

Title: A Time When Demons

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Pitch

When reckless magic at a nightclub leaves a man gravely injured, Aeres Cadogan—an unwilling heiress to an ancient Wicca bloodline—is thrust into a dangerous spiral of police scrutiny, arranged marriage, and a stranger whose presence stirs something dark and powerful within her.

Blurb

Aeres Cadogan has never played by the rules, whether in her nightlife, magic, or the expectations of her powerful Wicca lineage. But when a night out ends with a man in the hospital and the walls of her world closing in, she's forced to confront the forces conspiring against her. Between an unwanted arranged marriage, a detective who suspects more than she's letting on, and a mysterious stranger who stirs something deep within her, Aeres is about to learn that magic comes at a price—one she may not be ready to pay.

Synopsis

Aeres Cadogan is a young Wicca woman torn between the traditions of her powerful lineage and the life she wants to lead. While her parents push her toward an arranged marriage with Emrys Druitt, heir to a prestigious and dangerous magical family, Aeres finds herself drawn to Gowan, a university student with no ties to the Wicca world.

Her nights out with best friends Kami and Charlotte offer a brief escape from duty, but everything changes when Charlotte is brutally murdered. The death is ritualistic, violent, and seemingly without explanation. As Aeres and Kami struggle to process their grief, Aeres begins experiencing strange visions; glimpses of Victorian streets soaked in blood and shadowy figures lurking just beyond her reach.

In the wake of Charlotte's death, Gowan mysteriously disappears. When Aeres and Emrys track him down, they find him in a decrepit house, but he is no longer himself. He has been possessed by Montague John Druitt—better known as Jack the Ripper. The Druitt family had secretly imprisoned the Ripper's spirit for generations, but Emrys shattered the seal, allowing the entity to take over Gowan's body.

Emrys' true intentions are revealed: he never wanted to simply marry Aeres, he wanted her as a tool. He believes that together, they could restore the old ways of Wicca, ushering in a future where power reigns supreme. He sees Charlotte's death, Gowan's suffering, and the chaos around them as necessary sacrifices.

Determined to stop him, Aeres performs a desperate blood magic ritual, using her own body as a conduit to forcibly extract the Ripper's spirit from Gowan. The exorcism is violent and nearly kills her. But just as the spirit is pulled free, it does not vanish... it enters Emrys instead.

Now possessed by the Ripper, Emrys becomes more dangerous than ever. He returns to his family home, slaughtering his own parents and delivering a speech to the remaining Wiccans, proclaiming himself the new ruler of their kind.

Aeres, Kami, Gowan, and Detective Aidan Gallagher arrive too late to prevent the bloodshed but in time to fight back. As Emrys, now fully merged with the Ripper, revels in his newfound power, Aeres knows there is only one way to stop him.

With Gowan grounding her magic and Kami supporting the ritual, Aeres joins forces with the Wicca elders to perform one final exorcism. As chants fill the air, Emrys is immobilized, his body convulsing as the Ripper's spirit is forcibly torn from him. The energy is trapped in a newly crafted spirit vessel, sealing the entity away once more.

Emrys collapses, blood seeping from his eyes, nose, and mouth. He is alive, but barely. The Wicca elders decide that he, too, must be imprisoned, ensuring that neither he nor the Ripper can ever threaten their world again.

With the battle won, Aeres, Gowan, and Kami stand together, forever changed by what they have endured. Though they have lost Charlotte and seen horrors they can never forget, they have also reclaimed their futures. The story closes with the three of them looking ahead—not to what has been planned for them, but to the future they will build on their own terms.