



## In the Shadow of Satellites

*Amanda Dick*

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# In the Shadow of Satellites

*Amanda Dick*

**In the Shadow of Satellites** Amanda Dick

She fights to remember. He wishes he could forget.

It's 22 February 2011 and the city of Christchurch, New Zealand is bustling. Sian Bennett and her baby son are window-shopping, waiting patiently to join her husband for lunch after his business meeting.

Then the ground begins to shake and the life she had is gone. Buried beneath the rubble in the aftermath of the 6.3 magnitude earthquake, Sian survives - barely - but her husband and son do not.

Two years on, struggling with short-term memory loss and crippling social anxiety, Sian retreats to a lakeside cottage in Rotorua. There, among the ghosts of her family, is the only place she feels safe.

When enigmatic American soldier Luke Lancaster moves into the derelict cottage beyond the trees, he respects his reclusive neighbour's silent plea for privacy. Wrestling with ghosts of his own, he keeps himself busy by renovating his cottage and staying out of her way.

Two strangers from opposite sides of the world. One secret that will either bind them together or tear them apart.

How far would you go to hold on to the ones you love?

*In the Shadow of Satellites* is Amanda Dick's latest searing novel about love, loss and the strength of the human spirit.

## In the Shadow of Satellites Details

Date : Published May 23rd 2018 (first published August 19th 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Amanda Dick

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Romance

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# From Reader Review In the Shadow of Satellites for online ebook

## Amber Gragg says

Do you read by the lake??? If so read this book when you can be sitting out by the lake and can enjoy it!! I know when I read it again it's going to be on my camping trip!

Amazing!!! Absolutely love this story!! So many emotions!! I couldn't have been happier with how this book made me feel while reading it!! I could actually feel all the feelings the main character was feeling!!! It's put together so well!! It's definitely a story you want to read!!!

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## Becky Cox says

In the Shadow of Satellites caught me a bit by surprise. This is my first Amanda Dick read and let me tell you this is a talented lady! This story is very well written and pulls you into the grief Sian lives. My heart felt heavy with her burden.

Sian's residual physical effects from the tragedy rang true for me. I experienced her frustration, confusion and the grief. Lord the crippling grief.

Luke, with burdens of his own, is such a great guy. Yes, he is handsome, but I don't really think that matters. His patience and counsel were beautiful to read. Truly loved me some Luke.

I don't usually comment on a pet in a story, but Geezer is a strong supporting character in this book and I felt he deserved a mention. Geezer gave Sian support as only a beloved dog can do.

**I'm less broken, less damaged. I'm mending."**

Amanda tore me down, but slowly put me back together. In the Shadow of Satellites I would recommend to anyone looking for a heartbreaking beautiful story of love and rebirth.

Reviewed for Becky by Jo&IsaLoveBooks

<http://joandisalovebooks.com/>

<http://joandisalovebooks.blogspot.co.uk/>

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## Giedre says

*I died once. We all did, all three of us. The only difference is I came back.*

*I didn't get a choice.*

Beautifully written. The portrayal of grief and trauma was done really well. That said, the romance didn't really work for me, for the most part. Specifically because of the speed it developed at. The grief was so overwhelming that it called for a much slower pace. Still, an author I'll definitely go back to.

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## **KathyAnne says**

"Not all those who wander are lost." ~~ J.R.R. Tolkien

First of all, I love this stunning book cover. Just beautiful... but, I love the color purple so I guess I may be a little biased. And, the blurb does a pretty good job of laying out what you will be getting in this story. In fact, I knew when I read the opening line of this newest release by Amanda Dick that I was in for another amazing journey! Each time I open a book by this author I know that I am in for something new and original and I also know that my emotions are getting ready to be pummeled. But, that's okay... I love a good emotional roller coaster ride AND especially so when by the end of the ride I can look back and see that all of the bumps, twists and turns were worth the trouble.

Sian is a woman who is haunted by ghosts from her past. She is coping with an unimaginable loss and lives in isolation. Luke is also haunted by his past, and on the outside looking in you would think that he is also lost. But, as the story progressed I realized that Luke wasn't lost at all. He was exactly where he wanted to be. Luke and Sian reminded me of a giant jigsaw puzzle. They were two pieces that fit perfectly together. But, first they had to sort through the many, many other pieces of the puzzle before they finally found where they fit and belonged. Together, they were able to make sense of the experiences and loss they had endured. Together they helped complete the puzzle and finally feel whole again.

My favorite character in the book was definitely Geezer the dog. Yes, I am a sucker for adorable, pushy and sneaky animals. They do bring life into our lives don't they? And, sometimes a little bit of trouble. Geezer was indeed a catalyst for helping bring Sian and Luke together. Dogs have a way of leading you down paths you wouldn't usually wander. They are quite often smarter than us humans when it comes to finding where we belong. :)

I also loved how this book takes us not only on the journey of loss in regards to Sian, but also how that loss caused a rippling affect to those around Sian. Her friends Ana and Chris were struggling right along with her and I loved how they rallied behind her and allowed her to deal with the ghosts from her past in her own way. Truly amazing friends and a reminder of how important it is to be present for those you love know matter how hard life throws the punches.

