

Title: Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow
Author: Jessica Townsend
Reviewed By: Ria Chhabra, 13
Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity
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Nevermoor is a magical, adventurous book, the first in a truly “wondrous” series by Jessica Townsend! It begins in Jackalfax, the hometown of Morrigan Crow, who is the daughter of the famous Chancellor Corvus Crow. As Morrigan was born on Eventide, the last day of the year, she is cursed and accused of all the nearby misfortunes. When her eleventh birthday arrives, the day she’s destined to die, Morrigan is whisked away to the magical city of Nevermoor by a strange man named Jupiter North. In this enchanting place Morrigan begins to feel more like home than ever as she endures 4 trials to win a place at the “Wondrous Society,” an organization of talented people.

From a world powered by “wunder,” the dazzling threads of magic that make up everything to the talking, creatures called wunimals, this captivating novel provides a fresh, unique twist on the idea of magic. In contrast to traditional magic with spells or sorcerers, Nevermoor characters have talents such as breathing underwater, riding dragons or mesmerizing others. Furthermore, in this enchanting city there are magical streets that can be helpful, leading to other roads or deadly, growing narrower as you venture farther through them. Most importantly, the reader learns about this fascinating world right alongside Morrigan, where each discovery of Nevermoor is shared!

I especially love the beautiful build up to the revelation of Morrigan’s “knack” or talent at the end of the book. Beginning with simple curiosity of her talent, Morrigan’s stress and worry regarding her “knack” grows as the Show Trail approaches. While subtle hints of Morrigan’s ability are weaved seamlessly into the storyline right from the beginning, the final clue arrives shortly after this fourth and final trial. There the reader’s and Morrigan’s prediction of her talent are confirmed in this epic reveal with shadows, smoke and “wunder.” I definitely recommend this book for those ages 9+ who love magic, adventure and a touch of mystery!

Recommended Books:

The Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow by Jessica Townsend
Keeper of the Lost Cities (book 1) by Shannon Messenger
The Unwanteds (book 1) by Lisa McMann
The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill