

*The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer*

Michelle Hodkin

Reviewed by: Kaden Shover, 16

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*The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* is the first book of a trilogy by author, Michelle Hodkin. *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* takes place in Rhode Island and begins with an accident when the Tamerlane State Lunatic Asylum collapses. Three of Mara's closest friends get killed in the accident leaving her behind. Mara wakes up in a hospital with no memory of the accident and tries to convince her family that they need to move. Mara moves to Miami and begins going to a private school with her older brother Daniel. At this school, Mara is smart, and sarcastic, but likeable meets two new people. One is Jamie, who is funny and sarcastic like Mara, and the other is Noah Shaw, who she finds both intriguing and peculiar. Mara slowly starts to remember the accident and becomes more confused with the memories from the hallucinations she experiences. At the same time this happening, Mara is slowly growing closer and more attracted to Noah. The book gradually gets more mysterious, which keeps you on the edge of your seat. This story has a dark and mysterious tone to it. The common theme of this book is that people are not always what they appear to be. *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* shows the importance of our bonds with friends and family.

What I liked most about this book was its suspense and mystery. *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* makes you want to keep reading, filling your mind with so many questions. Even at the end of the book, some of the mysteries were still left unsolved leaving more to the imagination. *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* leaves you wanting more, encouraging you to go and read the rest of the series. The only thing I did not like about this book was that some parts seemed a little creepy, and some of the plot twists are hard to follow, but that is just my opinion. I would recommend this book to high school aged students and older due to the mature content and language.

I would recommend that someone get *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* from the library. This is a book from an older series and is geared towards someone who is looking for a good read rather than what is popular and trending at the moment. The reason I recommend getting *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* from the library is because they will also have the other two

books in the series if you enjoy this read. I can guarantee you will finish *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer* quickly. This book keeps the attention of the reader because it moves so quickly, and you will not be able to put it down once you start it.

I would suggest the following books to readers if they liked this book

*The Evolution of Mara Dyer*, by Michelle Hodkin

*The Retribution of Mara Dyer*, by Michelle Hodkin

*The Last Echo* by Kimberly Derting

*Possess*, by Gretchen McNeil

*Split Second*, by Kasie West