



**[A Neon Darkness](#) by Lauren Shippen**

Tor Teen, an imprint of Tor Publishing Group, 2020

ISBN: 9781250297549 (Hardcover)

\*Age Range: 14-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

---

**A Neon Darkness**, the second Bright Sessions novel from creator Lauren Shippen, features villain Damien, who can make anyone want what he wants.

Robert Gorham always gets what he wants. But the power of persuasion is as potent a blessing as it is a curse.

Robert is alone until a group of strangers who can do impossible things—produce flames without flint, conduct electricity with their hands, and see visions of the past—welcome him. They call themselves *Unusuals* and they give Robert a new name too: DAMIEN.

Finally, *finally* he belongs. As long as he can keep his power under control.

But control is a sacrifice he might not be willing to make.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

---

“Shippen combines an exciting plot with diverse characters...This may be the best Bright Sessions content yet as well as an excellent starting point for those unfamiliar with this world. A creative and compelling read.” —[Kirkus Reviews](#)

“A rich cast of secondary characters and gripping plot twists keep readers interested until the last page. Damien’s use of control to gain human connection and its moral implications will make readers question how far are they willing to go to get everything they desire. The story will leave readers thinking long after the last page is read.” —[School Library Journal](#)

“A deliciously dark, genre-bending look at the thrill and danger of intoxicating power. Shippen creates a world—and a family—that you’d do just about anything to be a part of.” —Charlotte Nicole Davis, author of *The Good Luck Girls*

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

Updated 8.30.2024

Tor Publishing Group

Contact Email: [anthony.parisi@tor.com](mailto:anthony.parisi@tor.com)

- 
- [LGBTQReads, Authors In Conversation: Mark Oshiro and Lauren Shippen](#)
  - [Study Breaks Magazine Interview](#)
  - [My Favorite Bit Interview](#)

### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

---

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.