

The Crypt

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DORCHADAS

Dorchadas – darkness – has many twisted shades. It seems there are as many phobias as there are words in the dictionary, but certain fears and dark emotions have a special hold on us: loss, regret, death, monsters – both real and imagined – or perhaps the fear of not truly living.

Nearly four years after *The Keeper's Secret*, I'm still writing. I don't write for speed (obviously), and I don't write for word count. I write because there are stories inside my head – dark stories – that need shape, substance, life. I hope you enjoy the latest installment of my storytelling journey, *Dorchadas*, a collection of short haunts that explores the darkness and exposes the demons lurking in the shadows.

In my internet searching, I recently came across Irish composer Ann Cleare. I think we might be kindred spirits. Her composition *Dorchadas* is a stellar emotional journey. You can find a free recording and a video of a live performance at her [website](#).

“Dorchadas (the Irish word for darkness) scales the density, gravity and depth of a fear of the dark. This darkness is akin to a boundless, open space where the mind moves illogically between racing to find illumination and allowing itself to revel in fear.”

– Ann Cleare, on her composition *Dorchadas*.



Ms. Cleare seems to create her music from a space familiar to me. “The piece encapsulates an attempt to shine the light of sound upon darkness,” says Cleare, “probing a thought that the fear that scares one witless is the very same one that can bring understanding.”

My thoughts exactly.

—RJ

Robert James

Everyone has demons
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