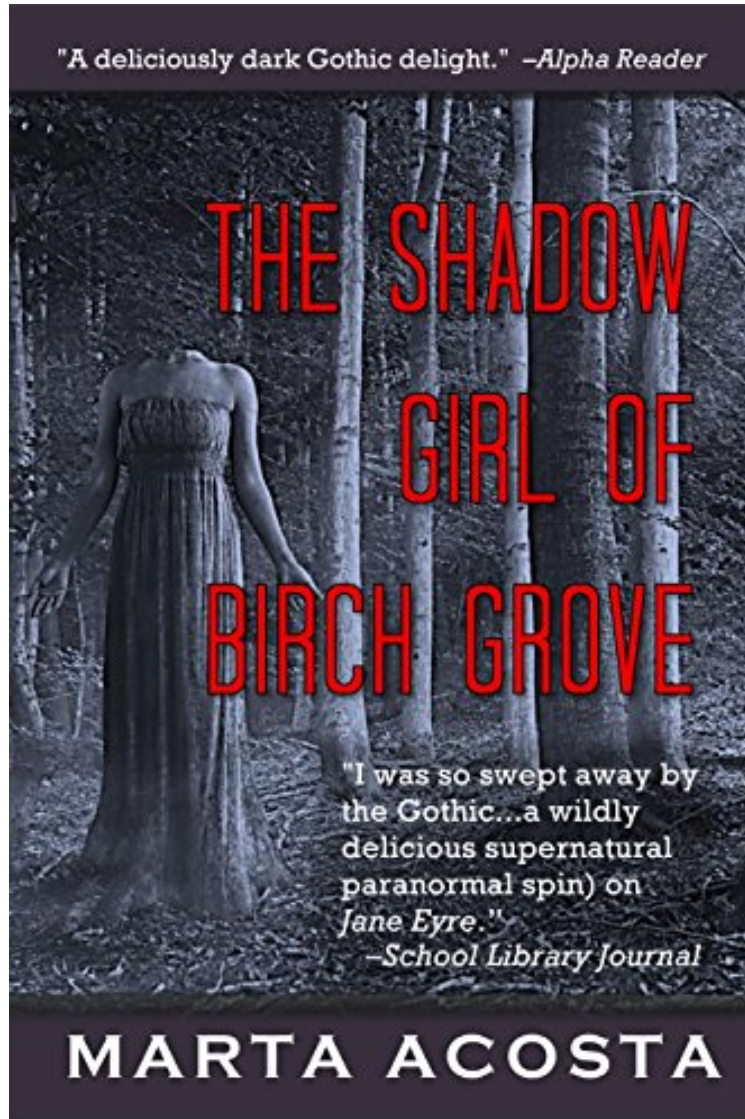


(Mobile book) The Shadow Girl of Birch Grove (English Edition)

The Shadow Girl of Birch Grove (English Edition)

Von Marta Acosta

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Von Marta Acosta : The Shadow Girl of Birch Grove (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shadow Girl of Birch Grove (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 30 Nights Insomniac ReviewsVon Jill BThe story of Jane Williams starts with her leaving her home city and being driven to her new school, where she will be a scholarship student. It's a renowned school, Birch Grove Academy for Girls. It feels quite contemporary, maybe even a little "Mean Girls". I kept expecting the girls Jane meets to lash out at her or

to be mean to her. Except for the token bossy/bitchy girl everyone is super nice to our protagonist, though. Jane is smart. She has had a hard childhood, moving from foster home to foster home. But she's smart and wants to do something with her life, despite having all odds against her. Now, which strikes me as weird is that Jane goes all stupid over Lucky. We know that sometimes happens in YA, but rarely when a girl is so obviously smart. She should have known better. Especially since I felt no chemistry between Jane and Lucky. In fact, the guy who was almost always nice to her immediately got into her bad books (because of ... something I can't remember right now) while Lucky continues to treat her like trash and she still adores him. If I weren't female myself, I would shake my head and mumble: "Girls." One thing Dark Companion definitely has going for it is that I really like the mythology. If it can even be called that since the vampires are so nicely implemented into our world, with nice (if a little dubious, but hey it's Sci Fi!) explanations to almost every vampire symptom. However, this book is written for teens. And I think if you stretch the word "teen" I might still be one because while writing this review I'm nineteen years old. And I found the ... blood-letting ... feeding ... blood-scenes (I don't really know how to describe this. Vampires in Dark Companion don't have vampire teeth and they don't really need a lot of blood.) extremely icky. I don't know why it creeped me out so much that Lucky licked Jane's blood off her skin. Stuff like this doesn't bother me when the vampire has teeth. I occasionally read gore, so why did this bother me? Maybe it's because Lucky and his family are so human. There is hardly anything that marks them as remarkable. And if I were Jane and a guy cut me to suck the wound ... no. Like you may have noticed, there is a little Twilight going on here. Two guys, vampires, a girl moving to a new town, etc. But this book is so much more reasonable. Jane does what every girl in her right mind would have done once she found out what was going on. Yes, she falls for Lucky's hotness for a while and that was stupid of her. Blame it on the hormones. But I still really enjoyed reading Dark Companion. It also reminded me of how nice books like this can be. It doesn't always need to be dystopian to be good!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. 3,5 Stars for this contemporary gothic novel with a Jane Eyre appeal and a rather vexing heroine

