



## The World of All Souls: A Complete Guide to A Discovery of Witches, Shadow of Night, and the Book of Life

*Deborah Harkness , Claire Baldwin (Contributor) , Colleen Madden (Illustrator) , Lisa Halttunen (Contributor) , Jill Hough (Contributor)*

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**The World of All Souls: A Complete Guide to A Discovery of Witches, Shadow of Night, and the Book of Life** Deborah Harkness , Claire Baldwin (Contributor) , Colleen Madden (Illustrator) , Lisa Halttunen (Contributor) , Jill Hough (Contributor)

**A fully illustrated guide to Deborah Harkness's #1 *New York Times* bestselling All Souls trilogy--"an irresistible . . . wonderfully imaginative grown-up fantasy" (*People*)**

*A Discovery of Witches* introduced Diana Bishop, Oxford scholar and reluctant witch, and vampire geneticist Matthew Clairmont. *Shadow of Night* and *The Book of Life* carried Deborah Harkness's series to its spellbinding conclusion.

In *The World of All Souls*, Harkness shares the rich sources of inspiration behind her bewitching novels. She draws together synopses, character bios, maps, recipes, and even the science behind creatures, magic, and alchemy--all with her signature historian's touch. Bursting with fascinating facts and dazzling artwork, this essential handbook is a must-have for longtime fans and eager newcomers alike.

## The World of All Souls: A Complete Guide to A Discovery of Witches, Shadow of Night, and the Book of Life Details

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## **From Reader Review The World of All Souls: A Complete Guide to A Discovery of Witches, Shadow of Night, and the Book of Life for online ebook**

### **Valerie Grendell says**

The World of All Souls is the perfect companion to the All Souls Trilogy. It allows the reader to experience the All Souls universe in vivid technicolor!

As a reader, you not only get to know some of the minute details of the characters, their backgrounds, and origins, you'll also get to experience some of the places mentioned in the books! And this is not just by listing geographical locations, but by exploring the minute details of the places. Rooms like Mary Sidney's laboratory are illuminated brilliantly by the illustrator, Colleen Madden.

As it's not required reading to the trilogy, I'll say its existence adds value to the overall universe. There are two thrilling outtakes that allow us to read even deeper into the series while expanding our fascination with the main characters as well as some of the beloved secondary characters (who for me, were almost more important).

This book should adorn any All Souls lover's shelf, whether they picked up the series in the beginning, or are just now discovering the series now. Highly recommend!

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### **Heather Alderman says**

What an amazing reference guide for the All Souls Trilogy, although I wouldn't expect anything less from Ms. Harkness. Not necessarily a book to sit down and read cover to cover, but a great resource to look up additional information about characters, settings, items, magic, history, etc.

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### **Lisa says**

This book is basically the Bible of All Souls trilogy. So much information, it's a massive book, I skimmed a lot of details I didn't really need or want to know, but love all the little details about Philippe. I also appreciate Deb giving us Matthew's entire library collection and the books he enjoyed and the ones that shaped his worldview over the years.

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### **Susan Crowe says**

All this book is, is retelling what the entire trilogy is about. There's about 2 hrs of just going over each character's name and what the names mean. Very boring. You must be a die hard fan of this trilogy to enjoy this and care about any of this. I was very disappointed. Not what I expected at all. 14 hrs of this. Yes, I got the audiobook. There's no way I could have "read" this.

## Darcy says

I wasn't even aware that this book was a thought until it popped up on my library's website. I grabbed it thinking it was the new book coming out, didn't pay that much attention, just knew it was in the series. Turns out this book is essentially the bible of the series. The author goes into depth with so much of what makes the books. I especially liked when she talked about how the book came to be and how it sold. I did listen to the audio book, but will check out the print version as the it sounds like there are pictures that would be great to read and the audio version I had didn't have a pdf file attached to look at. If you are a fan of this series this book is a must read.

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## Jean says

Imaginary worlds are just as deserving of guidebooks as the real world places we all love, and the All Souls universe now has a Baedeker's worthy of it. The World of All Souls is an amazing guide to my favorite universe. Talk about a swoon worthy total package. It's a work that definitely needs to be savored, and its clever set up allows you pop in to explore a compelling topic or meander through. It's definitely a book I'll revisit again and again.

The highlights for me include the character profiles (which include not a few shocking revelations), the outtakes from A Discovery of Witches and Shadow of Night, the literature section, and the lovely discussion of the writing process (a must read for any aspiring author or curious reader).

The illustrations range from playful to intricate - ranging from stark and symbolic to high style and artistic. They are so LUSH - even in gray scale. The rendition of Mary Sidney's lab stopped me in my tracks I was so overwhelmed by the detail and thought that leapt from the page. The literature section is especially sumptuous. Between the deftly chosen quotes and illustrations I'll revel in it for hours.

