



Shadow's Edge

S.C. Wynne

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Liam Baker can see things. Dead people like to visit him and tell them how they were wronged. Some might call it a gift, other's a curse. But either way this ability makes him useful to Los Angeles homicide detective Kimball Thompson.

Some madman is slitting the throats of young male prostitutes and then dumping their bodies in the desert with vague clues of pink feathers and the number five. Usually Liam can talk to the spirits of the dead. But someone is blocking him. Someone is taunting him.

The case is rapidly deteriorating into a violent, psychic pissing contest and Liam can't see far enough ahead to figure out who wins or who dies.

Shadow's Edge Details

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From Reader Review Shadow's Edge for online ebook

Calathea says

Feels a lot like painting by numbers to me, albeit well done. Sorry, this author's style just isn't my thing. After three tries I'm officially giving up now.

JoAnn says

3.5 Stars

I really enjoyed the fast constant pace of this book. It truly a relief sometimes when a book just keeps moving and doesn't slow down. Not all the time but it worked for me this time.

Maybe some spoilers ahead....

I do have a few beefs our Detective Thompson. So first off, we can tell for the first part of the book that our detective is trying to court his dead friends lover, who happens to be one of his consultants on the force. Liam lost William about 9 months ago and Thompson thinks it's time to stop grieving and to get back to life.. I'm truly not even going to comment on that part... anyways after a few dinners or whatever Thompson just gives up Liam and ends up going on a blind date and banging some other dude for a day or two. We don't get Thomson's POV but he literally just gave up... doesn't sound too bad right? Well how about the fact that Liam didn't even know Thompson was gay until he told him he had a blind date with a dude... I mean cmon!!! How do you try and court a guy, even if it's been going on for months, and then give up on him when he didn't even know you like banging dudes too? That didn't make much sense to me honestly.

Second it's weird as hell never once in the book is Detective Thompson called by his first name... even after him and Liam bone.. he's still just Thompson. I had to make sure that wasn't actually his real name... but no.... it's Kimball. Not once was that mention except in the blurb. Just weird...

Elena says

2.5 stars

First things first, let's mention something the blurb should have addressed: the book starts nine months after the death of Liam's partner, William (by the way, Liam and William? Couldn't the author think of a different name?), who was also a colleague and the best friend of the other MC, Thompson.

The blurb completely omits this and I've no idea why, since it gets mentioned on the first page and it soon

appears clear that Liam is still stuck grieving William's death.

Not only that, but Liam's inability to move past his grief, and later his decision to finally face that grief and move on, is what sets in motion directly or indirectly every scrap of relationship development between him and Thompson.

Stranger still was the feeling that the book seems to start in the middle of things, with the investigation already a few weeks in and Liam constantly addressing how different Thompson seemed to be in the last few days, while the story had barely begun.

The investigation itself wasn't bad, although there was some eye-rolling involved and I found the world building a little lacking.

For example, Liam gets introduced as a psychic consultant and some people are surprised, but nobody seems to find strange that he has visions and can read minds and that he gets taken seriously enough to consult with the police.

Are psychics common in this world and paranormal abilities officially recognized? It seems so, but why not throw in a more detailed explanation, then, instead of leaving the reader to guess? It wouldn't have taken much, a couple of sentences at most.

I also have mixed feelings about the relationship between Liam and Thompson.

They acted a little childish at times and I'm not sure the author's style is for me, many times the interactions between the characters and the dialogue's progression felt slightly off and unnatural.

I was tempted to dnf more than once at the beginning, but in the second half it picked up a little and I felt compelled to keep reading.

Despite the many things that didn't work for me, I still read the whole book in little more than a day, and a fairly busy day at that, so for now the rating gets rounded up just for entertainment value. I'll see if I change my mind later and bring it down to 2 stars, but either way I don't think I'll pick the next book up.

Annika says

Audiobook review

I have a weakness for psychic stories, so I jumped at the chance to listen to this book, and I had a great time doing it.

Liam Baker was living day to day, still mourning the death of his lover not quite a year earlier. The only think keeping him sane was helping his friend and LA homicide detective Kimball Thompson solving murders and putting the guilty behind bars.

Thompson is running on empty. The latest murders are headscratchers to say the least, and with few, if any, leads to go on things are looking pretty grim to catch the killer before he strikes again. When he targets Liam, Thompson is racing against the clock to find the killer before it's too late.

I wish this book was longer, but probably not for the reason that you first might think. It wasn't that I just loved it so much that I couldn't get enough, it's because I was left with this unfinished feeling, left with questions I still want answers to. Not in the form of a cliffhanger or anything, just explanations that never really came. I also felt like the past wasn't explained either, we never really know what happened to William, but maybe that will have a more presence in the next book?

The mystery aspect was both interesting and a bit of a letdown. I loved the aspect of it, the number five and the pink feathers was great details, but I also wanted the mystery to have more of a presence. I wanted to *feel* the suspense, the horror of it all. I wanted to be there. As it was, it felt like a lot of stuff was glossed over, and never realized to its full potential.

