



Taken at Dusk: A Shadow Falls Novel

By C. C. Hunter

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Step into author C.C. Hunter's spectacular Shadow Falls series with Taken at Dusk, and enter into the camp for teens with supernatural powers. Here friendship thrives, love takes you by surprise, and our hearts possess the greatest magic of all.

Kylie Galen wants the truth so badly she can taste it. The truth about who her real family is, the truth about which boy she's meant to be with—and the truth about what her emerging powers mean. But she's about to discover that some secrets can change your life forever...and not always for the better.

Just when she and Lucas are finally getting close, she learns that his pack has forbidden them from being together. Was it a mistake to pick him over Derek? And it's not just romance troubling Kylie. An amnesia-stricken ghost is haunting her, delivering the frightful warning, *someone lives and someone dies*. As Kylie races to unravel the mystery and protect those she loves, she finally unlocks the truth about her supernatural identity, which is far different—and more astonishing—than she ever imagined.

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Taken at Dusk: A Shadow Falls Novel By C. C. Hunter Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #46966 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-04-10
- Released on: 2012-04-10
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

“The Shadow Falls series belongs to my favorite YA series. It has everything I wish for in a YA paranormal series. A thrilling tale that moves with a great pace, where layers of secrets are revealed in a way that we are never bored. It continues a gripping story about self-discoveries, finding a place in the world, friendship, and love. So if you didn't start this series yet, I can only encourage you to do so.” *?Bewitched Bookworms on the Shadow Falls series*

“TAKEN AT DUSK starts off with action and never loses momentum. C.C. Hunter takes readers on a supernatural thrill ride, full of suspense, drama, laughter and intense emotions from page one all the way through the last page, ending in one of the biggest cliffhangers I've read.” *?Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews*

“Ms. Hunter handles this series with such deftness, crafting a wonderful tale that speaks to the adolescent in me. I highly recommend this series filled with darkness and light, hope and danger, friendship and romance.” *?Night Owl Reviews (Top Pick) on the Shadow Falls series*

“*Taken At Dusk* has even more drama and answers for Kylie. Jam-packed with action and romance from the very beginning, Hunter's lifelike characters and paranormal creatures populate a plot that will keep you guessing till the very end. A perfect mesh of mystery, thriller, and romance. Vampires, weres and fae, oh my!” *?Romantic Times*

“The evolving, not-always-easy relationships among Kylie and her cabin mates Della and Miranda are rendered as engagingly as Kylie's angst over dangerous Lucas and appealing Derek. Just enough plot threads are tied up to make a satisfying stand-alone tale while whetting appetites for sequels to come” *?Publishers Weekly on Born at Midnight*

“*Born at Midnight* is addicting. Kylie's journey of self-discovery and friendship is so full of honesty, it's impossible not to fall in love with her and Shadow Falls..and with two sexy males vying for her attention, the romance is scorching. *Born at Midnight* has me begging for more, and I love, love, love it!” *?Verb Vixen on Born at Midnight*

“There are so many books in the young adult paranormal genre these days that it's hard to choose a good one. I was so very glad to discover *Born at Midnight*. If you like P.C. and Kristin Cast or Alyson Noel, I am sure you will enjoy *Born at Midnight*!” *?Night Owl Reviews on Born at Midnight*

“This has everything a YA reader would want...I read it over a week ago and I am still thinking about it. I can't get it out of my head. I can't wait to read more. This series is going to be a hit!” *?AwesomeSauce Book Club on Born at Midnight*

“Seriously loved this book! This is definitely a series you will want to watch out for. C.C. Hunter has created a world of hot paranormals that I didn't want to leave.” *?Looksie Lovitz Book Blog on Born at Midnight*

“I absolutely LOVED it. Wow, it blew me away.” *?Nina Bangs, author of Eternal Prey, on Born at Midnight*

“Fun and compulsively readable, with a winning heroine and an intriguing cast of secondary characters” *?Jenna Black, author of Glimmerglass, on Born at Midnight*

About the Author

C.C. Hunter is the author of the young adult fantasy series Shadow Falls, including the books *Born at Midnight* and *Awake at Dawn*. She grew up in Alabama, where she caught lightning bugs, ran barefoot, and regularly rescued potential princes, in the form of Alabama bullfrogs, from her brothers. Today, she's still fascinated with lightning bugs, mostly wears shoes, but has turned her focus to rescuing mammals. She now lives in Texas with her four rescued cats, one dog, and a prince of a husband, who for the record, is so not a frog. When she's not writing, she's reading, spending time with her family, or shooting things--with a camera, not a gun.