The writing in this story is beautiful! Amanda always makes me "feel" and think about life from a different perspective. This book made me think about how difficult it is to cope with loss and how even harder it must be to be re-build your life even when it seems impossible. It's about loss, fear and grief but also about trust, friendship and courage. It takes courage to move forward from a past that haunts you every step of the way. And, it takes trust to allow someone to help you along. This is what Sian and Luke did for each other. This was an amazingly written story in a beautiful setting that left me with a sense of hope by the end. A reminder that even though doors are constantly being closed or slammed or even obliterated, there are always more to be opened if we just take a chance.

I would highly recommend this to those who love to indulge in women's fiction that also has a healthy dose of romance. The meat of this story lies in the healing that takes place on Sian's journey back to living in the present and putting away the ghosts that haunt her. The strong feelings that develop between Sian and Luke are the side dishes that just make the whole meal come together.

Another well written story that hit me straight in the heart!

5 ++ stars!! And, definitely going on my top favorites shelf... :)

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## **Chitra says**

5++ STARS!!!

There are many good books out there, but not many great books. In the Shadow of Satellites is a great book. One that will stay with me. Amanda wrote this story so beautifully.

Sian Bennett is a New Zealander who lost her husband and son in the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, and Luke Lancaster is an American who moved to NZ and has demons of his own. This is a story about two broken souls who had experience lost and then find love in each other. It is a story that will grip you from the very first page, that you can't stop until you finish.

I wish I could give more than 5 stars. This is one emotional read that will be released on August 22. It's a 2016 must read, it's on my top favorite list this year. I promise you won't regret reading it. ♥

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## **Sky says**

Amanda Dick has my heartstrings in her hands yet again, and what a beautiful tune it is! Amanda has created another beautiful story that will leave a long-lasting impression in your heart. I love how she takes on real-world struggles and heartbreaks, and turns them into a story that fills you with hope and warms your heart. In The Shadow of Satellites brings to you the characters Sian, Luke and his dog Geezer. Sian lost her husband and her baby son when an earthquake devastated Christchurch, New Zealand in 2011. Memories haunt her despite her memory relapses; she feels them, hears them and can't seem to find the will to cope and heal with the losses.

Luke is running from his own demons, too. His tours in the Iraq War shook him up and eat him up alive at times. Moving to New Zealand was his idea of getting away from all that he lost.

Luke and Sian's meeting was surely destined, like two guardian angel's colliding, both helping each other learn to move on and take back their life.

Another one of my favorite things about Amanda Dick books is the prose and pace of the books. After a long, hard day, her words are like a breath of fresh air, tranquil, warm and inviting. She really knows how to set a scene!

I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves a slow-budding relationship, wants to take a short, mental trip to New Zealand, and is always on the lookout for an inspiring story.

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•Cici• Theory of A Dreamer Book Blog♥ says

*\*I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review\**

**Thank you so very much Ms.Dick for sending me a copy of In the Shadow of Satellites!! You made my week!! I am beyond honored and grateful!! :D**

After reading this story I wish I could give you a hug but hopefully this Gif will suffice. :D

**5 Moving Forward is easier said than done Stars!!**

This was my first time reading Ms.Dick's work and i absolutely fell in love with this story!! In the Shadow of Satellites is thought provoking and shows the horrifying reality of losing someone you love. Loss isn't an easy subject to read about at least for me it isn't but Amanda wrote about it in a remarkable way that I've never seen before in a book. This story is extremely unique, heartbreaking, beautiful, raw, and a real Eye-opener. I felt every single emotion pouring from the pages and my heart ached right along with the main characters. Memories are something I treasure dearly and I really enjoyed that it focused on those. Also, I loved that it took place in New Zealand!!

*Ms.Dick touched my heart and broke it at the same time. I'm definitely checking out the rest of her work as soon as possible!! I could kick myself for not having picked up her books sooner. :)*

Sian Bennett was a character who lost her whole world on a tragic day in 2011. After everything that happened she had to start life over again but not really living. Her mind was a terrible place to be lost in

when she was alone. The past and present collided for her daily. What she went through broke my heart and I wished that I could have taken her pain away. I loved her friendship with Ana and Chris!! I hoped in the end she would be able to find the happiness she deserved and move forward without guilt.

Luke Lancaster was a character who knew loss all too well. Leaving North Carolina was the fresh start he needed but he never thought he'd meet a kindred spirit in the form of a woman who said everything without having to speak a word. When he first appears in story I couldn't help but want to learn more about him with every turn of the page. He was such a sweetheart and in my opinion one great hero. I loved his dog Geezer with all of my heart!! In the end I hoped he wouldn't give up on Sian and I'd find out what he went through.

