

The Council Darkness 5

The Epic of Gilgamesh is among the earliest surviving works of literature, with the earliest versions dating from around the Third Dynasty of Ur in early Sumeria (2150-2000 BC). Preserved in Cuneiform, the Epic was retold over the centuries, and the most complete version was discovered in the ruins of the library palace of the seventh century BC Assyrian king, Ashurbanipal. The Epic is most notable as being the obvious source of the biblical story of Noah and the flood. The Epic tells the story of the king of Uruk, Gilgamesh, and his adventures with his erstwhile foe and then friend, Enkidu. Together they journey to the Cedar Mountain to defeat Humbaba, its monstrous guardian, then they kill the Bull of Heaven, which the goddess Ishtar sends to punish Gilgamesh for spurning her advances. As a punishment for these actions, the gods sentence Enkidu to death. Gilgamesh then sets out to avoid his friend's fate and seek the secret to eternal life, a quest in which he is ultimately thwarted. Contains original author's preface and a new overview of the storyline. Contents Author's Preface Overview of the Storyline of the Epic of Gilgamesh The First Tablet: Of the Tyranny of Gilgamesh, and the Creation of Enkidu The Second Tablet: Of the Meeting of Gilgamesh and Enkidu The Third Tablet: The Expedition to the Forest of Cedars against Humbaba The Fourth Tablet: The Arrival at the Gate of the Forest The Fifth Tablet: Of the Fight with Humbaba The Sixth Tablet: Of the Goddess Ishtar, Who Fell In Love with the Hero after His Exploit against Humbaba The Seventh Tablet: The Death of Enkidu The Eighth Tablet: Of the Mourning of Gilgamesh, and What Came of It The Ninth Tablet: Gilgamesh in Terror of Death Seeks Eternal Life The Tenth Tablet: How Gilgamesh Reached Uta-Napishtim The Eleventh Tablet: The Flood The Twelfth Tablet: Gilgamesh, In Despair, Enquires of the Dead

At age twelve, Sophie learns that the remarkable abilities that have always caused her to stand out identify her as an elf, and after being brought to Eternalia to hone her skills, discovers that she has secrets buried in her memory for which some would kill.

New York Times bestselling author Keri Arthur continues her Dark Angels series as half-werewolf, half-Aedh Risa Jones races to save the world from descending into ultimate chaos.... Risa has angered several powerful people, and she's starting to feel the pressure from all sides. She also finds herself under the scrutiny of the vampire council, some of whom consider her a monster who should be destroyed. But they offer her a bloody bargain: Take on the lethal head of the council and others will support her. As the search for the keys to hell heats up, Risa realizes that she has no choice. For the sake of the people she loves, she must find the keys—and get rid of Hunter—before the next gate is opened and brings the world closer to all hell breaking loose....

A brave mouse, a covetous rat, a wishful serving girl, and a princess named Pea come together in Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Medal-winning tale. Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. What happens then? As Kate DiCamillo would say: Reader, it is your destiny to find out. With black-and-white illustrations and a refreshed

cover by Timothy Basil Ering.

Beginning with the destruction of Jerusalem and continuing through the persecutions of Christians in the Roman Empire, the apostasy of the Dark Ages, the shining light of the Reformation, and the worldwide religious awakening of the nineteenth century, this volume traces the conflict into the future, to the Second Coming of Jesus and the glories of the earth made new. In this concluding volume, the author powerfully points out the principles involved in the impending conflict and how each person can stand firmly for God and His truth.

New York Times bestselling author Roxane Gay (*World of Wakanda*, *Difficult Women*) adapts her short story “We Are the Sacrifice of Darkness” as a full-length graphic novel with writer Tracy Lynne Oliver (*This Weekend*), and artist Rebecca Kirby (*Biopsy*.) Expanding an unforgettable world where a tragic event forever bathes the world in darkness, *The Sacrifice of Darkness* follows one woman’s powerful journey through this new landscape as she discovers love, family, and the true light in a world seemingly robbed of any. This young adult drama challenges notions of identity, guilt, and survival in a graphic novel for fans of *On A Sunbeam* and *Are You Listening?*

I'd always been different. I saw objects in the night where others saw emptiness. Large, human shaped shadows, fierce yet beautiful, melting into the darkness. I collected secrets like other women collected bells; afraid to fully trust lest my oddities be exposed. Until I saw him. He'd been gliding down the street, unshakable confidence in every step. It wasn't just that he was breathtakingly handsome with perfect features. Something about him drew me. Sucked my focus to him and then tugged at my body. As his eyes met mine, I was entrapped. No one had noticed him. He'd been right there, just beyond the light, but only I had perceived. I had to know if he was real. Or maybe I really was crazy. And even when my secret box was blasted wide open, dangers hurled at me like throwing knives, I couldn't stop until I unraveled his true identity. I just had to know.

