

Clockwork Angel

Cassandra Clare

Reviewed by: Rina Guo, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

www.bethestaryouare.org

Set in the 19th Century, Tessa Gray runs to London, where she hopes to find her brother, Nate, who is her only source of family that may still be alive after the unfortunate and suspicious deaths of both parents and her aunt. While in England, the Dark Sisters, known for their dark powers, recognize a strong magic in Tessa and they kidnap and train her for weeks to harness the power of shape-shifting. But soon, Tessa finds out the Dark Sisters plan to hone her skill only so they can marry her off to a mysterious and dangerous man known as the Magister. Before they get a chance though, the Dark Sisters get ambushed by several Shadowhunters who help Tessa escape and bring her to The Institution. There, Tessa meets several similarly talented and powerful outcasts, who all share the same passionate desire to destroy the Magister and his dark allies, known as the Pandemonium Club. With her useful shape-shifting abilities, Tessa agrees to help the Shadowhunters as a way of repaying her thanks as well as finding Nate. Little does she know, her mysterious past and enticing powers may put her in more danger than she's ever known.

This book is suitable for readers age 12-17. The book includes quite a bit of fighting, death and bloodshed that may be a bit graphic for younger readers.

This was a great book! The beginning took me aback, because the scene and imagery was very vivid but also dark and ominous. It kept me hooked early on, and as the story progressed, much of this imagery grew and advanced, creating a very complicated but compelling plot. Something that I really appreciated was that although it seemed as if romance would play a big factor in spicing up the story, it really didn't take away the original intent of the storyline. Also, it didn't inhibit Tessa's attitude or moments of glory that exemplified her as a strong, independent female protagonist.

I would recommend this to people who enjoy genres of fantasy, romance, adventure, and crime. However, compared to most novels about magic and supernatural elements, this one definitely has a slightly disturbing and tragic sort of twist. It's not something that I would consider a light or casual read, but if you know a friend who can take these kinds of books and embrace them despite the grimness, it could still make a rewarding gift.

Recommended Titles:

The Young Elites by Marie Lu

Clockwork Prince by Cassandra Clare

Death Sworn by Leah Cypess

A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

Of Glass and Glamour by Chanda Hahn