

DUSTY CRABTREE

AUTHOR PRESS KIT

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Author Bio:

Dusty Crabtree is the author of the YA urban fantasy series, *The Shadow Eyes Series*. She has been a high school English teacher since 2006 and a creative writing teacher since 2014. She's also been a youth sponsor at her local church off and on for as long as she's been teaching. She feels very blessed with the amazing opportunities she has to develop meaningful relationships with teens on a daily basis. With her love of reading in the mix, becoming an author of young adult books was just a natural development of those two passions in her life. She lives with her husband, Clayton, and two daughters in Yukon, Oklahoma, where they often serve their community as foster parents.

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Links:

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Follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dustycrabtree>

Follow her on Instagram – [dustycrabtree12](#)

Publication Information:

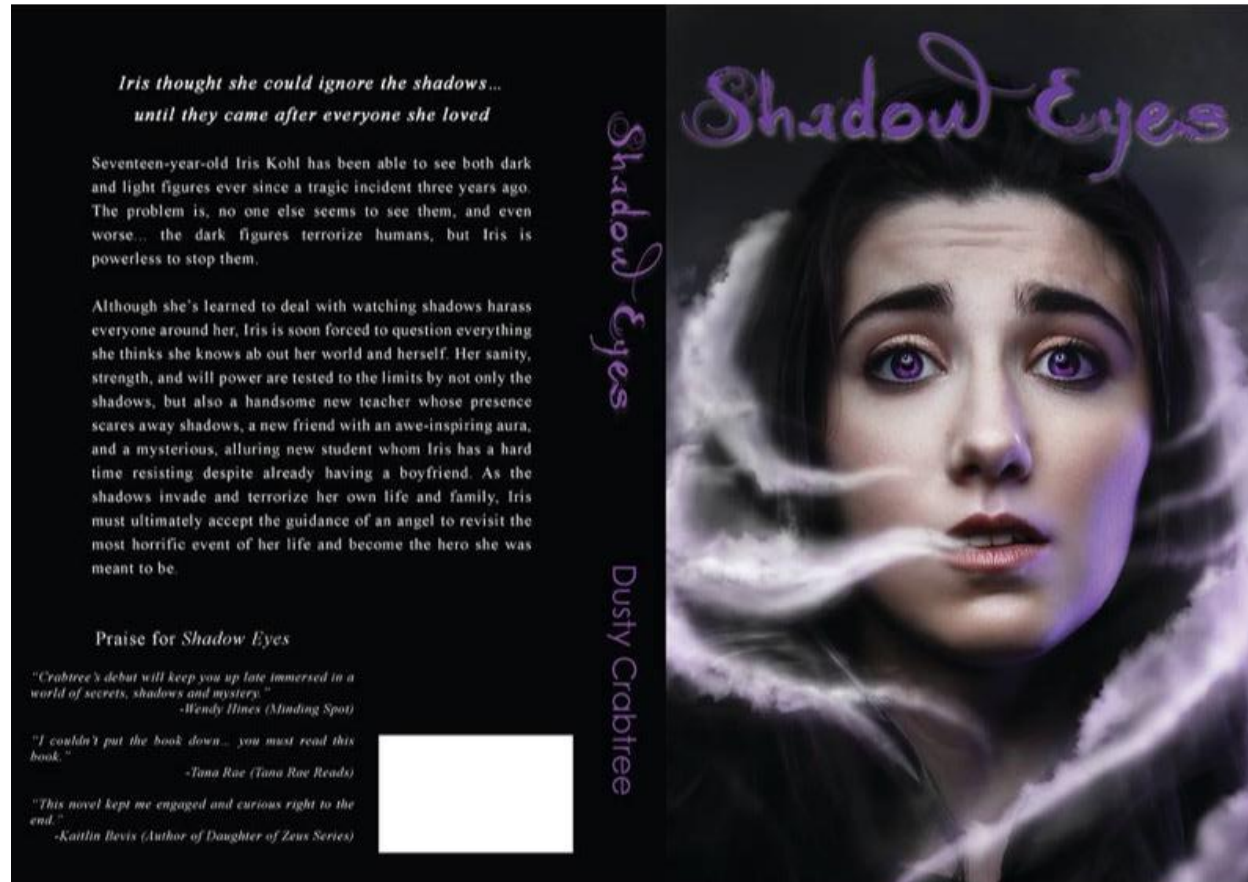
Shadow Eyes, (*Shadow Eyes Series, Book 1*) was published by Musa Publishing in 2012 and performed well, especially in its first year. Unfortunately, Musa Publishing closed in February 2015 during edits for the second book. After the rights to *Shadow Eyes* were returned to me, I revisited the novel and self-published it in 2016, and then subsequently self-published the second book of the series in 2017 and third book of the series in 2019. All three books have been professionally edited and are available in print or as an eBook on Amazon.