New York Times bestselling author Keri Arthur has been hailed for her “smart, sexy”* urban fantasy novels. Now, she continues her *Dark Angels* series set in the realm of danger and desire known as the *Guardian World*... Half-werewolf, half-Aedh Risa Jones can enter the realm between life and death, and she can see the Reapers who collect the souls of the dead. Now, she is using her gifts—and the investigative know-how of a man who broke her heart—to find a cabal searching for the power to control time, reality, and fate. And this is besides her work for the Vampire Council, half of whom want her dead. But for now the Council needs her alive. Someone is killing blood-whore addicted vampires, and Risa must find the guilty party. If she succeeds, she may finally convince the council to lift the execution order on her life. But before she succeeds, she must first survive...

In the wake of ridding their territory of a menace, Sasha has only one pressing duty left: find more human magic workers. And while it is undoubtedly important on some grand scale, the task is, in itself, surprisingly uneventful. That is, until a strange predator takes an interest in her and Charles on their trek home one evening. In the space of twenty-four hours Sasha's life goes from mundane to being stalked and threatened. A new shifter has moved into town, and if the whispered rumors are to be believed, something even more sinister is lurking

behind, watching and waiting for the right moment to spring. But that isn't the only element that turns Sasha's life upside down. She has one hell of a secret that will change her and Stefan's life forever.

Shapeshifting cosmic troublemakers Ganymeade and Sparkle Stardust meet their match when they set out to pair up a brooding vampire with the one paranormal he's sworn to avoid--a sensual werecat. Original.

Given the chance to train as a squire, kitchen servant Achan Cham hopes to pull himself out of his pitiful life and become a Kingsguard Knight. When Achan's owner learns of his training, he forces Achan to spar with the Crown Prince--more of a death sentence than an honor. Meanwhile, strange voices in Achan's head cause him to fear he's going mad. While escorting the prince to a council presentation, their convoy is attacked. Achan is wounded and arrested, but escapes from prison--only to discover a secret about himself he never believed possible.

Orphaned by the Border Wars, Alina Starkov is taken to become the protégée of the mysterious Darkling, who trains her to join the magical elite in the belief that she is the Sun Summoner, who can destroy the monsters of the Fold.

Acclaimed Canadian poet Steven Price has conjured a stunning debut novel that explores what we ask from each other, and how much we are prepared to give. Set in the city of Victoria, British Columbia, *Into That Darkness* opens at the moment when a massive earthquake hits the entire west coast with devastating results. Amid the destruction of the city, survivors are left to negotiate a calamity in which bonds of civility are pushed to their limits and often broken. When Arthur Lear hears a voice crying in the rubble, he finds himself descending deep under a collapsed building in a desperate attempt to save a young boy and his mother. But what he discovers there will change him forever — as circumstances lead him across the city's broken landscape, through the chaos of its hospitals and streets, in a harrowing search for the mother's lost daughter. Over the days that follow, Lear's very sense of humanness will be tested and compromised, as he faces the limits of himself and his fellow survivors, in his long journey home. A novel for our age of anxiety and fear, Steven Price delivers a powerful story about the physical manifestation of the darker things lurking in our culture, in ourselves.

The Final Book in the USA TODAY BESTSELLING Series! Charles is a guy that likes to play the field. He's highly sought after in the Mansion, both for his prowess, and his position. He's content to stay the playboy for life, too, steeped in the culture in which he was raised. That is, until he finds himself on a mission with Ann, trying to figure out why shifters are mysteriously going missing. Suddenly things that were so clear cut, get muddled. When Ann succumbs to the danger that is plaguing her kind, all bets are off.

It's been a long road, but Sasha has finally claimed her role as the least knowledge mage in history. She's also acquired a new, incredibly grumpy bodyguard, and a spunky new BFF. With her team by her side, she learns the

ropes of this new profession. Her experience level is about to be fast-tracked, however. On a routine trip to check out a perimeter breach, she encounters a hideous demon called by an experienced magic worker. It is this terrifying discovery that unlocks a deeper problem: Stefan's troubled past and the reason he gravely mistrusts the Mata. While Sasha struggles to fight the physical demons, Stefan struggles to fight the demons of his past. If he fails, his future in Sasha will be lost.