Kale Williams did a wonderful job narrating this book, He kept me fully engaged throughout the book and made it a pleasure to listen to him. It was everything I want from a narrator – different voices for the different characters, but more importantly, Williams narrated with *feeling*. There was no monotone narration of the words near this book, and I for none will keep a lookout for more of his narrations in the future.

Shadow's Edge was a promising start to a new series and it kept me interested enough that I will look for the next book in the series so see what other adventures these two might find.

Story: ? ? ?

Narration: ? ? ? ? ½

A copy of this book was generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review

Meep says

I really enjoyed reading this, it kept me absorbed throughout.

The mystery plot is pretty standard for this genre and to be honest it didn't hold my attention. Victims were too nameless, reactions too muted to make me care or shiver. I'm not sure the point of all the clues was even explained. In fact the show-down made me laugh, it got silly rather than dramatic, when the evil-villain shouted 'Stop right there' my reaction was to sing the answering Meatloaf lyrics. Which okay probably says more about my music tastes than the book. I could have done with some clarity on Liam's official role, if he's advising or himself detecting. The murders though were interesting backdrop rather than the driving force of the story.

The emotion is all in the romantic entanglement which is twisty and interesting. Eight months does seem to be m/m-rom-world limit for bereavement though, what's with that? It's no time at all for a loss especially such a close one, that did itch at me. But the characters interested me. I enjoyed the tension between characters as they both danced around their feelings. Thompson making the effort to move on from his feelings and Liam starting to heal and to see him as a man. There's some deep emotion and I wanted to get to know these characters more.

My review keeps angling towards negative, but overall I enjoy this book and look forward to the next one to

see more of these characters. Hopefully the psychic angle will be further explored, there's enough here for an interesting start to a the series. A little more effort into the mystery side of things and this one would have been an easy five stars.

BUT a big NIGGLE - Detective Thompson's first name. If you have the ebook search for it! Surprised no-one else has commented because seriously I did it on both kindles to be sure - he's named in the blurb as Kimball, but NOT ONCE in the book. Even during/after sex, even through declarations, he remains 'Thompson'. That is very odd.

David says

I've been reading S.C. Wynne's books since her first release and she just keeps getting better and better. Shadow's Edge was a fun, thrilling ride, with well-developed characters, suspense, the mysterious, and mystery. I will avoid spoilers but what I can say is that I enjoyed this book from the first page to the last and it now ranks in the top tier of my ever-growing S.C. Wynne collection. I cannot wait to read her release in this series, as it is a natural for series fiction.

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

3.5 stars - Liam is a psychic who is contacted by spirits who were murdered. After almost nine months, he is still grieving the death of his partner/lover, William. William and Thompson were detective partners, and while Thompson still mourns the loss, he is ready to move on. He has been enlisting the help of Liam, both as a means to help Liam move on, as well as to help solve the recent murders of an apparent serial killer. The victims contact Liam, or he is able to contact them at the scenes, but it is a small window of opportunity and understanding their messages and figuring out clues is a bit tricky.

This story is about the murders of the young gay men and Liam's psychic abilities, but it is also about Thompson trying to get Liam to move on. Thompson has harbored feelings for Liam for quite some time, even back from when Liam was with William, but he eventually gives up hope where Liam is concerned and decides to move on. This is finally the spark that Liam needs to start living again and opens his eyes to the connection they have.

I took to Liam right away. We got to see glimpses of the man he was before William died, and it was clear to see his life was turned upside down by his passing. I don't recall ever finding out what actually happened to William and while I guess it isn't important, I kept thinking we would find out. But life goes on, and there was plenty of other stuff to grab my attention. Trying to figure out the mystery of the killer and what the clues meant was interesting, but again, I don't recall if we ever found out the point of the pink feathers.

In the end, Liam and Thompson made a good team, and I liked them together. I loved learning about Liam's abilities, how he was able to see or hear things differently at different times, flashes of things that happened that he only got one shot at seeing before they vanished, etc. This was a fairly quick read that kept my attention to the end. I am definitely looking forward to reading more of this series and am interested to see what case needs solving next.

Review written for Love Bytes Reviews.

Ami says

[Was William ... Thompson's partner in the PD (I never got the confirmation)? How did William (Liam's ex) died? How did Liam got involved with Thompson in the first place? What was really the motive of the villain?? He just *rambled* on about Samhain but I never got the clear reasons. How did he pick the victims? How did he pick the poems? (hide sp

Sara says

I woke up this morning with Liam and Thompson on my mind. If that doesn't tell you how I felt about this book before you read another word of my review... know that.

What do you get when you take a grieving psychic who the dead talk to and one gruff police detective who has unrequited feelings for said psychic and have them work a case that could cost them their lives? You get one hell of a romantic mystery that I adored.

Nine months ago, Liam Baker lost the love of his life William and in that time, he's not been the same. Liam has tried to take his life and if it weren't for William's friend, Detective Kimball Thompson there to save and take care of Liam, Liam wouldn't be living at all. Literally.