Experience:

Being a creative writer teacher for over four years gives me the experience, knowledge, and skills needed to provide relevant and interesting lectures and workshops to students who love to write. In my creative writing class, I truly enjoy being able to share my love of writing and my actual writing with my students and watching them develop their own passion as writers.

I have also done author visits at my own school for the whole day for around 600 freshmen and at another high school in the area for its creative writing class. At these visits, I spoke about my book, my writing process, how I came up with my ideas, writing tips, etc. I have also held author book signings and attended an author open mic night. On a non-book related note, I delivered a prepared speech as a guest speaker at a church and even participated in a comedy open mic night. In general, I am energetic, friendly, and love opportunities to speak passion and life into youth.

Product Information:



Shadow Eyes (*Shadow Eyes Series, Book 1*) by Dusty Crabtree

Published September 2, 2016

Available on Amazon at \$5.99 for the ebook, \$12 for the paperback

ASIN: B01KEM3P9G

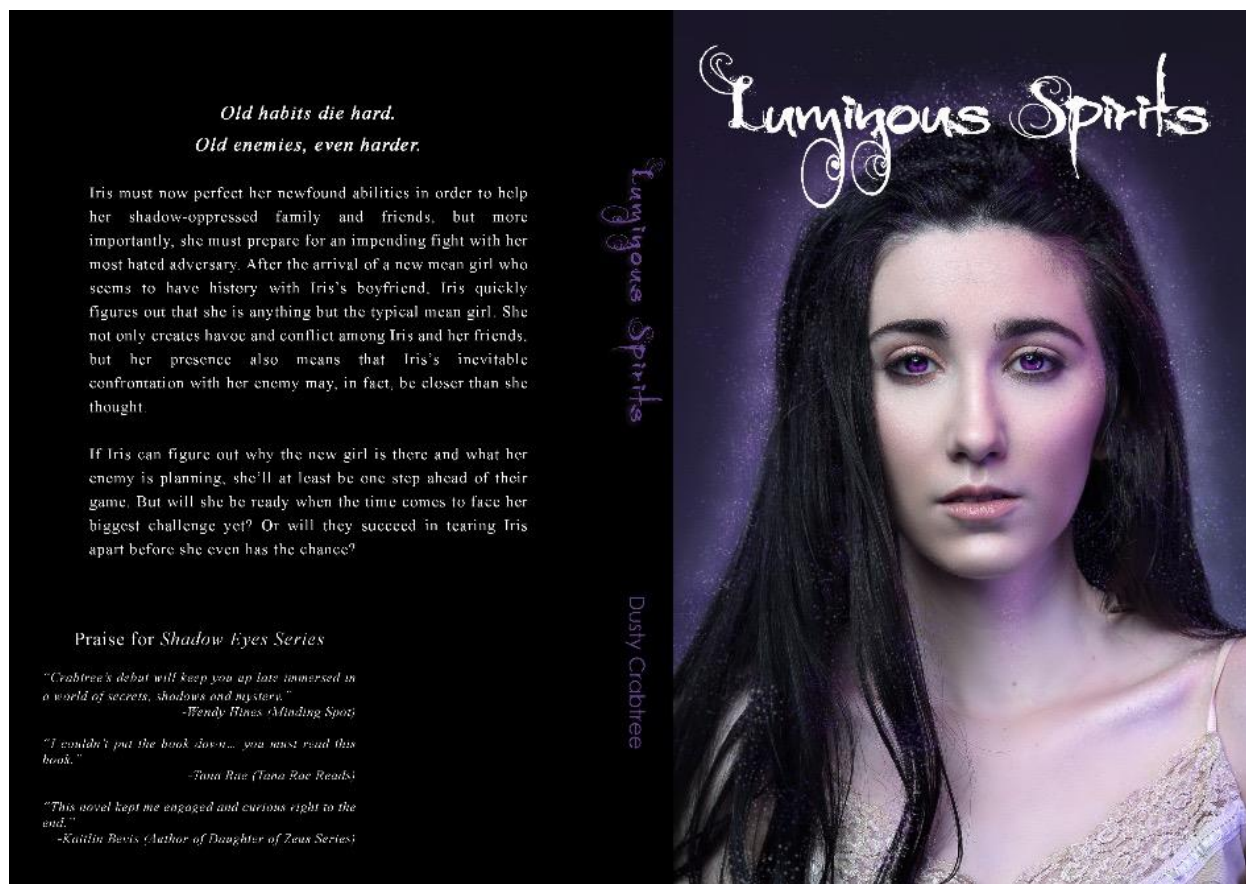
ISBN-10: 1534969918

ISBN-13: 978-1534969919

YA urban fantasy

328 pages

Shadow Eyes on Goodreads - <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15733491-shadow-eyes>



Luminous Spirits (Shadow Eyes Series, Book 2) by Dusty Crabtree

Published March 9, 2017

Available on Amazon at \$5.99 for the ebook, \$12.99 for the paperback

ASIN: B06XGTSS34

ISBN-10: 1544267479

ISBN-13: 978-1544267470

YA urban fantasy

393 pages

Luminous Spirits on Goodreads – <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34533934-luminous-spirits>

Iris's job requires sacrifice, but this is one sacrifice she won't want to make.

Iris never asked for the role of leader, but her mentor seems to think she's leader material and her friends don't argue. Sometimes she wishes she could just be a normal girl with a normal boyfriend and a normal life... But who is she kidding? With her job and one of her enemies still out there wanting to kill her, her life would never be even close to normal.

Throughout the summer, Iris's old adversary keeps showing up at her work and on shadow hunts, but not to kill her. Not yet. Each time, his message is clear: Join him or die. To make matters worse, Iris's mentor seems to be hiding something. Iris wants him by her side when her enemy actually attacks, but she's not sure she can trust him anymore. Nothing can prepare her, though, for when the tide's turn and what she thought she'd never have to sacrifice becomes the very thing she needs to let go of in order to fulfill her final calling and eliminate her enemy for good.