***This is the story of two people who know what it means to just exist and feel numb. It shows how others can take parts of us with them when they leave. Most importantly it shows how we all have the strength to move forward even when it doesn't seem possible.***

I highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a read that's deep yet has a light side in the form of hope. It's one that many can relate to in the sense that we've all lost someone we love and the how emotions can be so very overpowering at times that it's difficult to even breathe at times. If you pick up a book in 2016 make sure that it's this one. You won't regret picking it up!! One-Click it today!! I hope you love it!! 5 Stars all around!! :)

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### **Beauté De Livres (Vivian Freeman) says**

Amanda Dick writes about real life; real heartache and hard earned happiness. A fan of her previous work and familiar with her writing style, I am slowly starting to prepare myself accordingly before reading each new novel that is published. In the *Shadows of Satellites* is no different. Proving that preparation is welcomed and needed, this story will once again highlight the magnificent writing skills of Amanda Dick and put you in a position of both heartfelt empathy and unexpected relief.

In the *Shadows of Satellites* touches on topics that Amanda's writing has broached before. Dealing with loss, fear and anxiety, this emotionally fuelled journey allows the main characters to share in their individual flaws, insecurities and their determination for growth. Using the 2011 Christchurch Earthquakes as the basis of this story, Amanda Dick gives her heroine the prominent voice of the story. Hoping to share the daily struggle of many people affected by loss and hardship through natural disasters, Dick successfully brings to life the lives of many through Sian Bennett and Luke Lancaster.

As both Sian and Luke individually seek solace in different ways, their solitude and struggle is what brings them together. From the depths of despair, hopelessness and bleakness, Amanda Dick opens the hearts and souls of her characters in order to show readers the powerful and remarkable impact of human resilience and strength. Once again executing a moving and poignant story, Amanda Dick solidifies her stance as an author who understands matters of the body, mind and soul. Showing repeatedly, that she excels in showing how the sun can shine on a rainy day.

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### **Judy Nickless says**

I love that I can start reading an Amanda Dick novel and know that I will feel a connection with her characters. They just seem so real and relevant that it is easy to be immersed in their story straight up. Sian and Luke are broken souls with heartbreaking pasts and it is fate that sees them cross paths. I also loved the feeling of isolation and solitude in the setting of this book which I think made this a haunting but beautiful story.  
5 stars again Amanda !

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### **Sherralynne Dewhirst says**

I really loved reading this latest book of Amanda's. A story of love and loss, Amanda draws on real life incidents that shape Sian and Luke and temporarily stops their lives. Being a New Zealander, like Amanda, the locations are familiar and this enables me to create the images that Amanda creates. Amanda is one of the few authors that can create these images for me and I really believe that it is one of her strengths. This is Amanda's fifth book and I am looking forward to reading more of her creations in the future. A definite must read.

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### **Sandi says**

I loved this story. Amanda Dick has a way of writing that makes you feel like you can really see the locations. The way she describes everything makes it easy to imagine what everything looks like. After reading her books I really would like to visit New Zealand. This story is about Sian and Luke who both escape mainstream society to try and recover from some past tragedies. I loved these characters and could really feel their pain. This is one of those stories you don't want to put down until the end. It is not like a lot of the typical books that are out there right now, that is one of the things I really love about Amanda Dicks books. I know when I read them, it will be unique and well written. She is one of my go to authors, I will read whatever she writes because I know it will make feel, I will cry, laugh and be happy along with the characters.

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### **Philomena Callan Cheekypee says**

.....And breathe. I finished this last night just before I fell asleep. Once I woke up this morning I am still thinking about this beautiful well written story that I truly enjoyed.

Sian Bennett and Luke Lancaster are two people who are struggling with their past. They are so broken they struggle each day to just survive that day. Sian hides from everyone and everything at her families lakeside cottage. She has seen her new neighbour Luke at a distance and likes to keep it that way. That is until her friend intervenes. Are they too broken to let anyone break down their walls?

Amanda Dick has a fantastic way of telling a story. Like her previous books she can capture my attention



and pull on so many of my emotions without me realising it.

I read this in one sitting as I really couldn't put it down. It's heartfelt but not angst you which is what I wanted.

I have no qualms about reading any more books this author writes. I highly recommend this story.

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## **Jenny - TotallybookedBlog says**

***“I don’t know how you feel. No one does but you. That’s all yours, just like what happened to me is all mine. But I know what it feels like to try so hard to keep it together when you’re really falling apart.”***

This is our second book by Amanda Dick and once again, we found ourselves moved implicitly by her words. In *The Shadow Of Satellites* is an emotional story of love, loss and hope, and it’s a story we felt with every ounce of our hearts.

