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# Lady Midnight (The Dark Artifices)



## Synopsis

The Shadowhunters of Los Angeles star in the first novel in Cassandra Clare's newest series, *The Dark Artifices*, a sequel to the internationally bestselling *Mortal Instruments* series. *Lady Midnight* is a Shadowhunters novel. It's been five years since the events of *City of Heavenly Fire* that brought the Shadowhunters to the brink of oblivion. Emma Carstairs is no longer a child in mourning, but a young woman bent on discovering what killed her parents and avenging her losses. Together with her parabatai Julian Blackthorn, Emma must learn to trust her head and her heart as she investigates a demonic plot that stretches across Los Angeles, from the Sunset Strip to the enchanted sea that pounds the beaches of Santa Monica. If only her heart didn't lead her in treacherous directions. Making things even more complicated, Julian's brother Mark—who was captured by the faeries five years ago—has been returned as a bargaining chip. The faeries are desperate to find out who is murdering their kind—and they need the Shadowhunters' help to do it. But time works differently in faerie, so Mark has barely aged and doesn't recognize his family. Can he ever truly return to them? Will the faeries really allow it? Glitz, glamours, and Shadowhunters abound in this heartrending opening to Cassandra Clare's *Dark Artifices* series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • Emma Carstairs and Julian Blackthorn have grown up together, struggling with the

deaths of their respective parents and the responsibilities of caring for Julian's younger siblings after the Dark War. Five years after they convince the Clave to allow Emma to stay with the Blackthorns in Los Angeles, Emma and Julian realize that they are drawn to each other in a way prohibited by the rules of their parabatai bond. Julian's older brother Mark returns, conditionally, from the Wild Hunt to help the duo investigate recent murders that Emma believes may be connected to those of her parents. The Clave insists that her parents' deaths were related to the war, so true to Shadowhunter form, the teens take matters into their own hands, enlisting the help of the warlock Malcolm Fade and their tutor, Diana Wrayburn, as they pursue a dangerous truth that will unlock secrets of betrayal, obsession, and revenge. Complications abound, with multiple cliff-hangers that hint at the hard-hitting drama to come as the series continues. Clare delivers spectacular Shadowhunter fare with her trademark street tough yet emotionally fragile adolescent characters taking on adult roles and includes plenty of violent action and passionate romance to satisfy fans of "The Infernal Devices" and "The Mortal Instruments" series, who will be thrilled to see some of their favorite characters from the previous books make appearances. VERDICT A must-have for libraries with devoted Shadowhunter fans, who will undoubtedly be waiting for this emotionally intense beginning to her new series.

—Kerry Sutherland, Akron-Summit County Public Library, OH

"Positively a quiver with secret ardor and murderous zeal." (Kirkus)"Fresh and...wonderfully told." (Booklist)"Clare's well-developed protagonists..., pell-mell action sequences, complicated family dynamics, and fascinating magic system continue to engage." (Publishers Weekly)

I seriously love everything Cassandra Clare writes. This book was no different. It sucks you in and literally makes you read until your eyes droop and you have to go sleep, only to be able to wake up and keep reading :) The detail to the characters and setting of the story is fantastic. The relationships of the characters run through such a spectrum of feelings, heartache, passion, anger and compassion. The twists and turns the story take keeps you on your toes. I can't wait for the next book!!

characters that emerged in the Immortal Instruments become the focus of this new story, with some familiar faces making their appearances. Abandoned to the Clave the Blackthorn children fight to stay together bringing Emma Carstairs to the Los Angeles Institute with them. And if raising his siblings isn't enough for young Julian, having his two eldest siblings torn from their family, a series of unusual killings is being carried out in the Los Angeles area. With new friends and old coming

together to find out the who and why a question demands to be answered,,who do you trust? well written, wonderful character development with the politics of the clave once again coming into question. this is a must read for fans of the Immortal Instruments and fantasy fiction fans!