Praise for *Shadow Eyes Series*

"Crabtree has created a world that will steal your heart, before filling it with every emotion imaginable... a reading experience like no other."
-- Daccari Buchell (Dixi Writes)

"A beautifully written contemporary tale of the eternal battle between good and evil... engaging, gripping, and realistic."
-- Lynette (Escaping Reality - One Book at a Time)

"This novel kept me engaged and curious right to the end."
-- Kaitlin Bevis (Author of Daughter of Zeus Series)

Sacrificial Souls

Dusty Crabtree



Sacrificial Souls (*Shadow Eyes Series, Book 3*) by Dusty Crabtree

Published February 1, 2019

Available on Amazon at \$5.99 for the ebook, \$13 for the paperback

ASIN: B07MYDKK6Z

ISBN-10: 179500620X

ISBN-13: 978-1795006200

YA urban fantasy

282 pages

Sacrificial Souls on Goodreads – <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/43722701-sacrificial-souls>

Upcoming Series – *The Personality Experiment Series*

Book 1 – *We are 1*

(Edits are in the works now and the ARC will be ready by the time of the conference. See the synopsis below in the Synopsises section.)

Other Promotional Material:



Shadow Eyes

The Shadow Eyes Series

YA Urban Fantasy



Luminous Spirits

"Iris thought she could ignore the shadows... until they came after everyone she loved."



Sacrificial Souls

Your Next Series
to Binge Read

"Crabtree has created a world that will steal your heart, before filling it with every emotion imaginable...a reading experience like no other."
~ Daccari Buchelli (Dax Writes)

"A beautifully written contemporary tale of the eternal battle between good and evil...engaging, gripping, and realistic."
~Lynette (Escaping Reality – One Book at a Time)

Edgy YA Spiritual Urban Fantasy Series

Support Oklahoma Authors with the Edgy YA Urban Fantasy series, *Shadow Eyes*

View the book trailer for SE – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7UP9A0Fm78&t=2s>

View the Book trailer for LS - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2_C1o113Ok&t=9s

Shadow Eyes, the first book in my young adult urban fantasy series, is provocative and intriguing enough to fascinate young adults and adults alike as it offers suspense, action, and twisted romance, but it also exposes the readers to hopeful and inspirational themes to which they can relate.



