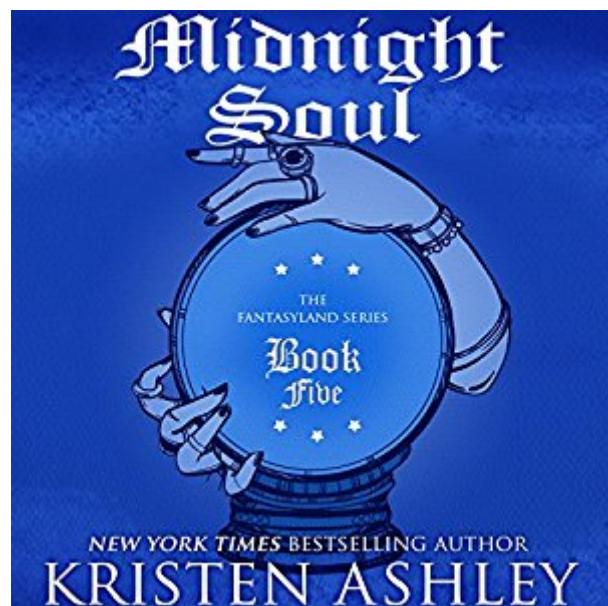


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# Midnight Soul



## Synopsis

Against his will, Noctorno Hawthorne, an undercover vice cop, finds himself embroiled in magic, mayhem, and parallel universes. Too late, he meets an amazing woman - only to find she's destined for his identical twin in another world. And things aren't going real great there. Noc is recruited to help save that world. What he doesn't know is his destined love resides there. Franka Drakkar wears a mask. A mask she never takes off, to protect herself in a world of malice, intrigue, and danger. When Franka meets Noc and he discovers her secrets, convinced she carries a midnight soul, having shielded herself from forming bonds with anyone, she struggles with accepting his tenderness and care. When Noc meets Franka, over wine and whiskey her mask slips, and Noc knows it's her - only her - and he has to find a way to get her to come home with him. And then make her want to stay.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What if I told you that we were going on a fabulous vacation to Italy? Yippee!! We got off the plane and we were in Idaho. Idaho is nice, it's just not Italy. It's the same for this book. There were fabulous opportunities to write about extremely interesting characters presented in the previous books. Unfortunately, this book isn't about them. Noc has a following. I get it. He's a good guy and a cop to boot. He's just not an epic hero with magical powers like the other leading men which is the point of a fantasy series. The parallel world threatening danger ended in the previous book, so we meet Noc, having just walked down the hall from having sex with one character (for totally virtuous reasons) and then being instantly smitten by a woman four doors down. Hmmm....Franka is the deliciously wicked Drakkar who antagonizes everyone. Sometimes it is great to have an evil

characters to act as a foil. Instead, she is quickly redeemed, and it is almost a letdown. Because Franka has just lost the love of her life, Ashley gives Noc and Franka a few months apart which really serves little purpose. Franka is given a fresh start in New Orleans so much of the novel is about the novelty of the new world, yada, yada, yada. There is mention of her magical powers, but little is done with them in terms of the plot. In fact, much of the book features Franka sitting around waiting for Noc to come home. She needs her own life once Noc starts working. So, good sex, average romance, and little fantasy other than a lot of popping back and forth between worlds. In an attempt to add more tension, Ashley slaps Noc with a problem that had been apparent to no one and then resolves it too easily. Pout, pout, okay.

-Where do we go from here? Ok, so I'm a big Buffy fan and yes, I was humming that song during the opening of this book. Anyhoodle, since the big overarching storyline of the series had been pretty well concluded at the end of Broken Dove, I just wasn't sure what could possibly be coming up next. What I got was a charming exploration of Noc and Franka's HEA, while giving long-time readers a taste of the HEAs for their favorites. There's some stuff to unpack, so here goes.-In this fifth installment of the Fantasyland series, you get a nice glimpse of what happens after the big conflict at the end of Broken Dove, from the perspective of reformed villainess Franka. She's definitely on the outside looking in, as she's not exactly buddied up with any of the heroes and heroines from the previous books and let's face it, she perfected the art of bitchdom, so it's no surprise that she's not hanging out for the victory cheer. The things she's done, while never so heinous that it would be irredeemable, nevertheless showed that sharp edge that Franka had honed at the feet of her worthless parents. You get to know, very quickly, why Franka did the things she did. She opens herself up to friendships and family, as well as a new adventure in Noc's world, and along the way romance happens.-Noc and Franka work well together. From their very first moment sharing a drink after the big bads were vanquished, neither were in a position for a romance, but their friendship was close and easy, allowing the reader to enjoy their little buildup. Now, there might be concern because it seemed that Noc's future was going to be decidedly different, but from the very beginning Noc is focused on Franka and Franka alone.

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