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House Of Shadows



Synopsis

Sophie's world is shattered when disaster bankrupts her family. She's still reeling from the news when she's offered an unexpected solution: Mr Argenton, a wealthy stranger, asks for her hand in marriage. Marrying Mr Argenton will restore her family's fortunes and save them from scandal, but condemns Sophie to a life in Northwood, a vast and unnaturally dark mansion situated hours from civilisation. Sophie struggles to adjust to her new position as mistress over the desolate house. Mr Argenton's relatives are cold, and Mr Argenton himself is keeping secrets. Even worse, the house is more than it seems. Mr Argenton's young cousin, Elise, draws terrifying images. Doors slam. Inhuman figures slink through the forest surrounding the house. A piano plays in the middle of the night. Blood drips from the ceilings. Sophie is inevitably pulled towards the terrifying truth: Northwood's ancient halls are haunted by the family's long-dead ancestors. The malevolent spirits "produced by grisly deaths" resent her intrusion into their home. Trapped in Northwood and desperate for an escape, Sophie's fate is further complicated as she finds herself irrevocably drawn to the tall, dark-eyed man she married. She suspects her feelings are returned, but Mr Argenton is hiding the truth about the house "and his secrets are so dangerous that they might just be unforgivable."

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Customer Reviews

I was given an advanced copy for my honest review. I LOVED this book! I sat down at 11 pm and finished the book at 2:45 am. I just could not put it down! I found myself really falling in love with the characters and rooting them on! I couldn't figure out the twist until it was given to me - I usually can figure it out fairly quickly so that in itself was a thrill! There was a little bit of romance, a little bit of goth, a little bit of mystery - if those things appeal to you then this book is for you! I honestly can not wait for the next one to come out! As soon as I finish posting this I plan to look for more of Darcie Coates' books - I enjoyed it that much!

This was an engrossing read. Very evocative setting description and tone created. It was similar to the feel of *Crimson Peak*. I actually imagined Tom Hiddleston as the hero in this book and it fit beautifully. I was surprised by how scary and suspenseful this was. While there is a love story, I personally would not characterize this as a romance novel. Told almost exclusively from the heroine's perspective, the focus is on the horror and mystery aspect. If you're looking for a book with sexual heat, look elsewhere. It skips over that aspect completely. A few kisses and emotional romance, but never felt sexy. Completely PG in that regard. I enjoy sexy action and tension in a book, and I would have preferred to find it in this one. Despite that lack, I truly enjoyed reading it and will look forward to the sequel.

Wow, another fantastic tale from the mind of Coates! She truly knows how to tell a story to keep you on the edge of your seat. I was so engrossed in this novel, that I read it in two days. I just couldn't bear to put it down. *House of Shadows* flows so smoothly and quickly that I'd read a quarter of the novel in one sitting without realizing that huge chunks of time had gone by. And I wasn't sorry at all. I was anxious to continue to read. Like *Northwood*, I was hungry for more. Set in a house that "was beyond daunting; it was thoroughly, crushingly overwhelming," this story has everything for a fantastic Gothic romance. I adored the relationship between sweet, innocent Sophie and her new husband, Joseph, a cultured and polite man with dark hair and nearly black eyes. Sophie's first impression of him was that he was capable of dangerous things, that he was a sleeping wolf. She would find out soon enough just how accurate her assessment was. Each and every character was created with the same delicacy that an artist would use in a painting. Perfectly crafted, I felt that

each one stepped off the page and into the room with me. I felt their presence and energy. In my head, I may have yelled, "It's alive!" like a crazed scientist every time I met a unique character. I even loved the piano music that floated up through the house to Sophie's ears. Though it was extremely creepy, it was appropriate for the tone of the story and fit the character of the house itself. The song was "deep and dark and mysterious. Dangerous." Talk about getting the chills. I loved everything about this book! I cannot wait for Joseph and Sophie's story in the sequel, House of Whispers, scheduled to release early in 2016. If you love a dark story that stirs a childhood memory of checking under your bed and in your closet before you go to sleep - with a light on - then you will love House of Shadows too!

Disclosure: I was given a copy of this book by the author in exchange for an honest review. Darcie Coates has a gift for spinning a story that will keep a reader turning pages. The House of Shadows is a perfect example. The characters are well rounded. The plot is solid; the flow is fast and easy to read. Throughout the story, Sophie (MC) never knows for sure who is evil and who to trust. Her adventure starts out at an opera she attends with her uncle. At the end of their evening, she notices a man staring at her from across the lobby. He's an acquaintance of her uncle's, and they talk briefly. It turns out that Sophie's uncle made a few bad business choices. A few days later Sophie marries the wealthy stranger to save her family from the embarrassment of being ruined by her uncle's unexpected misfortune. Now she's not only married out of necessity but also uprooted forever from her family, and swept away to a new life in the mysterious Northwood mansion with her eccentric husband, and a few of his quirky relatives. The first day in her new home, she's already forbidden to explore parts of it. Sophie has to decide if she wants to run back to her familiar surroundings to live out poverty with her uncle and siblings, or stay with her husband and be the new Mistress of Northwood, and try to fit in with her new family. From the first chapter, you will be second-guessing whom, or what is trying to protect Sophie's back, or attempting to put a knife in it. I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves dark horror stories.

I was given a free copy in exchange for a review. That said, I loved this book. Nice "gothic" style with some romance mixed in. Arranged for convenience marriage, that turns into love. Haunted house theme with a good, old fashioned monster to go with it. I read this in one day. Didn't want to put it down! I look forward to Darcie Coates next book. Author is on my must read list. I highly recommend you download this one!

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