Shadow Eyes, Book 1

Iris thought she could ignore the shadows, until they came after everyone she loved.

Seventeen-year-old Iris Kohl has been able to see both dark and light figures ever since a tragic incident three years ago. The problem is, no one else seems to see them, and even worse...the dark figures terrorize humans, but Iris is powerless to stop them.

Although she's learned to deal with watching shadows harass everyone around her, Iris is soon forced to question everything she thinks she knows about her world and herself. Her sanity, strength, and will power are tested to the limits by not only the shadows, but also a handsome new teacher whose presence scares away shadows, a new friend with an awe-inspiring aura, and a mysterious, alluring new student whom Iris has a hard time resisting despite already having a boyfriend. As the shadows invade and terrorize her own life and family, Iris must ultimately accept the guidance of an angel to revisit the most horrific event of her life and become the hero she was meant to be.

Luminous Spirits, Book 2

Old habits die hard. Old enemies, even harder.

Iris must now perfect her newfound abilities in order to help her shadow-oppressed family and friends, but more importantly, she must prepare for an impending fight with her most hated adversary. After the arrival of a new mean girl who seems to have history with Iris's boyfriend, Iris quickly figures out that she is anything but the typical mean girl. She not only creates havoc and conflict among Iris and her friends, but her presence also means that Iris's inevitable confrontation with her enemy may, in fact, be closer than she thought.

If Iris can figure out why the new girl is there and what her enemy is planning, she'll at least be one step ahead of their game. But will she be ready when the time comes to face her biggest challenge yet? Or will they succeed in tearing Iris apart before she even has the chance?

Sacrificial Souls, Book 3

Iris's job requires sacrifice, but this is one sacrifice she won't want to make.

Iris never asked for the role of leader, but her mentor seems to think she's leader material and her friends don't argue. Sometimes she wishes she could just be a normal girl with a normal boyfriend and a normal life... But who is she kidding? With her job and one of her enemies still out there wanting to kill her, her life would never be even close to normal.

Throughout the summer, Iris's old adversary keeps showing up at her work and on shadow hunts, but not to kill her. Not yet. Each time, his message is clear: Join him or die. To make matters worse, Iris's mentor seems to be hiding something. Iris wants him by her side when her enemy actually attacks, but she's not sure she can trust him anymore. Nothing can prepare her, though, for when the tide's turn and what she thought she'd never have to sacrifice becomes the very thing she needs to let go of in order to fulfill her final calling and eliminate her enemy for good.

We Are 1, (The Personality Experiment Series, Book 1)

What if diversity was stripped from existence?

Fifty years into the future, everyone in Cass's society has been reduced to a singular personality type after the pharmaceutical giant, Clarke Industries, introduced dissolvable C-strips that claimed to simply make people better versions of themselves. The entire country has become a proud and willing consumer of these strips minus a faction of people society has labeled "shirks."

Everyone thinks the shirks are long gone until the President's announcement of random inspection raids, which puts the whole country on edge. When Cass learns what the strips are really doing to people and that her world is not as perfect as she thought, she has to figure out who to trust –her dad who's gone missing, her mom who seems to be hiding something, the new brother and sister at school who seem to know all about other personality types and their country's true past, or the company and government in whom she's put all of her hope and faith...until now.

Notable Reviews:

Bri's Book Nook

This book had some of the most realistic YA fantasy characters that I have ever read. I am used to YA characters either acting a lot younger or a lot older than their age because of adult authors writing them. Crabtree gets the seventeen-year-old lifestyle just right! Once I started relating to the characters on a deeper level, I knew I would love this book. And love it I did.

...

Overall, this was an amazing read. I can't even mention everything that I loved about it because it contains too many spoilers, but I will definitely revisit some more things in my review of book 2. I would recommend this novel to anyone looking for an actually relatable and realistic YA fantasy read.