Atlanta: it's the promised city for the off-worlders, foreigners from the alternate dimensions of heaven-like Elysia and hell-like Charbydon. Some bring good works and miracles. And some bring unimaginable evil.... Charlie Madigan is a divorced mother of one, and a kick-ass cop trained to take down the toughest human and off-world criminals. She's recently returned from the dead after a brutal attack, an unexplained revival that has left her plagued by ruthless nightmares and random outbursts of strength that make doing her job for Atlanta P.D.'s Integration Task Force even harder. Since the Revelation, the criminal element in Underground Atlanta has grown, leaving Charlie and her partner Hank to keep the chaos to a dull roar. But now an insidious new danger is descending on her city with terrifying speed, threatening innocent lives: a deadly, off-world narcotic known as ash. Charlie is determined to uncover the source of ash before it targets another victim -- but can she protect those she loves from a force more powerful than heaven and hell combined?

An urgent warning from two bestselling security experts--and a gripping inside look at how governments, firms, and ordinary citizens can confront and contain the tyrants, hackers, and criminals bent on turning the digital realm into a war zone. "In the battle raging between offense and defense in cyberspace, Clarke and Knake have some important ideas about how we can avoid cyberwar for our country, prevent cybercrime against our companies, and in doing so, reduce resentment, division, and instability at home and abroad."--Bill Clinton There is much to fear in the dark corners of cyberspace: we have entered an age in which online threats carry real-world consequences. But we do not have to let autocrats and criminals run amok in the digital realm. We now know a great deal about how to make cyberspace far less dangerous--and about how to defend our security, economy, democracy, and privacy from cyber attack. Our guides to the fifth domain -- the Pentagon's term for cyberspace -- are two of America's top cybersecurity experts, seasoned practitioners who are as familiar with the White House Situation Room as they are with Fortune 500 boardrooms. Richard A. Clarke and Robert K. Knake offer a vivid, engrossing tour of the often unfamiliar terrain of cyberspace, introducing us to the scientists, executives, and public servants who have learned through hard experience how government agencies and private firms can fend off cyber threats. With a focus on solutions over scaremongering, and backed by decades of high-level experience in the White House and the private sector, *The Fifth Domain* delivers a riveting, agenda-setting insider look at what works in the struggle to avoid cyberwar.

Jonas isn't the kind of guy to submit to the expectations of others, even when his life is on the line. So when he wakes up in the cell of a dungeon with torture devices hanging on the wall, he can only think one thing: this should be fun. What he didn't expect, however, is the beautiful but broken female pitting herself against his resolve. For once, the pain of his past is shallow in comparison to another, and he wants nothing more than to extinguish her pain. When Sasha realizes one of her own has been taken, the gloves come off. Using her ever-expanding

resources of both human and non-human magic workers, she sets out to battle the most advanced, most experienced magic worker in the world. Regardless of being completely outmatched, Sasha and Stefan rush to Jonas' aid.

"I loved the darkness, but I also craved the light. The night called to my magic, the day to my spirit." * * * Sasha has always known she was different, but now she also knows that the shadow men she's seen all her life, are real. With a life goal of fitting in, Sasha hopes her strange abilities will finally make true friendship a possibility. Unfortunately, her magic doesn't function like everyone else's. What she thought would make her belong, sets her apart now more than ever. Stefan, all but promised to a different woman, has tried to keep his mind on his duties instead of the irresistible and free-spirited human. But when she is threatened, he can't keep his distance anymore. He'll stop at nothing to keep her safe, and more importantly, make her his. Just when one thing clicks into place, another spirals out of control. Stefan's clan isn't the only group that would benefit from an extremely rare type of magic. And their enemies will stop at nothing to get what they want.

