulty Level:** Games with darker themes tend to incorporate punishing difficulty to reinforce themes of struggle and perseverance.
- **Storytelling Methods:** Lore and narrative may be delivered in fragmented or cryptic ways, encouraging exploration.
- **Player Choice:** Moral ambiguity allows players to make decisions that affect outcomes, deepening engagement.

Such design choices reflect an industry trend toward mature content that challenges players intellectually and emotionally.

Balancing Darkness: The Pros and Cons

While a touch of darkness can elevate artistic works, its application requires balance to avoid alienating audiences or overshadowing core messages.

Advantages

- **Emotional Depth:** Dark themes add layers, making stories more compelling and memorable.
- **Audience Engagement:** Complexity invites analysis and discussion, fostering dedicated fanbases.
- **Artistic Freedom:** Darkness offers creators a broader palette to explore taboo or difficult subjects.

Potential Drawbacks

- **Risk of Overuse:** Excessive darkness can lead to bleakness, reducing accessibility.
- **Misinterpretation:** Ambiguity may confuse audiences or dilute intended messages.
- **Market Limitations:** Darker content can face censorship or limited appeal in certain

demographics.

Therefore, creators must carefully calibrate how much darkness to infuse to maintain artistic integrity while connecting with their target audience.

The Cultural Impact of Embracing Darkness

A touch of darkness increasingly reflects broader societal trends, such as growing awareness of mental health, social injustice, and existential concerns. Media that incorporate these themes resonate because they acknowledge the complexities of the human condition rather than offering simplistic escapism.

Moreover, darkness in art and storytelling can foster empathy by humanizing flawed or marginalized characters, encouraging audiences to confront uncomfortable realities. This impact extends beyond entertainment, influencing conversations around identity, morality, and resilience.

In summary, the strategic use of a touch of darkness enriches contemporary media by introducing sophistication, emotional resonance, and cultural relevance. Whether through narrative depth, visual style, or interactive design, darkness remains a potent and multifaceted element that continues to captivate creators and consumers alike.

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a touch of darkness: A Touch of Darkness Scarlett St. Clair, 2020-05-25 As Persephone struggles to sow the seeds of her freedom, love for the God of the Dead grows-and it's forbidden.

a touch of darkness: A Touch of Darkness Yelena Casale, Tina Moss, 2015-03-02 "An imaginative twist on the concept of angels and demons" from the USA Today bestselling authors of Embracing Darkness (Night Owl Reviews). Cassie Durrett dreams of the darkness. And lives the nightmare. She's working for a tightwad boss at a pretentious NYC diner, dealing with paralyzing pain that doctors can't diagnose, and trying to hide her hands that glow purple whenever she . . . well, whenever. So when mystery man Gabe walks out of her dreams and into her life to spout some nonsense about her being a mythical creature, she chalks it up to one more crazy thing to add to her it's-a-crappy-life list. Yet when his predictions start to come true, she'll need his help to beat back the darkness-spawned creatures invading her reality. Pretty soon Gabe has her running halfway across the country in search of answers. As a bond grows between them, Cassie worries not about losing her mind to the paranormal madness, nor her life to hellish monsters. Rather her deepest fear is surrendering her heart to a powerful man fallen from grace. "A new, unique urban fantasy world with vibrant settings, worldbuilding, true-to-life character personalities, and intense conflict and tension."—Melinda S. Collins, contributor to *Once Upon the Longest Night: An Anthology of*

Romantic Vampire Stories

a touch of darkness: Scene of the Crime: A Touch of Darkness Pasquale De Marco, 2025-08-11 Prepare yourself for a riveting journey into the depths of human darkness with *Scene of the Crime: A Touch of Darkness*, a thought-provoking exploration of guilt, redemption, and the nature of evil. Detective Jack Herriman, a man haunted by his past and seeking redemption, finds himself drawn into a sinister web of crime and deceit that will test his limits and challenge his beliefs. As Jack delves deeper into the investigation, he uncovers a labyrinth of corruption and betrayal that reaches the highest echelons of power. In *Scene of the Crime: A Touch of Darkness*, Pasquale De Marco masterfully weaves together a cast of complex and flawed characters, each with their own secrets and motivations. Through their struggles and choices, the novel explores the complexities of human nature and the darkness that can reside within us all. With its gripping narrative and insightful commentary, *Scene of the Crime: A Touch of Darkness* delves into timeless themes that resonate with readers of all backgrounds. It is a story that will stay with you long after the final page is turned, leaving you to ponder the choices we make in the face of darkness and the consequences that shape our lives. *Scene of the Crime: A Touch of Darkness* is not merely a crime novel; it is a philosophical exploration of the human condition, a journey into the dark corners of the psyche where secrets and lies lurk in the shadows. It is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the complexities of human nature and the darkness that can reside within us all. If you like this book, write a review!