Wendy Hines from "Minding Spot"

Crabtree's debut will keep you up late immersed in a world of secrets, shadows and mystery. Not only are the characters modern and realistic, but they are bright, unique and palpable. What drove me to keep turning the pages beyond the great writing and characters, though, is the purpose of discovering what happened to Iris in her past to give her this rare affinity to see the shadows.

How Iris adjusts her life with the shadows, the glowing light figures and the addition of peer pressure is a testament to her inner-strength. Her friends really are great support for her and although sometimes teens will do as teens do, there are many messages within Shadow Eyes to relate to the teenage reader.

However, as an adult, I found myself enthralled with the storyline and can't wait for the next in the series. And just a warning - big cliffhanger! Love em and hate em! Dusty Crabtree has ensconced herself firmly in the young adult genre and I can't wait to see what she has in store next!

Long and Short Reviews YA

Shadow Eyes is the initial story in a series focused on Iris and her abilities to see and interact in the world around her. The plot is strong and character development and emotions are right on point. I did find myself frustrated from time to time wondering what happened on Iris's fourteenth birthday, but this was finally revealed at the end of the story.

Dusty Crabtree does an excellent job of bringing in the reader to the center of the story. The various plot twists and foreshadowing cause the reader to consider and then reconsider what is happening within the story and Iris's life. While the main story focuses on Iris, the secondary characters including Iris's close friends and family members each have a strong backstory that is integral to the overall plot in which Iris the focus.

The editing is clean, and the story flows nice without being too descriptive or wordy. Everything that occurs or is described has a place within the story. Aside from the frustration of being left in the dark with events surrounding the fourteenth birthday, this was a nearly perfect read!

Escaping Reality Book Reviews

First of all, Dusty Crabtree's writing and imagery are absolutely captivating. She has a way with words that makes everything come to life beautifully... Honestly, the protagonist infuriated me at times, but that's exactly what made her such a good character. She was so receptive and good at seeing what was wrong with everyone else, except for herself and her immediate circumstances. Then again, I suppose that is exactly what made her so relatable and realistic, because human beings tend to be pretty blind when it comes to themselves and their friends... I loved the plot. It told the very real story of a teenage girl in a scary world overcoming her own personal evil. It was heartfelt, it was poignant, and it was meaningful. This is the kind of story that actually stands for something. It's more than just a fun book to read, it's

genuinely good book, and an important story to tell. It was a fantastic read! A beautifully written contemporary tale of the eternal battle between good and evil, this book is nearly impossible to put down. It's engaging, gripping, and realistic. I highly recommend this book to readers 15 and up.

Tana Rae Reads

The cover, concept and the book description pulled me in and I knew I had to read this. Dusty's writing is easy to read and her words flowed seamlessly, I truly enjoyed this novel and Dusty's writing technique. I actually had a few books to read ahead of this book but my mistake was picking it up and taking a look through it, which then caused me not to put it down. The character descriptions are done well I found you really got to know the main characters which help you connect and feel for Iris. The plot is good and like I said it had me to where I couldn't put the book down as I wanted to know what was going to happen. You know when you're reading a book and you want to peak at the end so you have all the answers, that is what this novel was like for me... This book just kept getting better and worse all at the same time. Worse only because I really wanted to know what was going to happen... I will recommend this book to all my friends and I look forward to reading anything Dusty Crabtree writes.



Yukon Public Schools Employee Spotlight

#teachandliveyukon
#teachwithme

Dusty Crabtree has been an English teacher at Yukon High School since January, 2006. Dusty currently teaches English and Creative Writing. When asked to describe why she has spent her entire career in Yukon, Dusty says she cannot imagine going anywhere else, highlighting the feeling of family and pride! She credits her 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Jilg, from Hayes, Ks, as a source of her inspiration to be a classroom teacher.

Dusty not only impacts the lives of her students each and every day, but she and her husband Clayton recently adopted two young children in March, Aleya and Sophia.

Dusty is a published author of a young adult fantasy series. The first two books in the series, *Shadow Eyes* and *Luminous Spirits*, have already been released. The final book in the series, *Sacrificial Souls* will be released very soon.



**DUSTY CRABTREE
AUTHOR-ADOPTER
TEACHER**



Author Interview Q&A

Q: Where did you get the idea of the Shadows?

