



# SCARLETT St. CLAIR

SECRETS. SEDUCTION. SACRIFICE.

## A TOUCH OF DARKNESS

1. Near the beginning of the novel, Persephone asks, “What possessed people to bargain their souls?” After meeting Hades and learning about his deals, does she find an answer? Why is it more complicated than she initially believes?
2. Gods have all the power in New Greece, so why doesn’t Persephone want her identity as a goddess to be known? How much of that has to do with the way her mother, Demeter, has raised her? Who might Persephone have been with a different upbringing?
3. Perception and deception are notable themes in the novel. What does Persephone initially believe about Hades’ intentions in New Greece, and why does she begin to change her mind about him? What are some of the ways in which she was both wrong and right in her original impression?
4. The author blends Greek mythology with a modern city setting and contemporary romance tropes. How does this blend work to create a unique urban fantasy world? In what ways do the characters seem like people from mythology, and in what ways do they seem modern?
5. Persephone brings a fresh perspective to how Hades could help the mortals coming to him suffering from grief and addiction. How do their different life experiences contribute to their views on humanity and suffering? How do they try to understand each other’s point of view?
6. Do you think Persephone would have ever found her magic and the darkness inside her if she hadn’t met Hades? Why or why not?
7. Hades challenges Persephone to “create life in the Underworld.” What are the different ways she and other characters interpret this request? Why does Hades give Persephone this specific challenge?
8. Near the end of the novel, why does Persephone so easily believe Aphrodite’s words over Hades’s actions? What does Hades have to do to prove his love isn’t a game?
9. How does Persephone integrate herself with the people and culture of the Underworld? How might she rise to the idea of being their queen as the series goes on?
10. What is the difference between love, worship, and respect in this novel, and how does Persephone navigate all three in her relationship with Hades and his realm?