a touch of darkness: A Touch of Dark Lana Sky, Hunted by a murderer who has terrorized her since childhood, Juliana Thorne is forced to seek protection from a powerful enemy. But Damien Villa is a far cry from an ideal savior. The mysterious billionaire harbors his own sinister plans for revenge, and if Juliana isn't careful, she may just find herself playing right into his hands.

a touch of darkness: A Touch of Darkness John Crowe, 1972

a touch of darkness: *Fear of Dark Water* Patricia Bow, 2015-09-22 Ever hear of Jenny Greenteeth? That's a kind of hag that lives in dangerous pools, so the folktales say. She grabs kids by the ankles and drags them down to drown. Of course we know how stories like that get started. They were invented to keep kids from danger. You know, the bogeyman strategy. Don't you play near that pool, or Jenny Greenteeth will get you! Only, suppose it's not a story? Suppose it's real? Jo's fear of dark water is not just fear, it's a full-blown, stomach-churning, paralyzing phobia. Determined to beat it, she dares to swim in this forest-shadowed pool, with its ink-dark surface that never reflects the sky. Under the surface it isn't really dark, just dim and green. The surface glimmers overhead. Jo looks down. Silver minnows fan out from beneath her feet. Below them the green light fades into darkness. Deeper still, at the farthest edge of the light, a pale shape moves. Not a fish. Something larger. It rises toward her.

a touch of darkness: The Power of Darkness Edith Nesbit, 2006 Edith Nesbit, best known as the author of *The Railway Children* and other children's classics, was also the mistress of the ghost story and tales of terror. In this collection, we encounter love that transcends the grave, reanimated corpses, vampiric vines, vengeful ghosts and other dark stories to make you feel fearful.

a touch of darkness: Last First Kiss: A Collection of Dark Romances W. Winters, Willow Winters, 2025-09-30 From USA Today Bestselling Author Willow Winters comes a collection of dark, spicy romances. Love doesn't come softly in these pages. It creeps up. It burns, and it takes everything in its path. These are romances forged in dark shadows, where obsession thrives and surrender to love and hope is the only escape. This collection includes: *Broken* (A Dark standalone, abduction romance) *Forsaken* (A Dark standalone, abduction romance) *Forget Me Not* (A dark, psychological, standalone romance) *Sexy as Sin* (A dark, MC standalone romance)

a touch of darkness: Nine Nights, One Wish: Love on the Edge of Darkness and Light, 2025-09-17 Eva Stein is a woman who has always lived by her own rules—calculating, untouchable, in full control of every deal and every heartbeat. Until Lucas arrives: a biker whose world smells of smoke, asphalt, and danger. Each night with him breaks another wall. Nine nights, nine steps from icy strategist to a woman who finally allows herself to feel. Their journey runs through underground

fight clubs, rooftops lit by city lights, and dawns where passion and love blur into a single flame. A story of desire that asks for no permission. Of strength born from vulnerability. Of love that is a conscious choice—and a road that doesn't end with sunrise.

a touch of darkness: The Mexican Cinema of Darkness Doyle Greene, 2012-09-21 Following the national and international upheaval and tragedy in 1968, Mexican trash cinema began to shift away from the masked wrestler genre and towards darker, more explicit films, and disturbing visions of the modern world: films which can be called avant-exploitation. This work covers six of those films: *El Topo*, *Mansion of Madness*, *Alucarda*, *Guyana*, *Crime of the Century*, *Birds of Prey*, and *Santa Sangre*.

