

Legendary

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After the events of *Caraval*, Donatella (Tella) Dragna (16), has saved her sister, Scarlett, and freed the two of them from their father's wrath. However, to get to this point wasn't easy, in fact, it may cost Tella her life. Caught in a deal with an unknown criminal, Tella must repay him with something no one has ever been able to find, the true name of Caraval's Infamous Master, Legend. To discover what no one ever has, Tella must engage in Caraval once again with winning as her only hope of seeking what she must. As the games begin and the sun sets, Tella finds herself stuck in a twisted world of lies, deceit and tricks. It's up to her to repay her debt and if she is unable to, who knows what she may lose.

Legendary somehow manages to be an even better novel than *Caraval*, which is an amazing feat given how much I enjoyed the first book. At first, I was hesitant about this book's plot, following Tella instead of her sister, Scarlett. Being a huge fan of Scarlett in this first book, I was worried to switch pace to a lesser known female lead, one whom I wasn't exactly a fan of. However, my doubts were quickly proven wrong as Tella manages to be an even better protagonist than Scarlett. With her strong heart and hopeless romantic tendencies, I found myself becoming extremely invested with just how perfectly imperfect Tella was and she was the perfect character to engage in the events of this round of Caraval. Speaking of the events of Caraval, this book doesn't disappoint in being another twisting and captivating adventure. Every time I believed that I understood where the story was headed, things managed to be revealed that pulled me back into the game. It's certainly a page turner and something you can read in a whole night if you're not careful.

From this book, I would say it's weakest link is found within the aspects of the story surrounding Scarlett. While I loved her character in the first book, I didn't particularly see anything new added to her character that we hadn't already seen. I feel like the plot points involving her were created simply for the means of keeping her character around, most likely to involve her more in the next book. Which is fine, but when compared to how interesting Tella had become, I wish Scarlett had been able to equally hold her own and not become an uninteresting side character. I hope her character can be improved upon in the final book, but not at the expense of diminishing Tella.

In conclusion, *Legendary* and the *Caraval* series as a whole are a pioneer in this new era of young adult fiction. Despite the few flaws here and there, nothing can take away from just how enthralling this series is, especially *Legendary*. Much like the first book, I would recommend this for a teen audience given the mature themes that may be a bit too much for younger readers. This book is an amazing gift if you know someone who has already read the first, or to pair with the entire trilogy. I would certainly buy this book over renting it, as you will want to remember this story for years to come.

Recommended Titles:

Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo
The Cruel Prince by Holly Black
The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
The Beholder by Anna Bright
The Shadow Queen by C.J. Redwine