Whether you're new to this world thanks to the upcoming TV series or have obsessively chased zebras down rabbit holes for years looking for eggs, this compendium will have something to amaze, delight, and surprise you. It shouldn't surprise anyone - after all, Professor Harkness always has a lesson or two up her sleeve.

And if this still doesn't satisfy your craving check out our slightly obsessive podcast on the All Souls World at [www.daemonsdiscuss.com](http://www.daemonsdiscuss.com).

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## Helen says

Brilliant! Must have for any DOW fans.

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## ? Briansgirl (Book Sale Queen)? says

Excellent. Very informative. Beyond all the historical references, including photos, glossary, etc. one of the most enjoyable parts of the book were two small sections where the author gave you a quick short story from

a place in the books where she could insert a little something interesting.

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## Megan says

This book is a compendium of information about the All Souls Trilogy. Some of the information can be found in the books, but much of it is only hinted at or not mentioned at all in the books. For fans of the All Souls world, this book is an excellent read as it gives you insights both into the author's creation of the books, but also into the characters, locations, organizations, and events in the trilogy. There are also outtakes -- chapters that were removed from the books before final publication. In addition to all of the information, there are gorgeous illustrations throughout the book. You really can't just sit down and read this book front to back, you instead explore it, a little here and a little there, one chapter making you wonder about something that you then look up in another chapter. This book is not just an encyclopedia of knowledge taken from the books, it is much more than that. I will enjoy looking back through it again and again.

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## Ashley says

I received this as an ARC from Netgalley.com.

**First line:** Dear Reader, Welcome—or welcome back—into a world of daemons, humans, vampires and witches, where a reluctant witch and a fifteen-hundred-year-old vampire discover the secrets left in a mysterious manuscript.

**Summary:** A complete companion guide to the All Souls Trilogy. There are synopses of each book, the races, characters and locations plus so much more.

**Highlights:** I wish this had been out when I was reading the stories so I could refresh myself on the storylines and characters. But this is very handy to have before the release of the miniseries on BBC. I loved the characters and the storylines of the books. This is a perfect companion for any reader of the All Souls Trilogy.

**Lowlights:** Very nice to read when in Adobe format but not as a Kindle book. But having it as a hardback will be even better!

**FYI:** Don't be daunted by the size of the books. They are rich and wonderfully written.

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## Trish says

This is a companion book to the author's trilogy about Diana Bishop and Matthew de Clairmont.

I shouldn't have to say it because it's obvious, but just in case: one really should only read this book AFTER having finished the trilogy because of major spoilers.

The book contains the following chapters and sub-chapters:

- 1) Synopses (summary of the books, the calendar and even music from the trilogy)
- 2) Creatures
- 3) Characters
- 4) Organizations (the universities, different orders etc)
- 5) Locations
- 6) Magic
- 7) Science
- 8) Alchemy
- 9) Decorative Arts
- 10) Lifestyles (recipes for dinners as much as for tea and herbal remedies)
- 11) Literature (books the author used in her research or that feature in the story itself)
- 12) Translations (because different characters here don't speak English)

The interesting thing here as well as in the actual trilogy is that especially with the places and organizations (but also the jewelry, clothes and art), the author shows her skills as a historian, weaving the real with the magical.

Sadly, I also have complaints, especially with the supposed translations because here, even more than in the actual story, at least the German was atrocious. As mentioned in my status update, it sounded at least as bad as when someone types a phrase into the google translator and it's just lazy on the author's part but also bad from the publisher/editor (it doesn't take much to properly translate words or small phrases).

Anyway, I loved the trilogy, will read the upcoming new book about Marcus and his girlfriend and thought this would be nice, especially because she included a list on wines and foods and music and I always like to go into such details with favourite stories.

An added bonus were the illustrations, portraits and pictures from historical books and scripts that were strewn in and were very pretty (in case of the illustrations) and the right style for this sort of compendium.

A pretty cool companion to the trilogy in case you want to know more about certain aspects or refresh your memory.

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### **Kate says**

I love the All Souls Trilogy by Deborah Harkness so I was thrilled to get to read this preview of the guide to the series. It looks to be fascinating and engaging even though I only saw a few pages of it. I eagerly look forward to reading the complete work later this year. I am reviewing this book based on an ARC received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest opinion.

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### **Terri Garner says**

As always love anything relating to Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness.

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## **Lucia says**

A must-read for hardcore fans of All Souls trilogy, but do not expect to be WOWed. Illustrations are amazing but beside two deleted scenes and one new interview with author, written part left much to be desired.

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## **Keikii Eats Books says**

Honestly, this was not for me. You SHOULD NOT read it while you are reading the series, because even if you wanted to look up a specific character you would be treated to spoilers for the series. Spoilers are throughout this and I can seriously only recommend you read it after you have read the entire series. I have yet to read All Souls Universe (because at the time of writing this review, it isn't even released yet). However, it doesn't even appear to contain winkwinknudge information about the upcoming series. Fans of the series are unlikely to find much in this they didn't already know and there is nothing there to look through for the future.