a touch of darkness: *Nymph of Darkness* C. L. Moore, 2011-10-07 Nysa appeared mysteriously with a request of Northwest Smith... excerpt The thick Venusian dark of the Ednes waterfront in the hours before dawn is breathless and tense with a nameless awareness, a crouching danger. The shapes that move murkily thru its blackness are not daylight shapes. Sun has never shone upon some of those misshapen figures, and what happens in the dark is better left untold. Not even the Patrol ventures there after the lights are out, and the hours between midnight and dawn are outside the law. If dark things happen there the Patrol never knows of them, or desires to know. Powers move thru the darkness along the waterfront to which even the Patrol bows low. Thru that breathless blackness, along a street beneath which the breathing waters whispered, Northwest Smith strolled slowly. No prudent man ventures out after midnight along the waterfront of Ednes unless he has urgent business abroad, but from the leisurely gait that carried Smith soundlessly thru the dark he might have been some casual sightseer. He was no stranger to the Ednes waterfront. He knew the danger thru which he strolled so slowly, and under narrowed lids his colorless eyes were like keen steel probes that searched the dark. Now and then he passed a shapeless shadow that dodged aside to give him way. It might have been no more than a shadow. His no-colored eyes did not waver. He went on, alert and wary. He was passing between two high warehouses that shut out even the faint reflection of light from the city beyond when he first heard that sound of bare, running feet which so surprised him. The patter of frantically fleeing steps is not uncommon along the waterfront, but these were—he listened closer—yes, certainly the feet of a woman or a young boy. Light and quick and desperate. His ears were keen enough to be sure of that. They were coming nearer swiftly. In the blackness even his pale eyes could see nothing, and he drew back against the wall, one hand dropping to the ray gun that hung low on his thigh. He had no desire to meet whatever it was which pursued this fugitive. But his brows knit as the footsteps turned into the street that led between the warehouses. No woman, of whatever class or kind, ventures into this quarter by night. And he became certain as he listened that those feet were a woman's. There was a measured rhythm about them that suggested the Venusian woman's lovely, swaying gait. He pressed flat against the wall, holding his breath. He wanted no sound to indicate his own presence to the terror from which the woman fled. Ten years before he might have dashed out to her—but ten years along the spaceways teaches a man prudence. Gallantry can be foolhardy sometimes, particularly along the waterfront, where any of a score of things might be in close pursuit. At the thought of what some of those things might be the hair prickled faintly along his neck.

a touch of darkness: *Middle of Darkness* Ciara Graves, There's a whole other world that exists and humans have no idea. That other world is known as Darkness. The Earth that humans know is separated from Darkness by a Veil. The beings that live in Darkness are the ones that humans have nightmares about. Supernatural creatures. Fallen angels, demons, vampires, the creatures that mythology is based on. The Veil Witches are hunters and protectors of the veil, their enchantments keep the creatures on the other side of the veil from escaping Darkness and wreaking havoc on humans. Aniesa, who just turned eighteen is a Veil Witch. She's been training with the Sisterhood all her life. Her mother is a high-ranking Veil Witch. Once long ago, her mother met a fallen angel—AKA demon. The Veil Witches are forbidden from consorting with fallen angels. But her mother did. And nine months later, had a baby girl—Aniesa. Aniesa learned on her 18th birthday that her father was a fallen angel. Her mother won't tell say his name. And no one else knows that Aniesa is half-angel,

though fallen angel. At eighteen years old the Veil Witches have to select their first assignment. She's irritated that her mother won't tell her about her father, so she chooses Scout as her assignment. Scouts are assigned to patrol Earth and keep an eye out for "weird stuff" that might be attributed to any creature or being that has escaped through the Veil. They are to fit in and not bring attention to themselves, so she works a job. A normal job, but on the side, she scouts. And scouts. Aniesa is walking the fine line between legal and illegal activities when she tries to help a half-demon smokeshow named Calyx with a problem he's encountered. A massive problem, it would seem. Helping him has landed her in a heap of problems. Now what?