The Darkness is Coming... Ryann and Lad are together and in love but not yet bonded. Royal wedding plans are underway, but they cannot marry until the mourning period for his father, the murdered king, ends. Waiting is sweet torture and gets harder all the time. Nox and Vancia are touring the world with his band The Hidden and enjoying their honeymoon. They're also working to convince the holdout tribes in Europe, Asia, and Australia to disband their fan pods and sign the new peace treaty between the Dark and Light Courts. It's the only way to ensure the safety of humans worldwide. But unbeknownst to any of them, dark forces are still at work. There are some who don't support the treaty—or their new king. And they'll do anything necessary to restore Elven reign over humanity. When an ambassador from the Dark Court arrives in Altum, Lad expects relations between the formerly antagonistic clans to improve. What he didn't expect is her unique glamour—or her traveling companion. And Ryann's own glamour gift is warning her... if they can't uncover the hidden truth in time, the much-anticipated royal wedding may never happen. As the Hidden Saga continues, friendships will be formed and broken, the bonds of love tested, and beautiful and dangerous new glammers revealed.

****Grab your copy today and Give in to the Glamour of the Hidden Saga once again!**** HIDDEN DARKNESS is a romantic and gripping full length YA paranormal romance that will transport urban fantasy fans to a fascinating supernatural world within our own, filled with suspense, danger, sizzling tension, and desire. Binge the COMPLETE series! THE HIDDEN SERIES READING ORDER: Book 1: Hidden Deep Book 2: Hidden Heart Book 3: Hidden Hope The Sway-- A Hidden Saga Companion Novella Book 4: Hidden Darkness Book 5: Hidden Danger Book 6: Hidden Desire Book 7: Hidden Game (The Ancient Court #1) Book 8: Hidden Magic (The Ancient Court #2) Book 9: Hidden Hero (The Ancient Court #3) Hidden Heir ***Fans of high-stakes urban fantasy like The Mortal Instruments and deeply romantic paranormal romance sagas like Twilight and A Shade of Vampire will be drawn to the addicting, heart pounding excitement and suspense of Amy Patrick's sexy, magical Hidden Saga.*** If you love Fae stories like the Iron Fey series, The Cruel Prince, and A Court of Thorns and Roses, you'll fall in love with the Hidden Saga! Get your copy today and Give in to the Glamour. Young Adult Paranormal Romance, Urban Fantasy, Myths and Legends, Fae, Faerie, Faery, Elves, Fairy Tales, Teen, Paranormal Romance book series for kindle, Paranormal and Urban, secret lovers, Forbidden Romance, Romance Writers of America, Golden Heart Award finalist, Love Triangle, Coming of Age •Books > Teen & Young Adult > Romance > Paranormal •Books > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends •Books > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Paranormal & Urban •Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction •Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Romance > Paranormal & Fantasy •Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

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The sexy, exciting, suspenseful adventures continue in New York Times bestselling author Keri Arthur's Dark Angels series, starring Risa Jones, a half-Aedh/half-werewolf. She can speak to the souls of the dying and the dead, and can see Reapers, the collectors of souls. Shortly after her fight on the astral plane, Risa receives a phone call from Madeline Hunter, the leader of the vampire council, ordering her to investigate the death of Hunter's close friend and lover - Wolfgang Schmidt. His body has been discovered wrapped in a web-like substance and has been completely drained. As the body count continues to grow, Risa must summon her gifts to find the dark spirit before it strikes again. Meanwhile, as the search for the keys that keep the gate to Hell closed grows more intense, Risa begins to unravel mysteries that will have startling consequences for her.

"A damning denunciation of things as they are, and a platform for how we can do better."—Andrew Leonard, Salon Building on the international bestseller *Globalization and Its Discontents*, Joseph E. Stiglitz offers here an agenda of inventive solutions to our most pressing economic, social, and environmental challenges, with each proposal guided by the fundamental insight that economic globalization continues to outpace both the political structures and the moral sensitivity required to ensure a just and sustainable world. As economic interdependence continues to gather the peoples of the world into a single community, it brings with it the need to think and act globally. This trenchant, intellectually powerful, and inspiring book is an invaluable step in that process.

After *Daybreak* brings J. A. London's romantic dystopian *Darkness Before Dawn* series to a thrilling conclusion. Dawn grew up behind a wall, terrified of the vampires outside who controlled the lives of humans and demanded their blood. But when she became a delegate for her city and met Victor, she realized that not all vampires were the same, that maybe one could be trusted. Now Day Walker Sin is infecting his followers with a disease that turns them into mindless killers. Dawn and Victor will have to convince humans and vampires to band together to stop him, because alone they will all die. *After Daybreak* is perfect for fans of the YA series *Morganville Vampires* and the *Vampire Diaries*.

