He had been waiting patiently: midnight had come and gone and then the first, early morning hours. And still there was light in the room on the top floor of the house on the opposite side of the street, forcing him to wait ....He glanced at his watch. Four oclock. The streets were still, the air hushed. This was the dreaming hour when people cried out in their sleep; the crisis hour when a fever might break or hope finally disappear. The hour when deaths angel was walking.

The Midnight Side is a chilling tale of an incredibly seductive woman who, even from the grave, is able to manipulate events to her satisfaction. A haunting story of obsession and loss, Natasha Mostert's arresting debut is an intricately plotted psychological thriller that will leave you breathless.

Isa DeWitt is not alarmed when she receives a phone call in the early morning hours from her cousin Alette -- they'd always shared a tight bond -- until she discovers that Alette has been dead for two days. Summoned to attend to the affairs of Alette's estate, Isa travels from her home in South Africa to meet with Alette's attorney in London. There, the attorney presents her with the first of three envelopes that Alette has willed to her -- envelopes containing vengeful letters that carefully describe how to bring about the financial destruction of the company owned by Alette's former husband. Alette's final wish is that Isa complete this daunting task. Although she is reluctant to comply with Alette's commands, Isa is plagued by memories of the strange phone call, and her cousins constant presence in her dreams begins to overpower her will to resist just as Alette had planned.

Fast-paced, with a twist ending, The Midnight Side is a beautifully written page-turner replete with demons -- real and imagined -- and lurking at all times.

My Personal Review:
Not many people can claim they receive phone calls from a dead person, but Isa De Witt talked with her cousin Allette two days after the latter died. At the time of their discussion, Isa was unaware that Allette had already died until a solicitor informed her that she inherited her cousin's large estate. Isa immediately leaves her South Africa home for Allette's estate in
England. Allette's solicitor gives Isa a letter written by the deceased in which she claims she suffered mental abuse from her ex-husband Justin and wants revenge from the grave. Her goal is to see his pharmaceutical company, which he loves the most in the world, destroyed even as the firm is close to creating a medicine to help with Alzheimer's disease. When Isa hesitates, Allette calls her again to encourage her to take action. Isa learns that someone murdered Allette, but is unaware that the killer plans to send her to a place where she will not need a phone to talk with Allette. The supernatural elements add a chilling feel to a well-designed mystery. Dead people using telephones (must be a cell phone) allows the audience to see the reflections inside the mind of the victim as well as her mirror image reflected from the eyes of an obsessive maniac. The metaphysical and the mundane overlap, as Natasha Mosteri provides her audience with a wonderfully unique reading experience. Harriet Klausner

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