

DEITY OF DARKNESS By Maura Burd © 2006 ISBN #978-1-4259-7203-5

# **DEITY OF DARKNESS**

*Sample 'Chapter Two' Excerpt*

## *Chapter Two*

It had been a week since her accident and still Danielle couldn't get Drake out of her mind. Joe's grave explanation to her only helped raise more questions in her about that night. She wondered what he meant when he'd said she shared a connection with the darkness. There were many uncertainties she felt Joe could clear up for her, but because of his warning, she decided it was best to avoid another confrontation with him.

Corey clearly doubted the possibility that Danielle had undergone a paranormal experience. He was narrow-minded when it came to discussing anything pertaining to mysticism. She believed the idea of an after-life frightened Corey and that was why he avoided talking about that night.

Danielle knew she hadn't imagined it all. Since that night when she first met Drake, she felt an excitement stir within her. Something extraordinary was happening to her, she believed. There was a certain, hidden force pulling her into a sinister realm of existence. But what she feared most of all, was that this magnificent fiend hounding her was an inescapable deity of Darkness.

Upon returning home from the hospital, she started painting again in her attic studio. She'd lock herself inside the studio for hours until nightfall. She knew Corey was relieved to see her preoccupation with painting as it meant he didn't have to deal with the possibility of an intimate conversation. The space between them was widening, but even so, Danielle felt more alive than ever.

The images pouring out from her paint brush were visually disturbing. The tranquil, pastoral scenes of her typical painting style currently served no gainful purpose for her. She now required a stimulus unlike anything she'd ever known as this dark, compelling element began to emerge from the depths of what she believed was something more than her creative imagination.

One of her provocative paintings was of a young woman with dark hair wearing an elegant white cotton dress, a pool of red blood encircling her feet. Above and all around her were transparent, gray clouds in the shape of a man wanting to swallow her up into him. Though the vision frightened her she was obsessed in learning the truth, whatever it was, and felt compelled to paint similar scenes. The deeper she focused on the terrifying scene on her canvas the deeper her connection became with the powerful mastermind controlling her enthrallment.

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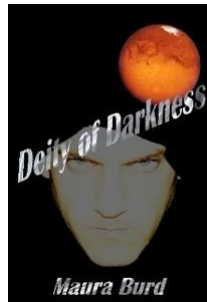
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