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Rivers of Shadow

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Grades 9 and Up – Teenager Luke Manchett assumed that his paranormal problems ended when he banished his father's Host of spirits a few months ago. And aside from some strange dreams and a nagging worry over a deal he made with the devil, Luke is right. Until an American girl named Ash shows up in his math class claiming to be an exchange student and Luke subsequently passes out at the front of the room. Ash quickly pulls Luke and his girlfriend Elza back into the world of the dead, but Luke won't have Elza's help for long. Without her, he must summon one of the more fearsome members of his previously liberated Host and return to a place he hoped to avoid for years to come: Deadside. As dark and witty as the first work in the series, this sequel is a perfect follow-up to *13 Days of Midnight*. As before, grim and clever Elza provides a foil to Luke's humor and rash behavior; newcomer Ash is ambiguous in word and action, and she swiftly creates a rift between the couple. The characterization of the teens combined with a quick pace and a betrayal- and revenge-driven plot speeds the work along to a satisfying, if somewhat sad, conclusion. But a few unresolved loose ends will leave readers sincerely hoping for a third title in this ghostly series. VERDICT Readers already familiar with Luke, Elza, and the spirits of the banished Host will not be disappointed in this new adventure.