



## Shadows of Deceit

*Mell Corcoran*

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## **Shadows of Deceit** Mell Corcoran

Three bodies. No clues. No heads.

It takes more than a near-death experience to keep Detective Lou Donovan off the job. Three decapitated bodies are discovered in the empty house of a high-profile Colombian coffee mogul putting a drug cartel at the top of the suspect list. Or is that the perpetrator's intent?

Lou and her team find themselves dancing on the edge of an international incident where every twist and turn uncovers a tangled web of murderous lies. When the absence of evidence is their strongest lead, Lou must find a way to solve the case while navigating a minefield that threatens to expose the people she has come to love.

A unique mix of mystery, crime and a touch of romance, *Shadows of Deceit* will have readers anxiously turning the pages to discover the truth behind the endless maze of bloodlust and greed. "*Shadows of Deceit*" is the second installment in the thrilling "Series of Shadows."

## **Shadows of Deceit Details**

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Author : Mell Corcoran

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# From Reader Review Shadows of Deceit for online ebook

## Lenissa Davis says

I absolutely loved this book! I admit I didn't read the first in the series, I didn't know there was a first book. I loved how detailed the book was, it had me wanting more and I could hardly put the book down. The romance wasn't the main focus and for me, I loved that. It had me on the edge of my seat and I kept telling myself once I finished this chapter I'm going straight to bed, but then I end up reading two more.

The reason this is not a five star for me is because there were a few things that was different than what was stated before. I was a bit confused, I don't want to give it away, but it's in the beginning, you just have to remember it when you read further into the book.

That's all I had the problem with, besides that I loved it and I can't wait to read the next in the series, and I will be getting the first book in this series. I would highly recommend this book to anyone of my friends.

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## Quillracer says

I won this book through Goodreads. Free books are always good, right? Not in this case.

The prolog had no real bearing on story except in a very general way, reading more like the author expressing her take on big business that setting the stage.

I had a hard time buying the supra-national organization with unlimited resources and power assisting Lou Donovan. I had a harder time buying that members of this organization (Sanguinostri) all seemed to have beyond normal abilities or talents – aging slower but healing faster than normal people, able to regenerate body parts, supremely intelligent and rich, and superpowers like mind reading and mind control. I also never got a clear handle on whether Lou was or wasn't a member of the Sanguinostri. She had a title and leadership position in the organization yet still had to undergo something called a 'turning' to be a member. Since this is the second novel in the series, perhaps Corcoran explained this more thoroughly in the first one. That left those of us who haven't read it at a bit of a loss.

Lou is constantly caught off-guard by people walking up to her. That is *not* realistic. Cops are always hyper-aware of what is going on around them.

Because Corcoran writes from an omniscient POV, every scene is rife with 'head-hopping' as she reveals each character's thoughts. This kept me distant from all the characters, making it hard for me to connect with any of them. I never felt as if I was in a character's head, experiencing what he or she experienced, but was watching it all from the outside.

The climax comes almost 50 pages before the end of the book – too soon – and isn't much of a climax at all. There's no real tension in it and it's over too fast and too neat. Everything after that is wrap-up and it goes on too long.

Corcoran's writing style seems to hover around the middle grade/teen level which made the story read somewhat 'childish' at times. The book is rife with, capitalization flubs, words out of order, punctuation

errors, missing words, and wrong words. When someone is affected by something, Ms. Corcoran, they are *fazed* not *phased*. Awkward sentences that require two, three, and sometimes four readings to understand are everywhere. And the odd spacing on many pages says whoever printed it, did it directly from a Word document with 'Widows and Orphans Control' still turned on.

The only plus in this book is some (but not enough) of the dialog between characters rings true. The easy, teasing banter between friends and the cop to witness question and answer exchanges are on the money.

The basic plot line – three men found beheaded in a house stripped of everything that wasn't nailed down leading Lou to heroin and blood (yes, blood) smuggling cartels – was strong enough to stand on its own and would have made a terrific story without the 'woo-woo' element, with Lou and her police cohorts solving the crime on their own instead of through supra-natural resources no normal police detective has. A thorough proofreading would have helped, too.

So why, if I found so much wrong with this book, did I keep on reading it? Like watching a car crash happen to see how bad it gets, I read on to see how far out there Corcoran went. The answer: far enough that the story ceased to be a true mystery.

If you like your mysteries realistic, this isn't the book for you.

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### **Sara Bouzaglo says**

Another Page turner!! It was a wild ride with so many twists and turns and it kept me wanting more at the end of each chapter. I loved the suspense, and the crime but I was more interested in the love story I must admit. Very thoughtfully written and so much attention to detail. Bravo!

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### **Jaclyn says**

After reading Shadow of Doubt I was ready to delve back into Lou's world and find out more about the Sanguinostri. Lou's character is great but I felt like she was lacking in this book. She was so strong in the first one that I expected her to grow and I didn't really see it. And when she did step up to the plate it was a very small portion. The mystery was great and I felt it was a great story but felt like there were too many characters to keep track of. I put the book down to study for class and when I came back to it I couldn't remember who was who in regards to the mystery. Also what happened to CAROLINE?! She disappeared for most of the book. I LOVED her!! Caroline is suppose to be Lou's best friend but she never shows up! I mean come on!! There were some pretty important moments and she should have been included. I was upset that she was dropped so suddenly. Also the relationship between Max and Lou also disappeared. I guess I was suspecting something to happen, she barely sees him. We didn't get the chance to be inside of Max's head as much as the first one. We got to see inside of Niko's which was a nice surprise but again, too many POVs in one chapter.

