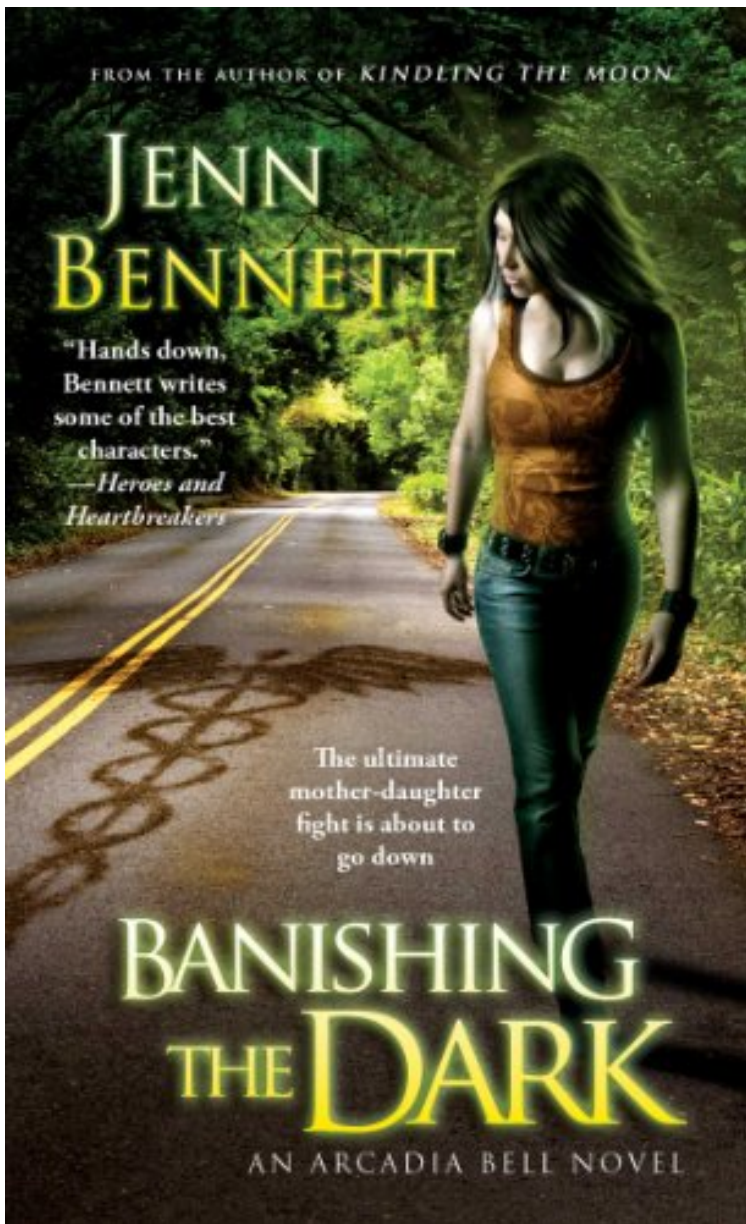


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Banishing the Dark



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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurIn Book Four of the beloved urban fantasy seriesRomantic Timescalls one "for your keeper shelf," the ultimate mother-daughter fight is about to go down.Complicated does not begin to describe Arcadia Bell's life right now: unnatural magical power, another brush with death, and a murderous mother who's not only overbearing but determined to take permanent possession of Cady's body. Forced to delve deep into the mystery surrounding her own birth, she must uncover which evil spell her parents cast during her conception...and how to reverse it.Fast.As Cady and her lover Lon embark on a dangerous

journey through her magical past, Lon's teenage son Jupe sneaks off for his own investigation. Each family secret they uncover is darker than the last, and Cady, who has worn many identities--Moonchild, mage, fugitive--is about to add one more to the list. Extrait Banishing the Dark Jupe crouched in the shadows, watching a pair of nurses stroll down the hall. Cartoon horses on the female nurses scrub pants stretched over a pretty good ass. Good enough that he considered following her. After all, he'd analyzed forty-three nurses over the past month. Only two of them even remotely qualified as hot, and one of those was a guy.

But right now, he had more important things to do than accept the depressing likelihood that hot-nurse fantasies were a sham. So when the pair sauntered around the corner out of sight, he pushed to his feet and scrambled across the hall. A taped-up sheet of plastic, two trash cans, and a warning sign might keep stupid people out of the construction area, but anyone with half a brain could see how easy it was to squeeze through. The display downstairs in the lobby said the new hospital wing cost three hundred million dollars. Maybe they should have spent some of that on a few pieces of plywood if they were serious about keeping people out until it was finished. He'd been sneaking out to the sixth-floor glass walkway stretched between the old and new hospital wings off and on for a couple of weeks. On one side lay a silent parking lot. On the other, a couple of people smoked cigarettes at tables in an outdoor pavilion. He was too far up for them to notice, but he wanted to make sure no one heard him through the plastic. So he sidled around a pallet of boxes and strode down the carpeted walkway to the far end. At least they'd had enough sense to lock the doors to the new wing. He pressed his forehead against the glass and squinted inside. All clear. Chain clinked against his thigh as he dug a black wallet out of the back pocket of his jeans. Thumbing past his GTO Club membership and an ATM card for his savings account, he found the laminated piece of paper. It took him a couple of seconds to roll his tongue around the inside of his mouth, working up saliva, but when he was ready, he held out the card and spit on the magick sigil in the middle. Bulls-eye. Priya, come, he commanded. The air shimmered, and a ball of light appeared. He stepped back to give the guardian room to land and watched as two enormous black wings flapped into view. The boys body soon followed. No shirt.