I'm not certain what I was expecting, but this was not it. I was hoping for more connection to the series. Instead, most of this is very brief descriptions of historical things or things introduced in the books. Things like describing places and characters and books. The book is broken up in different parts for different things.

### **Author Interview**

This was the best part of the entire thing. We got to see into the mind of Deborah Harkness. I found it super interesting to see how the series I adore came about.

### **Synopses**

This is exactly what it sounds like. About 10 minutes each (30ish minutes total) of just a very dry accounting of what happened in each book. There are no new ties between them you may not have noticed. There is nothing new at all.

### **Creatures**

This is again just exactly what you expect. It is about 35-40 minutes total of a description of each creature type, what they are like, what they typically do. None of this at all could not be gleaned from just rereading the series.

### **Characters**

This was a very, very long section (over 75 minutes total!!!). I am perhaps most disappointed in this section overall. It is simultaneously too little information and too much. Of the characters we know and love, there is nothing further added in this and it is frustrating. Everything about them is left the way we know of it in the series in such a way even I could have written it if I really cared to. Then, there were the characters you've completely forgotten about. Pretty much every single character in this series is written down here down to a random maid (and not even one of theirs!), some of which are more filled out than others. In fact, the only people that are actually filled out at all from stuff not in the series are the actual historical figures Harkness wove into her series.

### **Organizations**

This section, about 25 minutes long, described a bunch of the organizations that came up in the series. This section actually had the most new stuff about the series that I saw. Or maybe I just don't remember the organizations that came up as well as the other stuff so far. Every organisation in this series is rooted in history, and we get a lot of mini history lessons here.

### **Outtakes**

Smack dab in the middle of this book is one of the few things I came to this book for. Further insight into the story. There are two outtakes, one from A Discovery of Witches, one from Shadow of Night. The first one is a rough chapter from Matthew's point of view shortly after they get to France in A Discovery of Witches. I liked this one, but I can see why it got cut. The second outtake is as they pass through France on the way to Sept Tours in Shadow of Night. I can definitely see why this got cut because it really just doesn't quite fit in.

### **Locations**

This was a bit more interesting for some parts, like London, and less interesting for others, like Yale. She flips between a lot of information to basically no new information at what feels like random. The best part of this section was actually the pictures. We see a bunch of historical pictures of what things would have looked like when they traveled to the past. These pictures gave life to the story. I kind of wished I had looked things up before now to see into the world a bit more. A lot of the places that exist in the series, don't actually exist anymore in real life, especially in England. It was nice to get a small little bit about what it was like back then.

### **Magic**

Relatively short section describing the different types of Magics witches use throughout the series. There are a few insights in the world-building in this section, and I was pleased at this. There was also the historical information, but mostly it was just talking about magic.

### **Science**

This is all based on "what if". It is all "if Matthew was reading something during this extremely long time period, what would he be reading? What would he be thinking about it?" Overall, pretty predictable.

### **Alchemy**

I tried to get into this section, I really, really did. My eyes kept glazing over. It is all just describing different alchemical processes and such. I honestly did not read this series to learn about alchemy.

### **Decorative Arts**

I actually really enjoyed this section! It relied heavily on using pictures to show the world. It showed a lot of portraits, a lot of chairs, some objects, no seriously a *lot* of chairs, and things of that manner. There was also some fashion and jewelery added.

### **Lifestyles**

A less interesting section than the one with pictures. This contained some recipes, some information about wine you may not know unless you actually know wine, some tea which I'd be surprised you didn't know existed, some descriptions of yoga and rowing, which I'm sure you know the basics of. Basically, this section just tells you a lot of things you already know.

### **Literature**

This was another section I really tried to like but just eyes glazed over on. I tried. It goes over more alchemy texts. It goes over a bunch of mythology connected to the characters. There is a section of a bunch of different books they came across or Matthew owned and a brief description. Then what another long section just the same as before, just with poetry and plays instead. Lastly there is a bunch of phrases translated into english and more reading to look at if you so wish it.

**Other:**

One of the things I thought I would like best about this was the pictures. However, I was left baffled by a lot of the inclusions. Most of them are very tiny, some of them were like.. rocks with kanji on them. It was baffling. I don't really even remember any portraits of the characters, only small portrait miniatures of the actual historical figures. Well, except for the eyes. There were a lot of random eyes. Once again I was just left disappointed.

This just really, really was not for me. Coming from someone who absolutely adored the series, this was just boring, even if it was connected to the series. If you're looking for a way to connect what you love with the history of the world, this will probably not do it for you. If history bores you, this will bore you, too. However, if you love history and want to know more this is definitely what you want.

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