I liked that Liam and Thompson have a shared history before the story begins. I didn't need to see them meet or have their first awkward moments, I liked them being comfortable as work partners and as friends given the circumstances. As the story is told through Liam's POV, we get how he sees his life and how he sees Thompson, a bit confusing but also the rock that grounds him when he'd rather fly away from the pain of losing William.

I dug Liam and his psychic ability. I've always liked books, movies or TV shows that use a psychic to aid law enforcement to find killers and this is just another I have added to the my list. I have to say, I dug that it took place in California and maybe close to where I am. Giving distance with time instead of miles is such a California thing to do and the mention of the desert so close to Los Angeles has me doing my own distance calculations.

Perhaps good things really did come in packages you'd never expect. Maybe sometimes, those packages were steadfast rumpled men with orange auras so bright they hurt your eyes.

I loved Thompson. OMG he was amazing with how he took care of Liam and you felt how much he was in love with him from the first time Liam says Thompson rescued him after William died. I wanted nothing more than Thompson to be happy but the UST between these two was killing me. Goodness, yeah thank goodness for love triangles and men that make Liam wake up and take notice of what is right in front of him.

And yet I get Liam. There is no time stamp on grief and how long it takes one to get over losing a loved one.

Though we never get details of how William died, one can deduct it was in the line of duty since Thompson is a cop and that's how he knew William. You don't need to know much about William in this story other than he brought Liam and Thompson together and how much they both feel his loss.

New to me narrator Kale Williams did an amazing job bringing the story to life. Each character was distinctive even down to the odd accent that had my weird brain thinking of an Eddie Izzard skit about a voice box being stuck on demonstration. Williams gave the story the intensity, intimacy and mystery it needed to fly off the page and straight to my ears making my day at work doing a boring report so very worth it.

I love UST and it was given in major doses in this. Yeah. The tension and heat coming off of Thompson was stunning and once Liam opens his eyes, he got all petty and jealous which was so much fun to see.

The mystery of the serial killer with the clues left and then the twist that comes about was done well. It amped the story up another level and kept me on my toes. The killer was cryptic with his messages and while it was awful to see the murders or the murderer showing Liam what they wanted him to see, it was necessary. I only have two minor things that made me pause while reading. One was the reasoning of the murders. It was weird since none of the clues alluded to the pagan holiday but again, small niggle that didn't take away from the story at all. The other was Thompson's name. I get law enforcement and military use last names or even shortened last names instead of someone's given name. My father was named William but called Robbie because his last name was Robertson. But... Thompson never becomes Kimball even after the men are intimate. I guess I was waiting for that moment, for Liam to drop the formality and use Thompson's name. But again, nothing that took away from the story, just something my brain latched on to.

I am so happy that this is a series and that book two is already out. Though I listened to this one, I am not sure I can wait for the audio to get more of Liam and Thompson.

Riayl says

Cops and psychics, one of my favorite pairings and this didn't disappoint. I can't wait to read more!

***~*~*Hyperion & Interabang*~*~* says**

Review to come ...

I couldn't put this down, I was certainly fascinated, but the rating is what it is for a reason. I'll explain ...

Really enjoying this so far and am super glad I decided to give it a try :-))! May the book fulfill its awesome promise!

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Price drop to \$0.99 right now at Amazon US, 3/29/18

V says

Audiobook

I don't think it was worth my money.

Rachel Emily says

This was a great blend of cop thriller/mystery, some paranormal thrown in, and romance. I liked the whole conflict/plot of the serial killer and the mystery behind all of that, and I liked how Thompson and Liam worked together, along with figuring things out about each other at the same time.

When I first started reading I honestly felt like I had come into the story missing like a prequel or something, but I was able to catch on to what had happened to Liam in the past. His boyfriend, William, died (although I don't think we ever know how, right?) and Liam tried to kill himself from the grief. Thompson, who worked with William at the police department, saved Liam and has since been recruiting him to help on cases where Liam's psychic abilities would help.

Since this is all written in Liam's POV, we never really know Thompson's thoughts. We find out his feelings for Liam go much deeper than just friendship, but are never quite sure for how long he's had those feelings (although I imagine it was when William was still alive) and I wish we had gotten a bit more from Thompson, like chapters from his POV.

Overall, I really enjoyed this story. I thought it was fast-paced, but not too fast, and like I said, I enjoyed the blend romance mixed in with the main story. I'm glad that the next book is picking up with Liam and Thompson again - I always love sequels with the same couple so we can see how their relationship grows and develops.

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Jax says

This was an awkward blending of police work and romance. The non-psychic part of the investigation wasn't very detailed or realistic. I'm not sure a lead detective on a serial murder case would take the time to go on a blind date. Likewise, the budding feelings between the MCs came off as a little silly in the face of what they were dealing with. It felt very high school. And naturally the finale relies on one of them doing something stupid. Crime/mystery books are my thing so this was a miss for me.