Weird-ass gray skin. Mass of black spiky hair that looked like a Brillo pad that had been chewed up by a garbage disposal. (He should know; it had taken him an entire month of lawn mowing to work off the debt of repairing the disposal when he'd not so accidentally dropped one down the sink.) The thryic guardian shook the walkway when he landed. His wings made a snapping sound as they folded into place behind his back. He looked pissed. Sounded it, too. I told you not to summon me unless it was vital. And I told you, Cady said I could summon you whenever I damn well pleased. I feel quite certain she said no such thing. But now that I'm here, get on with it, and tell me why you called. I am busy doing important work. Pfft. Like what? Jupe flicked a look toward the creatures bare chest. Getting some sort of nuclear tan? Priya growled, flashing a row of pointy silver teeth. I grow weary of your verbal puzzles, Kerub. God, what a douche. Worst servant ever. He didn't understand why Cady put up with him. Then again, if the creature hadn't come to Jupe a month ago to tell them what had happened with Mr. Dare in Tambuku, Cady might be dead.

Grumbling to himself, Jupe bent to wipe Priya's sigil card on the industrial carpet. It only moved the spit around on the laminate. He gave up and wiped it on the leg of his jeans. Cady's awake. Anger drained from the creature's face. When? Last night. Why didn't you summon me immediately? Is she well? She's in and out of consciousness. They said it was normal. Might take a couple of days for her to shake it off. But... But what? Over his bare shoulders, the tops of Priya's wings shifted anxiously. Doctor said best-case, they'd still have to keep her in the hospital for a week. Longer if she can't walk. She will walk. She is very strong. What of her mother? Has Enola been communicating with her in her dreams? Jupe shook his head. No idea. She hasn't mentioned it, but she's having trouble remembering things. She's pretty doped up, so I'm not sure if she really knows who I am. And we're not supposed to talk about anything upsetting or stressful in front of her. Dad's been trying to get in touch with Dr. Mick that's the Earthbound doctor who healed Yes, yes, Priya said irritably. You have spoken of this healer many times. Whatever. Anyway, Dr. Mick is the one who can release Cady. Dad wants to get her home ASAP. Your father needs to get her into a protected place immediately. That's what I just said. ASAP it means as soon as possible. God, this guy was as dense as a brick wall. Were all Hermeneus spirits like this or just him? Then your healer should release her into Lon's care, Priya said. A-S-A-P. Aren't you listening to me? Dr. Mick's mom died. He's at her funeral. In Australia. Where is this? Can you go there? Australia? Are you kidding? It's a billion miles away. My dad's flown there before for work, and it takes an entire day on a plane. You do know what an airplane is, don't you? The creature snapped his wings open like one of those dinosaurs that spreads its frill to make it seem bigger than it really is. As far as intimidations went, it was a good one. And it was at times like this that Jupe wished like

hell he had his fathers ability to transmutate. A couple of bad-ass demon horns would really come in handy.

Priya pointed a long finger in Jupes direction. Listen to me, Kerub, and listen well. Arcadias mother is scouring the thyr for a demon capable of sending her back to this plane. If you care anything at all for Arcadia More than you. Then tell your father to get her to a warded place immediately. I do not know how long she will be safe. A few days. A week. Possibly a fortnight. Jupe opened his mouth to ask what the hell a fortnight was, but Priya flashed a mouthful of crooked silver teeth. Kind of creepy. And Jupe could already see the static erupting over the creatures skin; Priya seemed to have less and less power to keep himself solid every time Jupe summoned him. Arcadia must seek protection, the creature said. She must find the spell her mother used during Arcadias conception and uncover a way to reverse it, or her mother will cross the planes to claim her. Ive told you a million times, Cady will fight her mom, Jupe said confidently. Besides, nothing that crosses the thyr can live on this plane permanently. You said so yourself. I mean, look at you. You cant even stay here five minutes. Priyas eyes narrowed as he leaned closer. Enola Duval wants to cross the planes permanently. She seeks old, irreversible magick that will bond her soul to Arcadias so that Enola will occupy her body. Jupe stilled. Earthbound, he whispered in shock. Cadys mom wants to be one of us? In a manner of speaking, yes. And do you know what happens to souls when a new one possesses their physical body? Priya struck a fist against his palm, causing Jupe to jump. If Enola takes Arcadias body, Arcadia will become nothing but a sack of energy existing to keep her mother alive. She may as well be dead. *Revue de presse* A great off-beat debut novel with a likeable heroine and a fun, original storyline. (Karen Chance, New York Times bestselling author) *Kindling the Moon* rocks like AC/DC on Saturday night. This book has it all: great writing, action, romance, a strong heroine, a unique hero, and the best teenager ever. I cant wait for the next one. (Ann Aguirre, national bestselling author) *Kindling the Moon* engaged me from page one. I loved it! I immediately adored the heroine, Arcadia Bell. This book is packed from cover to cover with unpredictable twists, heart-pounding action, and heated sexual tension." (Anya Bast, New York Times bestselling author) Debut author Jenn Bennett takes the familiar ideas of magic, demons, and mythology, and she gives us something sexy, fun, and genuinely unique in *Kindling the Moon*. Arcadia Bell is a sassy, whip-smart addition to the growing pantheon of urban fantasy heroines, and Bennett an author to watch! (Kelly Meding, author of *Three Days to Dead*) "Bennett quickly establishes that her terrific debut was no fluke, delivering another riveting tale featuring gutsy renegade magician Cady Bell. Bennett does a stellar job blending character development with plenty of supernatural mystery and peril. A series for your keeper shelf!" (Romantic Times Magazine, Top Pick) "Jenn Bennett has created another amazing novel filled with strong characters, magical surprises, and quirky humor." (Tynga's s)