It's been hundreds of years since the Darkness last surfaced, a grim time when both humans and Catmages lost their lives. But now the Wild Ones work with humans again, and thirteen-year-old Andy Cohen gets the surprise of his life when a talking cat shows up in his front yard. Goldeneyes, a powerful Catmage, needs Andy's help. In the exciting first installment of this new series, Meryl Yourish takes the reader into a world of magical cats, dark powers, and a boy who finds himself entangled in their war.

Dark secrets and forbidden love threaten the very survival of the Shadowhunters in Cassandra Clare's *Queen of Air and Darkness*, the final novel in the New York Times and USA TODAY bestselling *The Dark Artifices* trilogy. *Queen of Air and Darkness* is a Shadowhunters novel. What if damnation is the price of true love? Innocent blood has been spilled on the steps of the Council Hall, the sacred stronghold of the Shadowhunters. Their society now teeters on the brink of civil war. One fragment of the Blackthorn family flees to Los Angeles, seeking to discover the source of the disease that is destroying the race of warlocks. Meanwhile, Julian and Emma take desperate measures to put their forbidden love aside and undertake a perilous mission to Faerie to retrieve the Black Volume of the Dead. What they find there is a secret that may tear the Shadow World asunder and open a dark path into a future they could never have imagined. Caught in a race against time, Emma and Julian must save the world of the Shadowhunters before a deadly curse destroys them and everyone they love.

Marie Brennan's *Turning Darkness Into Light* is a delightful fantasy of manners, the heir to the award-winning *Natural History of Dragons* series, a perfect stepping stone into an alternate Victorian-esque fantasy landscape. "Overwhelmingly fun."—io9 on *The Tropic of Serpents* As

the renowned granddaughter of Isabella Camherst (Lady Trent, of the riveting and daring Draconic adventure memoirs) Audrey Camherst has always known she, too, would want to make her scholarly mark upon a chosen field of study. When Lord Gleinheigh recruits Audrey to decipher a series of ancient tablets holding the secrets of the ancient Draconeian civilization, she has no idea that her research will plunge her into an intricate conspiracy, one meant to incite rebellion and invoke war. Alongside dearest childhood friend and fellow archeologist Kudshayn, must find proof of the conspiracy before it's too late. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Presents the story of Plenty Coups, the last great Chief of the Crow Nation. This title contains a philosophical and ethical inquiry into a people faced with the end of their way of life.

Nothing comes easy for Darian. Her heightened powers make her indispensable to the Shaede Nation, but dangerous missions have driven her lover, Tyler, to his breaking point. Darian must salvage their bond, but a new assignment to protect Anya—a fellow Shaede and the first of their kind to become pregnant in centuries—stands in the way. It doesn't help that the two Shaedes are longtime rivals and share nothing besides mutual hatred. But when it becomes clear that someone—or something—is bent on destroying the expectant mother and her unborn child, Darian must put her feelings aside and track down Anya's would-be assassin. As she probes into Anya's past, Darian digs up long-buried secrets—and a startling connection between Tyler and the mission that could destroy everything between them...

Princess Lia and her love, Rafe, have escaped Venda and the path before them is winding and dangerous.

4 authors will each take a different daughter born from the Prince of Darkness, Vlad Montour (also known as Vlad the Impaler, an evil villain from history). Blair - Chrissy Peebles Jezebel - Kristen Middleton Victoria - W.J. May Lotus - C.J. Pinard Don't mess with the Daughters of Darkness, especially Victoria. Only Death Could Stop Her Now Victoria was a Hunter Vampire, now turned Hunted. When Evan is obviously been kidnapped by the Council, Tori will stop at nothing to get him back. At the same time, she's disappointed to learn Malcolm, her old hunting partner, is hot on her trail. Malcolm knows her very well as they worked together for countless decades. He knows her every move and her every hiding spot. She seeks Finns help. Finn has been alive for centuries and has somehow managed to stay completely off the Council's radar by living off the grid. She's confident he can keep her, Eddie, and Trent safe while they come up with a way to get to Evan. Vlad wants her - dead or alive, it seems to no longer matter. Tori will do whatever is needed to keep Evan safe, even if it means coming up against her father and hunting him. Fans of Twilight, Stephanie Meyers, Mortal Instruments, and Lauren Kate will enjoy this series. Victoria's Journey Victoria Huntress Coveted Twisted

When experienced homicide detective Casey Duncan first moved to the secret town of Rockton, she expected a safe haven for people like her, people running from their past misdeeds and past lives. She knew living in Rockton meant living off-the-grid completely: no cell phones, no Internet, no mail, very little electricity, and no way of getting in or out without the town council's approval. What she didn't expect is that Rockton comes with its own set of secrets and dangers. Now, in A Darkness Absolute, Casey and her fellow Rockton sheriff's deputy Will chase a cabin-fevered resident into the woods, where they are stranded in a blizzard. Taking shelter in a cave, they discover a former resident who's been held captive for over a year. When the bodies of two other women turn up, Casey and her colleagues must find out if it's an outsider behind the killings or if the answer is more complicated than that...before another victim goes missing. Casey Duncan returns in another heart-racing thriller from #1 New York Times bestselling author Kelley Armstrong.

