SHADOW

An Urban Fantasy by Michael Donaubauer. 142,000 words

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SCAN FOR THE WEBSITE + EXCERPTS

The Story

Shadow fights a hopeless war against a demon invasion. Timmy, a bitter, friendless twelve-year old, ditches his abusive foster parents to spend his only ever Special Birthday in the Chicago Loop. Shadow stalks a demon through the Loop, not knowing that it is hunting Timmy. The demon corners Timmy on Navy Pier, but Shadow kills it. Shadow learns that Timmy is a Speaker — someone who can mindspeak with dogs. Someone who can (maybe) create a dog army, the only hope of the Earth.

Why dogs?

Shadow knows something that we have forgotten. From Anubis and Cerberus to blood-soaked Garmr, dogs are the guardians of the gates of Hell. Dogs have protected the Earth from demons for millennia. They are natural-born demon slayers. Humans are not. We are defenseless against demons' magic, but dogs are immune to it. Dogs have the Second Sight, living in multiple dimensions at once. You know how sometimes your dog chases something that isn't there? Well, it is there.

Why this Book?

Because it's the story of a dog and his boy. Who doesn't love that? Yes, Shadow is a dog. A hypersmart, millennia-old, demon-fighting dog. He tells his part of the story in the first person, in his own quirky voice and from his own unique perspective. He grew up in a Pack where humans and dogs were equal and equally smart. His dream is to recreate that Pack, and long ago, a Speaker did just that, creating an army of smart, demon-fighting dogs. The demons killed her for it, and Shadow blames himself. He has been at war with the Grey World ever since.

Shadow has observed mankind from hunter-gatherers to the Lords of the Earth. He's not impressed. He knows the truth: without the dog, we'd probably be extinct, like the dogless Neanderthals, or still hunter-gatherers without civilization. Shadow knows us inside and out, good and bad. He loves us, because he's a dog, and The Love is bred in his bones. But he doesn't always like us, with our arrogance and selfishness, and the way we treat all other lifeforms, including lots of humans, as less than human.

Target Audience

Fantasy lovers, dog lovers, demon haters.

Comparable Titles

Murderbot and The Left Hand of Darkness, for non-human POV.

Author Bio

Michael Donaubauer is a Chicagoan who loves his city. He attended Columbia College Chicago's Writing Workshop. He's been a lawyer and a singer-songwriter, and is currently working on The Dogs of War, the sequel to Shadow.