A: The idea actually first came to me as a screenplay for a Christian horror movie of some sort. The movie would have been about a cast of intertwined characters going about their lives and making mistakes with dark, creepy shadows (demons) hovering around them, whispering to them, and influencing them to do evil things. Only the audience would see the shadows. The characters would be completely oblivious. I simply tweaked that idea until I had something workable for a more secular YA book - a 17-year-old girl who had this special ability to see the shadows and light figures when nobody else could.

Q: How much of yourself or from personal experience have you put into the characters?

D: Oh, bits and pieces here and there. Iris has a few of my characteristics – being a perfectionist and an organizational freak mainly...I'm not kidding, sometimes I seriously think I have OCD. The funny bit about Iris's sister waking up and showering in the middle of the night actually came from my sister who used to do the same thing! I also went on a spelunking trip with my Advanced Earth Science class and a goofy teacher who didn't know what he was doing, just like Mr. Keller. However, the thing with the boy in the cave...sadly, that didn't happen to me.

Q: What authors have been an inspiration to you in your own writing?

A: Some of my favs are Suzanne Collins for her coming up with such an incredible story and trilogy, Becca Fitzpatrick for the great flow she has in her writing, and Neal Shusterman for his uncanny ability to create a unique voice for ALL of his characters, even the minor, minor ones, as well as the poignant and powerful aspect of his writing.

Q: Did you always want to be an author?

A: Actually, the thought never really crossed my mind. Although I wrote a few things when I was younger, there was a major dry spell from high school on until I got the idea for Shadow Eyes. I must have had the creative writer gene lurking around inside me for a while, though, because it didn't take long for me to realize my passion for writing. As I've continued through my fourth book now, I love the craft even more. The only problem I have is trying to balance my love of writing with my other passion and "real job" of being a teacher...which, obviously, takes up a lot of my time.

Character Interview Q&A with Patrick (love interest)

Q: So, Patrick, why do you think Dusty Crabtree chose you for this interview?

A: Well, don't tell anyone, but I think she has a small crush on me. It's embarrassing, really. I can't say that I blame her, though. It's her fault anyway for making me so smooth and desirable.

Q: What do you like most about Iris?

A: Well, I would say "everything," but I'm assuming that's too corny and cliché and that you're looking for a more specific answer, so...let me try again. I love her innocence and

naivety. There's just something so sweet about that quality in her. It kind of melts me heart, to be honest. But if anyone asks, I didn't say that.

Q: What do you like least about Iris?

A: I know this will sound weird, but the same quality I love, kind of gets annoying too. Sometimes I wish she would just open up her eyes and see what's truly going on around her. It would make my life a whole lot easier. Well, more difficult at first probably, but in the end, a lot easier.

Q: What, if anything, would you like to change about your life?

A: A decision I made about a year ago. It was probably the worst decision of my life, and now I'm paying for it.

Q: What is your biggest fear?

A: That Iris will find out my secret. But also, that she won't.

Interview/speech/workshop topics:

- My pre-writing, outlining process and crafting the story
- The revision process – tips and tricks
- Balancing full-time teaching with writing
- From small publishing company to self-publishing
- My hypothetical movie cast for *Shadow Eyes*
- Telling stories of hope: My passion behind writing the *Shadow Eyes Series*

Excerpt from Shadow Eyes, (Shadow Eyes Series, Book 1)

I was starting to feel pretty good about the day, actually. Kind of like that comfortable feeling you get after you've unpacked from a long trip. Everything back to normal. Little did I know the day was about to get increasingly better.

I traipsed into my third hour computer class to find an exquisite new addition to the classroom...and he was sitting just to the right of my assigned seat. At first I could only see him from behind, and I already knew he was the hottest guy I had ever seen at our school, and quite possibly the world.

It was mostly in his posture. He reclined back in his chair and tilted slightly to the right, leaning casually on his right armrest. Even from my limited view, I could feel the air of confidence and relaxed aloofness he put off like sound waves. It was alluring to say the least. He was wearing dark wash, relaxed but slim jeans, black Sketchers, and a black casual jacket.