Von Mina This is a standalone novel about 16 year old Jane Williams, whose whole life is a sequence of trauma, abuse and failed foster care. Some event in her past is even so traumatic that she developed an amnesia to escape it as thorough as possible. Her biggest issues are the lack of any family, the subsequent feeling of utter loneliness and the desperate wish to get away from her very bad neighborhood. So when she is offered a stipend at the elitist Birch Cove Academy for Girls, she doesn't think twice, packs all meager belongings and is gone for good. But Birch Cove campus and the misty area it is situated in, are a bit creepy, with birch branches pounding on Jane's cottage at night, people behaving all too friendly [except for the inevitable b****ch at school] and two guys with odd and inconsistent behavior. Turns out that not all is well at Birch Cove Academy and Jane starts investigating what's going on and when she finds out, she is as astonished as I was. Don't get me wrong: I was thinking along the line the author had devised, but yet it turned out differently from how it is usually played and I liked that twist very much. Overall, the plot did a few turns I really liked and there were a few I didn't really appreciate. For example the mystery framing Jane was something that didn't play much of a role besides the prologue and the showdown and then in a kind of Deus ex machina way. Don't get me wrong, I like the supernatural angle, except it was a mystery upon a mystery and had not really anything to do with the story revolving around Birch Cove Academy. So, it was kind of too much in that regard. The best thing about the book that actually made me give 3,5 stars and round it up, instead of giving three, is the exceptionally well devised atmosphere. It reminded me a lot of that old black and white movie Rebecca at the Manderley mansion and in the very best way. Just like in that gothic masterpiece, Birch Cove is a murky place, there are secrets, half-truths and it's very uncertain, whom to believe what. And like for the second Mrs. de Winter, when all is said and done, it had turned out way differently than Jane [and the reader] had thought. And the thing that put me off and made me reconsider any high rating I had in mind a few times, was the heroine herself. She is a 16 year old orphan, very smart and street-wise and because life has taught her many excruciating lessons, she developed a stout plan on how to get away from her current circumstances and make her own and successful way. Consequently, Jane sounds older and harder than your average middle-class girl. And she carries around a lot of anger and rage, especially towards privileged people who aren't thankful for what they have. It was this attitude that made me admire her. And then there are the moments I couldn't believe how she could be so full of life experience and see all the things going wrong as far as others are concerned, and yet be so incredibly blind each and every time stuff concerned her. I mean, the author wasn't even subtle with her allegories and pictures. I get Jane's age, she is a teenager who desperately wants to belong, but I obviously gave her a lot more credit than the author. So all in all it still is a good contemporary gothic novel that has a huge amount of just the right atmosphere and an interesting plot with enough twists to keep me reading.

Kurzbeschreibung "I was so swept away... a wildly delicious supernatural paranormal spin on Jane Eyre. Elizabeth Burns, School Library Journal Orphaned at age six, Jane Williams has survived in harsh foster homes and gritty neighborhoods by keeping to the shadows. Her hard work and determination are rewarded when she's offered a scholarship to exclusive Birch Grove Academy. She's befriended by amazing girls and has wonderful classes. She

even starts tutoring the headmistress's gorgeous son, Lucien, who represents everything that Jane has done without in her miserable lonely life. But the more Jane learns about Birch Grove, the more she comes to suspect dark secrets. Why did the wife of a popular teacher kill herself? What happened to the previous scholarship student whose place Jane took? Why does Lucien's brother, Jack, seem to dislike her so much? Jane begins to discover why she was brought to Birch Grove and what she's willing to do to stay. Because even the brightest people make terrible decisions when they're offered everything they've always needed.

Compelling and romantic; a Jane Eyre for the Modern Age. Julie Kagawa, New York Times bestselling author of *The Iron King* Recommended reading for teen gothic/vampire fiction fans as well as for Jane Eyre fans of any age. Bloody brilliant! LoveVampires.com Awesome stuff. Compelling and dynamic, *Dark Companion* lures you in, casting a distinct spell you won't want to break. A modern Gothic with classic style. Leanna Renee Hieber, bestselling author of the *Strangely Beautiful* and *Magic Most Foul* sagas This is the kind of book I wish I could have read when I was a teen. Jane is an inspiration to any young girl who doesn't fit in or underestimates her own strengths.... A lovely, spiritual, uplifting story. Patricia Altner, *Patricia's Vampire Notes* I had the pleasure of an early read of the novel early last year and heartily recommend it. Doug Knipe, *SciFi Guy* Reminiscent of the popular *Twilight* Series with the similar themes of angst ridden teenage love between two unlikely people. The writing is absolutely addictive and I could not put this book down for a second. The suspense, mystery, romance and paranormal all together make a very exciting book that is sure to impress readers of various genres. Overall, a breathtaking, beautiful novel that should not be missed. Rachael Dimond, *Enchanted By Books* Takes the vampire legends in a whole different direction... With a whole new spin on vampirism and an easy-to-read, yet well researched novel, teenagers could expect an intriguing love triangle, between an orphan girl named Jane and the headmistress's mysterious sons. *Neurotic Kurzbeschreibung* "I was so swept away... a wildly delicious supernatural paranormal spin on Jane Eyre. Elizabeth Burns, *School Library Journal* Orphaned at age six, Jane Williams has survived in harsh foster homes and gritty neighborhoods by keeping to the shadows. Her hard work and determination are rewarded when she's offered a scholarship to exclusive Birch Grove Academy. She's befriended by amazing girls and has wonderful classes. She even starts tutoring the headmistress's gorgeous son, Lucien, who represents everything that Jane has done without in her miserable lonely life. But the more Jane learns about Birch Grove, the more she comes to suspect dark secrets. Why did the wife of a popular teacher kill herself? What happened to the previous scholarship student whose place Jane took? Why does Lucien's brother, Jack, seem to dislike her so much? Jane begins to discover why she was brought to Birch Grove and what she's willing to do to stay. Because even the brightest people make terrible decisions when they're offered everything they've always needed.