C.C. Hunter is a pseudonym. Her real name is Christie Craig and she also writes humorous romantic suspense romance novels.

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Chapter One

They were here. Really here.

Kylie Galen stepped out of the crowded dining hall into the bright sunlight. She looked over at the Shadow Falls office. Gone was the chatter of the other campers. Birds chirped in the distance and a rush of wind rustled the trees. Mostly she heard the sound of her own heart thudding in her chest.

Thump. Thump. Thump.

They were here.

Her pulse raced at the thought of meeting the Brightens, the couple who had adopted and raised her real father. A father she'd never known in life but had grown to love in his short visits from the afterlife.

She took one step and then another, unsure of the emotional storm brewing inside her.

Excitement.

Curiosity.

Fear. Yes, a lot of fear.

But of what?

A drip of sweat, more from nerves than Texas's mid-August heat index, rolled down her brow.

Go and uncover your past so you may discover your destiny. The death angels' mystical words replayed in her head. She took another step forward, then stopped. Even as her heart ached to solve the mystery of who her father was—of who she was and, hopefully, what she was—her instincts screamed for her to run and hide.

Was this what she feared? Learning the truth?

Before coming to Shadow Falls a few months ago, she'd been certain she was just a confused teen, that her feelings of being different were normal. Now she knew better.

She wasn't normal.

She wasn't even human. At least not all human.

And figuring out her nonhuman side was a puzzle.

A puzzle the Brightens could help her solve.

She took another step. The wind, as if it were as eager to escape as she was, whisked past. It picked up a few wayward strands of her blond hair and scattered them across her face.

She blinked, and when she opened her eyes, the brightness of the sun had evaporated. Glancing up, she saw a huge, angry-looking cloud hanging directly overhead. It cast a shadow around her and the woodsy terrain.

Unsure if this was an omen or just a summer storm, she froze, her heart dancing faster. Taking a deep breath that smelled of rain, she was poised to move when a hand clasped her elbow. Memories of another hand

grabbing her sent panic shooting through her veins.

She swung around.

“Whoa. You okay?” Lucas lightened his clasp around her arm.

Kylie caught her breath and stared up at the werewolf’s blue eyes. “Yeah. You just ... surprised me. You always surprise me. You need to whistle when you come up on me.” She shoved down the memories of Mario and his rogue vampire grandson, Red.

“Sorry.” He grinned and his thumb moved in soft little circles over the crease in her elbow. Somehow that light brush of his thumb felt ... intimate. How did he make a simple touch feel like a sweet sin? A gust of wind, now smelling like a storm, stirred his black hair and tossed it over his brow.

He continued to stare at her, his blue eyes warming her and chasing away her darkest fears. “You don’t look okay. What’s wrong?” He reached up and tucked a wayward strand of hair behind her right ear.

She looked away from him to the cabin that housed the office. “My grandparents ... the adopted parents of my real dad are here.”

He must have picked up on her reluctance to be here. “I thought you wanted to meet them. That’s why you asked them to come, right?”

“I do. I’m just...”

“Scared?” he finished for her.

She didn’t like admitting it, but since werewolves could smell fear, lying was pointless. “Yeah.” She looked back at Lucas and saw humor in his eyes. “What’s so funny?”

“You,” he said. “I’m still trying to figure you out. When you were kidnapped by a rogue vampire, you weren’t this scared. In fact, you were ... amazing.”

Kylie smiled. No, Lucas had been the amazing one. He’d risked his life to save her from Mario and Red, and she’d never forget that.

“Seriously, Kylie, if this is the same couple I saw walking in here a few minutes ago, then they’re old and just humans. I think you can take them with both hands tied behind your back.”

“I’m not scared like that. I just...” She closed her eyes, unsure how to explain something she wasn’t clear on herself. Then the words just came. “What am I going to say to them? ‘I know you never told my father he was adopted, but he figured it out after he died. And he came to see me. Oh, yeah, he wasn’t human. So could you please tell me who his real parents are? So I can figure out what I am?’”