You know you’re on a good thing when you realise you’ve highlighted an author’s stunning words from the very first page. When you’re instantly gripped into a story that hits your heart so readily you find an instant connection to the characters and ache for their welfare, there’s no greater feeling.

**‘They’re together. I’m not with them, but at least they’re together. It’s a small comfort, but it’s all I have.’**

Sian Bennett has known profound loss. An earthquake claimed the lives of her beloved husband James, and their treasured son, leaving Sian to grieve their loss every day. Not only that, but Sian had the added pain of missing a chance to say goodbye, having life go on around her whilst she lay in a coma for five months, waking up to find her life had irrevocably and devastatingly changed forever.

**I died once. We all did, all three of us. The only difference is I came back. I didn’t get a choice.’**

Two years later, twenty seven year old Sian is living an isolated existence, spending her days reliving her memories. With the exception of weekend visits from her best friend Ana, Sian spends her days on her own, locked in her grief. It’s thanks to the strength, love, loyalty and determination of Ana, that Sian is able to exist in the present. Although still preferring to stay in the past, Sian manages to get through one day at a time, knowing she needs to move on but if living in the present means leaving her treasured memories behind....she just can’t do it.

**‘A scar is a reminder of something that once hurt you. What do you call that which continues to do so, long after the physical evidence has healed?’**

On one of Ana’s visits they meet Sian’s neighbour Luke Lancaster. Luke, an American, also prefers the solitude the island in New Zealand provides for him, as he too has suffered loss, carrying the pain and burden of his time in the army on active duty. A friendship develops and a lot of honesty and willingness to trust is shared between Luke and Sian as love blossoms and takes hold.

**‘I wake with the sun and go to sleep with the moon, but the in-between is what’s killing me.’**

Despite his own pain and loss, Luke was so intuitive to Sian's feelings, he understood her and in doing offered the glimpse of happiness Sian so desperately sought. The pull between them was powerful, it tender, moving, sad and so astonishingly beautiful.

**'The air of vulnerability that I rarely see surrounding him is suddenly neon. He battles demons just like I do, only he does it silently.'**

Amanda Dick has written a beautifully emotion driven story, a true meeting of damaged hearts. Her words elicited such alluring vision and heartfelt sentiment, hitting every piece of our hearts. She vividly describes her scenes yet never allows over descriptiveness to overpower her story. The atmospheric feel of her setting was breathtaking; we were there, in that little cottage with Sian and Luke, living and breathing their story, putting our hearts on the line right along with them.

A stunning slow burn romance, a potent and beautiful story brought to life with meticulous detail and whilst there was an insurmountable sadness throughout the story, it never felt draining because at the crux was a story where we experienced the complexities of healing, the strength of the human spirit and the power of the heart to love again. A definite recommendation from us!

**'I can't forget, because I don't want to forget. Forgetting is what scares me. Remembering is everything.'**

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**Bianca says**

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Once again, Amanda Dick's amazing talent shines with her brilliant execution of a moving story about loss, but most of all love and hope. None of her stories are ever the same. Her stories tend to be in a league of their own, and In The Shadow Of Satellites is no different.

Sian is consumed with her loss. She isn't living. Simply existing. Her past follows her everyday. She is haunted. Luke also has ghosts of the pasts, ones that he's tried to escape by moving away to a place where he never expects to find himself again. Sian and Luke both battle demons that make life unbearable at times. They exist in a world so dark. So when they meet it's as if their souls slowly exhale. Overtime, their hearts aren't so heavy, their chests feel lighter and their souls seek hope and new possibilities.

**"I'm less broken, less damaged. I'm mending."**

Sian and Luke. It's as if things made sense when they came together. They simply fit. Due to past circumstances, they are both left shattered. In pieces. How do you even begin to move on? And live again? But fate aligns them to exist in the same place at the same time. And with time? Those broken and jagged pieces slowly heal. They aren't as sharp and painful. They become whole. But the heart is complicated. When life tears you back down, can someone truly build you back up again? The author is very meticulous and highly skilled on her execution of this story. Their love is burdened, but their love is also powerful. Beautiful. Overwhelming. Consuming. But most of all, their love heals.

The writing in this story left me breathless. Every word of this book is truly a gift. With her mesmerizing prose and thought provoking storyline, the author truly crafts a compelling and enthralling story full of powerful words. She masterfully tackles the sadness of loss and heartbreak, while balancing the promise of love and hopefulness. Not many authors can do this. They go from dark to light, while Amanda keeps you in the dark while knowing there is always light in darkness. This was definitely a thought provoking read.

In *The Shadow Of Satellites* is a heartbreaking yet heartfelt and inspiring story. You feel the weight of this story while still believing in love and hope. How love forgives. Love saves. Their souls once captured by darkness are now free. Free to love. And free to live.

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