I had to breathe in and out a few times to gain enough composure to stroll calmly to my seat. But I didn't prepare myself enough for what I'd see when he turned to face me. He had dirty blond hair that fell on his forehead in a messy surfer look. Though instead of looking like he didn't care about his hair, this guy looked as though a professional had meticulously messed up his hair for a photo shoot with a surfboard.

I could tell he was tall and thin yet muscular underneath his black jacket and green T-shirt, which made his deep green eyes stand out like emeralds on his flawless tanned face. He reminded me of Heath Ledger, only hotter, with the same seductive attraction and suave attitude that appeared effortless. He even smelled intoxicating. I wasn't sure how much of it was his cologne and how much was just his essence reeking sexy.

He pushed off the floor with his foot so that his computer chair twirled towards me. "Hey, I'm Patrick...and you are?" He flashed a charming smile. Despite the formal tone in his greeting, he held his position instead of reaching out his hand to shake mine. Although we had barely met, it felt like a tease and he was playing hard to get since I found myself longing to touch his hand. *People my age don't shake hands*, I reminded myself. *Quit being weird*.

I blinked as I tried to find my voice. "Um...Iris." I smiled shyly and attempted to look away, but it was difficult. His entire being was magnetic.

"Oh!" He raised his eyebrows, nodding in approval of my name before leaning forward intimately. "So tell me, do you get reborn every spring?"

I stared at him stupidly, trying to figure out what he meant. Instead, I got lost in his deep green eyes that matched the fitted T-shirt underneath his open jacket, revealing how lean and sculpted he really was.

"You know...because iris...is a flower?" His words came out slowly, like a flirtatious boy teasing a not-so-bright girl.

I kicked myself for not getting his obvious pun and waited hopefully for some witty reply to come to my mind as it usually did. But Patrick's gaze seemed to make me absent-

minded. It was as if his green eyes were my kryptonite, making all my defensive powers of wit and sarcasm useless. I was exposed and vulnerable. But for some reason, with Patrick...I liked it.

Favorite Quotes from Shadow Eyes

10. Three years of dealing with the visions had taught me how to cope in various ways, but I'd never gotten used to walking among herds of people that were ignorant of the truth I was forced to see.

9. Bursts of glimmering, bright light flashed through waves of murky darkness in an ever-moving, ever-changing, and never-ending battle of good and evil.

8. I decided on a wave goodbye, but outstretched my hand more forward than sideways, which he mistook as a move to hold hands. When he took my hand and then realized that wasn't what I had intended, we both felt awkward and tried to cover it up with an even more awkward hug, hands still clasped between us. All we needed to do was pound each other's backs with our fists and we'd be frat brothers.

7. He glanced back to check my reaction and found me gaping and unable to move. As he began working on his project, a devious grin played on his face as if he knew I was nothing but a mere marionette easily manipulated by the slightest twitch of his master fingertips and that I was his favorite puppet to play with.

6. "...the second shadow tilted its head back and opened the dark abyss of its mouth. What came out was the most horrible noise I had ever heard. It sounded like the echoing cackle of a demon drowning in a deep well. As piercing as nails on a chalkboard yet as murky and surreal as a nightmare."

5. It was as if his green eyes were my kryptonite, making all my defensive powers of wit and sarcasm useless. I was exposed and vulnerable. But for some reason, with Patrick...I liked it.

4. "Well, yeah. Since you have a boyfriend, nothing I say or do to you is meant to have any deeper meaning than harmless flirting." He softened his voice as he leaned in closer to me and began tracing his finger from my hand up my arm to my shoulder. "Now, if you didn't have a boyfriend...well, let's just say, you could read as deeply into my actions as you wanted to."

3. Suddenly, a gush of black water poured from the back seat over my shoulder and into my lap. I barely had time to let out a quick gasp of surprise before it began circling rapidly around my body in a thick spiral, tightening its grip as it climbed up to my face. Within seconds I was smothered, consumed, oppressed, and overcome.

2. With his eyes still fixed in our direction, he continued to flaunt how much he enjoyed her agony. How much he savored the ecstasy of twisting himself around her and lapping up her blood.

1. I closed my eyes tightly and slowly put my hand to my forehead. I didn't have to be completely lucid to recognize that our wreck of a situation had just escalated from a mild concussion to being thrown through the windshield of the car.