He must have heard the angst in her voice because his smile vanished. “You’ll find a way.”

“Yeah.” But she wasn’t that confident. She started walking, feeling his presence, his warmth, as he accompanied her up the steps to the cabin. The walk was easier with him beside her.

He stopped at the door and brushed a hand down her arm. “You want me to come inside with you?”

She almost told him yes, but this was one thing she needed to do on her own.

She thought she heard voices and glanced back at the door. Well, she wouldn’t exactly be alone. No doubt Holiday, the camp leader, waited for her inside, prepared to offer moral support and a calming touch.

Normally, Kylie objected to her emotions being manipulated, but right now might be an exception.

“Thanks, but I’m sure Holiday is in there.”

He nodded. His gaze moved to her mouth, and his lips came dangerously close to hers. But before his mouth claimed hers, that bone-cold chill that came with the dead descended on her. She pressed two fingers to his lips. Kissing was something she preferred to do without an audience—even one from the other side.

Or maybe it wasn’t just the audience. Was she totally ready to give herself over to his kisses? It was a good question, and one she needed to answer, but one problem at a time. Right now she had the Brightens to worry about.

“I should go.” She motioned to the door. The cold washed over her again. Okay, she had the Brightens and a ghost to worry about.

Disappointment flashed in Lucas’s eyes. Then he shifted uncomfortably and looked around as if he sensed they weren’t alone.

“Good luck.” He hesitated and then walked away.

She watched him leave and then looked around for the spirit. Goose bumps danced up her spine. Her ability to see ghosts had been the first clue that she wasn't normal.

"Can this wait until later?" she whispered.

A cloud of condensation appeared beside the white rocking chairs on the edge of the porch. The spirit obviously lacked the power or the knowledge to complete the manifestation. But it was enough to send the chairs rocking back and forth. The creaking of wood on wood sounded haunted ... which it was.

She waited, thinking it was the female spirit who had appeared earlier today in her mother's car as they drove past the Fallen Cemetery on their way to camp. Who was she? What did she need Kylie to do? There were never any easy answers when dealing with ghosts.

"Now's not a good time." Not that saying so would do any good. Spirits believed in the open door policy. The smear of fog took on more form, and Kylie's chest swelled with emotion.

It wasn't the woman she'd seen earlier.

"Daniel?" Kylie reached out. The tips of her fingers entered the icy mist as it took on a more familiar form. Hot emotion—a mixture of love and regret—coursed up her arm. She yanked her hand back, but tears filled her eyes.

"Daniel?" She almost called him Daddy. But it still felt awkward. She watched as he struggled to manifest. He'd once explained that his time to linger on earth was limited. More tears filled her eyes as she realized how limited. Her sense of loss tripled when she considered how hard this must be for him. He wanted to be here when she met his parents. And she needed him here, too—wished he'd told her more about the Brightens—and wished more than anything that he'd never died.

"No." His one word, briskly spoken, sounded urgent.

"No, what?" He didn't—or couldn't—answer. "No, I shouldn't ask them about your real parents? But I have to, Daniel, that's the only way I'll ever find the truth."

"It's not—" His voice broke.

"Not what? Not important?" She waited for his answer, but his weak apparition grew paler and his spiritual cold began to ebb. The white chairs slowed their rocking and silence rained down on her.

"It's important to me," Kylie said. "I need..." The Texas heat chased away the lingering chill.

He was gone. The thought hit that he might never come back. "Not fair." She swatted at the few tears she'd let fall onto her cheeks.

The need to run and hide hit again. But she'd procrastinated long enough. She grasped the doorknob, still cold from Daniel's spirit, and went to face the Brightens.

* * *

Inside, Kylie heard light murmurs coming from one of the back conference rooms. She tried to tune her ear to hear the words. Nothing.

In the last few weeks, she'd unexpectedly been gifted with sensitive hearing. But it came and went. What good was a power if one didn't know how to use it? It only added to the feeling of everything in her life being out of her control.

Biting her lip, she eased down the hall and tried to focus on her main goal: getting answers. Who were Daniel's real parents? What was she?

She heard Holiday say, "I'm sure you're going to love her."

Kyli...

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Willis:

Why? Because this *Taken at Dusk: A Shadow Falls Novel* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to

it was fantastic author who else write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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Jennifer Shipley:

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