a touch of darkness: The Dark Book Of Shadows - A Grimoire of Sorcery and Dark Witchcraft S. M. Brennan, 2012-09-30 The Author presents this Grimoire as an educational guide to the teachings and practices of Sorcery and Dark Witchcraft. Beginning with the History of Darkness and the basic knowledge and teachings of the Dark Ways, this volume will guide the student through the Initiations, Dedications, and practices needed to walk this magickal path. The book includes information on basic rituals, teachings, banishments, and dedications. It also includes information on sensitives and sight, working with mediums, spell casting, healing magick, earth magick, money spells, banishments, love magick, sex magick, color magick, destructive magick, and sigils. Also included in this volume is an in depth chapter on Demonology and a hierarchy listing of Dark Path Powers and Spirits which a practitioner can call upon in their workings.

a touch of darkness: A Touch of Dragon Fire: The Complete Series Holly Ryan, 2020-12-23 Your [e-reader] screens WILL steam up! ☐☐☐☐ Dragon shifters have a horrific habit of kidnapping human children to sacrifice to their goddess. They miscalculated when they took expert thief Yara Parmstone's little brother, though. Now, Yara is out for revenge—after she finds the final key that will allow her to save him. But the three scorching hot, mysterious men who hold that key have a message for Yara—the dragon goddess has something important in store for her. Too bad it's not as fun as a forked dragon tongue. Soon, Yara's racing against time to steal back her brother before his fate—and hers—are sealed. Includes: Forked Tongues Are Fun Bros Come Before Hordes Queens Ride Horny Dragons One-click this COMPLETE SERIES now for some serious heat! If you love authors like T.S. Joyce, Elizabeth Briggs, and Jaymin Eve, this series is for you!

a touch of darkness: Sword of Darkness Keri Arthur , 2022-10-25 The race to claim Agrona's Claws continues... Agrona's claws—three godly artifacts that, when used together, have the power to either extend darkness or utterly banish it—were deliberately hidden eons ago so that no man or woman would ever again wield them. But nothing stays hidden forever, and the Crown of Shadows was recently unearthed and stolen, despite Bethany Aodhán's best efforts to stop it. Now Beth and her brother Lugh must seek out the Sword of Darkness before those intent on destruction can reunite two of the three Claws and unleash chaos. But even the help of a cranky goddess and two sexy elves might not be enough to save the day... or the world itself. Because the forces of darkness are gathering momentum, and its origin lies closer to home than any of them guessed.

a touch of darkness: Soul of the Unborn Natalia Brothers, 2016-11-22 One woman battles her own dark secrets—and the pull of her heart—in an award-winning supernatural thriller set in a mystical Russian village. Posing as a folklore tour guide, Valya Svetlova takes a group of American college students and their professor, Chris Waller, to her summer home in the Russian village of Vishenky for a few nights of supernatural phenomena. She plays the perfect hostess, for Valya doesn't want anyone to discover she harbors selfish motives when it comes to one participant—the only person who can refute a tale declaring her a stillborn resurrected by a paranormal entity. Her nascent feelings toward the handsome professor inhibit her ability to control the supernatural manifestations and her inquisitive guests. When her unforeseen affection turns Chris into a target, Valya faces an excruciating reality. It's no longer in her human power to ensure her guests' safety. Yet to keep them alive, Valya must brush off her humanity and become the thing she fights so desperately to prove she is not—a soulless monster. First Place in Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Horror in the Paul Gillette Writing Contest Best Speculative Fiction in American Icon 4 Contest

a touch of darkness: A Touch of Doubt Rachel Aumiller, 2021-02-22 What can we know about

ourselves and the world through the sense of touch and what are the epistemic limits of touch? Scepticism claims that there is always something that slips through the epistemologist's grasp. A Touch of Doubt explores the significance of touch for the history of philosophical scepticism as well as for scepticism as an embodied form of subversive political, religious, and artistic practice. Drawing on the tradition of scepticism within nineteenth- and twentieth-century continental philosophy and psychoanalysis, this volume discusses how the sense of touch uncovers contradictions within our knowledge of ourselves and the world. It questions 1) what we can know through touch, 2) what we can know about touch itself, and 3) how our experience of touching the other and ourselves throws us into a state of doubt. This volume is intended for students and scholars who wish to reconsider the experience of touching in intersections of philosophy, religion, art, and social and political practice.

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