Could use some extra editing, some sentences were off and words were capitalized that weren't suppose to be. Lou's life seems to be perfect with no conflict whatsoever. I feel too perfect. Lou never gets angry and when she does, someone tells her about how good her life is and she feels better within a minute.

Overall, this was a good mystery but the characters don't seem to be developing and some conversations are just too perfect with no conflict. I would recommend reading this if you have the time, but the first one was the best.

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### **Jessica Bronder says**

Lou is out recovering. In the meantime, Vinny is getting ready to work a desk job since his wife is expecting a baby. But he is not going to let just anyone work with Lou. No one seems like a match until he Dillion walks in. Vinny takes Dillion to a triple homicide where the bodies are found in a mansion. When Lou hears about the murders and the lack of clues she jumps in. Using her role as Principate for the Sanguinostri, Lou looks into the murders. Are they really part of the Columbian drug cartel or is there more to this case?

Lou can't help but run toward a mysterious murder that seems to have a serious lack of clues. Being Principate she uses that role to help fill in the cracks of this case. Dillion seems way to perfect for the role I kept waiting for the other shoe to drop. Of course there is a chance for romance between Lou and Dillion but I'm glad that was not really part of the story. I think it would have taken away from it.

This is the second book in the series. Although you can read this I recommend checking out Shadows of Doubt first. That way you have more background. This is another great story from Mell Corcoran. I'm really excited to see what is going to happen in the next book, Shadows May Fall.

I received Shadows of Doubt from Mill City Press and Hillcrest Media Group in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Kerry says**

Another winner from this author! A thrilling mystery! Can hardly wait for the next in the "Shadows" series.

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### **Katie says**

Shadows of Deceit follows Lou Donovan as she begins to learn how to balance her job as a detective with the responsibilities of her new, secret life as a member of a secret Sanguinostri (vampire) society. I really liked that she is still trying to figure out things, but there is still a solid new crime storyline to give the story a lot of intrigue. I also really liked that Lou and Max's relationship is still up in the air; I was afraid that they would just get together after the last book, even though they don't really know each other well, but the author takes time to develop their relationship in a more believable way. The only thing that was a little odd was that some of the vampires' extra super powers sometimes felt a little out of no where and not developed, but with how much the author is building the world of the Sanguinostri I have faith that it will be more integrated and fleshed out as the series goes forward. Everything else was just as great as the first book, and I look forward to seeing what Lou has to tackle next!

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## **Colleen Estep says**

Detective Tallulah Louelle Donovan "Lou" is a hard-assed homicide detective for the LA County Sheriff's Department, born to her job. Lou's Dad was killed in the line of duty when she was only two. She has a few quirks...as her partner Vince knows very well, because he is also her best friend. Mornings are a tough go for her so Vince picks her up and does the morning driving until the java kicks in and her adrenalin makes her her usual kick ass self.

While she is at home recuperating from a run in with a serial killer who almost took her out, Vince takes the lieutenant exam, his wife is due soon and he know he needs to be out of the field. The problem is finding a partner for Lou, the right partner. So far there have been seven applicants and none a fit. Just when he is called out to the field for three headless corpses, found in a mansion, in walks number eight. Vince takes him with him and Dillon Cole is to good to be true. Tall, good looking, and polite and calm, the perfect fit to partner with Lou. The case is enough to get Lou back on the job and with her new partner they find themselves in the middle of the Columbian drug cartel.

This was my first Mell Corcoran novel and I loved it, it is the second in the series but just a great read.(I have ordered the first and looking forward to the next). Many thanks to the author and Goodreads for my copy.

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## **Kasey Himmel says**

Thrilling and full of suspense, leaves you wanting more!

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## **Amanda Bishop says**

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

This book had a very interesting story line. I liked the premise, and it kept me engrossed in the book. The characters were well-developed as well and that always makes for an easier read for me.

All in all, this was a good book.

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## **Michelle McCormick says**

After reading Mell Corcoran's first book "Shadow of Doubt" I could not wait to get my hands on the next book in the series "Shadow of Deceit". The second book in the Series of Shadows did not disappoint and once again I could not put it down!!!

Again you are following homicide Detective and newly appointed Principate of the Saguinostri, Lou Donovan, as she recovers from a near death experience. As Lou recovers, her partner, Vinny DeLuca, is 'auditioning' new partners to take over for him when he becomes Lieutenant. The day he meets candidate number 8, Dillion, they are called to the scene of a triple homicide near Lou's parent's house and all three victims are missing their heads. Once Lou hears of the strange case, she rushes to get back on the job. Left with minimal evidence, Lou must use her new Principate role and the resources that come with it to discover the identities of the dead men and try and solve the case.

I loved it and couldn't put it down!!! I kept waiting for Max and Lou to finally just get together already but I

guess Corcoran is taken a more realistic timeline on their relationship and it just adds to the anticipation for the next book to come out!!

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### **Stephanie says**

Shadows of Deceit is even better than the first book! I really love all of the characters in this book series, everyone is believable and they interact in fun ways, but they are also able to get serious and do their jobs well. Corcoran creates characters with great depth that feel like real people. Corcoran is also very good at building the crime and mystery aspect of the story. It's a very well thought out plot that is exciting to read. I also like how the romance is slow building, which to me is more believable to read than people falling in love and being perfect together right off the bat. This is just a great book and I can't wait to read the next in the series!

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