

THE BLACK HOUR

The Hourglass Collection
Book 3

by

Rena Aliston



The Black Hour
The Hourglass Collection Book 3
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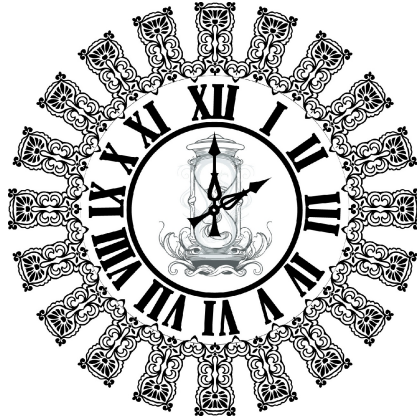
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CHAPTER 1

BONES

One

I stand by the river
staring into her eyes,
haunting, yet I refuse
to turn away for she
is I - we are one.
Our words meld together,
sinking into my bones
like holy fire raining
upon my flesh,
a welcoming brand,
for my disguise
no longer confines me.

The Old Gods

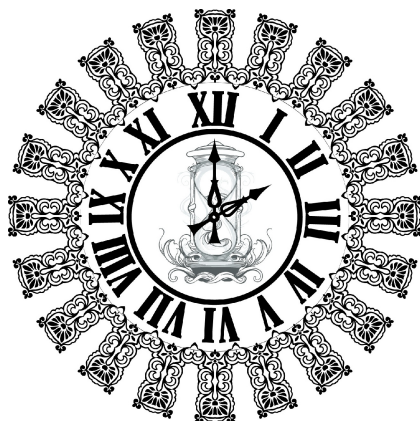
I dine with the old gods,
ones who sacrificed
time and danced with
death's daughters.
Those who rode
the winds amidst
storms while the sun
scorched their sins away.
Captivated by the old songs,
the old gods, the old ways -
I walk with my ancestors.

Resentment

Two ravens sacrifice
one eye so I can see
through the cobwebs
blocking my view.
I hold them up
to the sky and divine
while hailstones pelt
my flesh. I feel the moon's
pain as the sun melts away
illusions. Her words crash
against my temple,
begging for my reply,
but my tongue refuses
to release its bitterness.

The Black Hour

The blackest hour holds the key.
My soul releases pain and glee.
Upon the altar - sacrifice.
The guardians of death entice.
Unite with mother, maiden, crone.
Come separate my skin from bone.
Render my carcass, flay my flesh.
My shadow, sun, and moon enmesh.



CHAPTER 2

BLOOD

Rain

I sank further into myself
as they continued to sing
their songs. Lyrics rained
upon my flesh, battering
the little girl inside.
My blood spilled,
rehydrating the sand
as my image appeared
in the glass.
No longer turning away,
I face myself as tears
replenish my pain.

Fraction

My shadow levitates
above me, hovering
like an umbrella
shielding me from rain.
My blood sings as pain
separates, shattering
my disguise.
Only a fraction of my soul
remains intact,
but it's enough
for me to remember
who I once was.

Devoured

My tongue untangles
time's riddles.

Serpents slither
across the ground,
over my feet.

They penetrate my flesh,
devouring life's curse
as I chant the runes -
Raidho, Tiwaz, Berkana -
the journey continues.

The Vision

From pain comes healing.
With healing, the vision
unfolds. I see myself
on fire, at the base
of Yggdrasil, at the feet
of the Norns, reciting
their spell as they weave
death's story - my story,
for we are one.

Also by Author

Novellas

The Xander Walsh Series

Penance (Owl-Raven Books, 2025)

Short Stories

The Devil's Reign Series

The Devil's Grave (Owl-Raven Books, 2024)

The Devil's Hymn (Owl-Raven Books, 2025)

Poetry

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The Red Hour (Owl-Raven Books, 2024)

The Green Hour (Owl-Raven Books, 2025)

Conjure Series

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Shadows and Mirrors (Owl-Raven Books, 2023)

Woven Tales (Owl-Raven Books, 2024)

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