In post-apocalyptic New Orleans, now a sanctuary for supernatural beings, a hardened teenager on the run searches for the truth about her monstrous heritage and discovers a curse that could ignite the ancient war between gods and monsters.

All my life, I've never fit in. Since the accident, I went from foster home to foster home until I just ran away. I thought life would always be like that. Scraping by, barely living. That is, until I was chosen. The Ravanas saved me. They brought me to The Fort so I could become a part of their world. Wanted. Secure. Training to be their human guardian was the only way they could let me in. Except, it's also the most dangerous. Now, we all have enemies--even me. Together, we must fight to keep the bond between us, or lose the most precious gift I've ever received.

The Guardians of Eternity are embroiled in an epic battle for survival. They are as dangerous as they are sensual--and their lustful appetites are legendary. . . Her Visions Lead Her To Danger Beautiful Cassandra is a Were, a prophet both vulnerable and defiant, blessed with visions that portend the fate of the world. A rare and delicate creature, Cassie must be protected at all costs. Enter Caine, a powerful cur turned pureblooded Were whose recent tangles with a demon lord have left him in serious need of redemption. Caine is duty-bound to keep Cassie out of danger--and that means resisting his potent urge to seduce her. . . And Only He Can Save Her As Cassie's mysterious visions lead them in and out of danger, Caine believes he has found his true mate, the woman with whom he is bound for all eternity. Cassie is both charmed and frightened by Caine's magnetism, and unsure if he--or her feelings for him--can be trusted. But Cassie can't afford to doubt Caine now. A deadly enemy bent on destruction is closer than they realize--and only they can keep chaos from ruling the world. . . Praise for Alexandra Ivy "Beyond the Darkness kept me riveted! The Guardians of Eternity series is highly addictive." --Larissa Ione, New York Times bestselling author "Ivy always packs her books with buckets of action, emotion and sexy sizzle. Another winner!" --Romantic Times on Devoured by Darkness

Sophie battles the rebels -- and recovers dark memories from her past -- in this jaw-dropping fourth book in the bestselling Keeper of the Lost Cities series.

Life for Sasha isn't getting easier. She has survived run-in's with monstrous Dulcha, lived through an abduction, and even made it passed Charles' constant badgering for sex. But if she thought the hurdles of this new life were behind her, she was dead wrong. When the Regional comes to visit Stefan's clan, the pressure increases. Sasha finds herself on a giant scale, assessed for her magic and held in the balance. If she doesn't have the magic Stefan hopes, she could find herself on the street while still in grave danger. Even with a favorable outcome, however, her inability to use her magic presents a road block not easily crossed. No, life is not getting easier. Stefan feels the heat, too. He must finally declare a mate, and admitting his desire for a human is the worst form of taboo. He could jeopardize not only his place as leader, but his and Sasha's life. His decision is like walking on a razor's edge.

With Sasha as the proclaimed Mage of high ranking power, she can't just slip under the carpet to a peaceful existence. Instead, she must present herself to the Council, a group of white mages who reside over the magical community, governing Stefan's people. There she must prove she has what it takes to be the mage of Stefan's clan, not something easily done. Stefan, too, has been noticed by the large faction of rulers. An alpha leader with a firm hold over his people, he has outgrown in his position, and it shows. Ties to a human mage with a vast well of power, though, has made him a target. Sasha is sought after, and those who want to harness her power will take her by force if necessary. With Dominicus' and Toa's help, Sasha and Stefan must face the

trials coming up. Proving themselves is the easy part. Getting out with their lives becomes the challenge.

First published in 1938, 'Anthem' is a dystopian fiction novel by British writer Ayn Rand. It takes place at some unspecified future date when mankind has entered another dark age. Technological advancement is now carefully planned and the concept of individuality has been eliminated.

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