Cassandra Clare's *Lady Midnight* takes place five years after the war that submerged the Shadowhunter world into darkness. Sebastian Morgenstern came, and he went, leaving behind a twisted legacy that doesn't seem to be going anywhere any time soon. His actions affected Downworlders (supernatural creatures like fae and vampires) and Shadowhunters (those who protect against aforementioned supernatural creatures) alike. Today, a string of murders has popped up- there are no distinct patterns among the victims except that they are fae, and that Emma's parents were murdered in eerily similar ways five years previously. With the help of her parabatai Julian, his family and a secret alliance between the Blackthorn Shadowhunters and the faeries, Emma must discover the truth behind her parents' deaths and catch the murderer, all while dealing with the everyday pains of being a teenager. *Lady Midnight* is a triumph. It is Clare's most intriguing, engrossing, captivating story since it finds the perfect balance between action, mystery and drama. This novel brings together the best elements of *The Infernal Devices* and *The Mortal Instruments*- the former's empathetic characterization and relationships, and the latter's contemporary snark and humor. It is modern and exciting while maintaining the sentimentality of the characters' relationships with each other. The characters each serve a purpose within the larger storyline, and they're all wonderfully constructed and their development becomes apparent as the story progresses. Clare has gotten out of the *Öcedamsel in distress* protagonist trope, and has given us Emma who is courageous, independent and worthy. She has also gotten out of the *hot-headed bad boy* trope for the love interests, and has presented Julian- a soft-spoken young man who likes art and romance. She gave him the burdens of being a father-figure to a group of young children all while being a teenager himself, and this did wonders for his characterization. I enjoyed all the secondary characters too; I hadn't expected to get invested in this set of people, but I did. One of my only problems with this novel was the Big Bad, as you may call it. In her previous series, the main problem is one that has extremely high stakes, where the mortal world teeters on the edge of sanity and peril; in this one, I did not feel that the stakes were high enough. Which is not to say that it doesn't have potential, because it does. I do feel that things are going to get much

darker, much more sinister in the upcoming installments. And one final note, I also thought some of the cross-overs were forced. I would have much rather that Clare left her old characters behind instead of trying to force them to make an appearance in the book; it was pleasant to see them show up, but they did very little in the advancement of the plot. Perhaps in the next books we'll see a more seamless crossing over than we did in this one. Over all, Clare has upped her game. She has developed as a writer and a storyteller, and I cannot wait to see what new thing she presents me with in the next book.

Totally love this new series! I am a huge fan of YA books, and really enjoying reading them with my teen age daughters. I absolutely adored the Clockwork series and the Mortal Instruments, I was hoping the Dark Artifices was going to hold up, and it totally surpassed my expectation. If you loved the other series, I think you will not be disappointed. If you are new to this author and world of Shadowhunters & Downworlders, I would highly suggested reading the Clockwork and Mortal Instruments series first and then returning to this book. Although C. Clare does give enough background information to make the reader understand enough that this book could be considered a stand alone series. It make the reading experience that much richer and more meaningful if you read her other books in this "universe" first. Excellent story, can not wait for book two to come out and continue on the Carstairs/Blackthorn journey. Thank you for Cassandra Clare for creating such complex and human characters. Even your "villains" are sprinkled with human frailty, and therefore as readers, we can relate to how they have become misguided. Your heroes are written with even flaws and complexity that we can see their struggles to "to the right thing". Both of these elements together combine for a reading adventure full of highs and lows. Ms. Clare you make reading a pleasure for all generations. Thank you.\*Parent note- as a parent I would advise that some subjects (although tastefully written) are not quite suitable for all ages. I would say 15+ is a good age, and of course it totally depends on the teen in question. No graphic scenes at all, just there is some adultish themes in this novel that some parents might want to consider when purchasing for your child. As a lover of books (and a nosey mom) I try to always read the books before I pass them down to my kids to read. Both of my girls are 16+ now, and we started reading the book series when they were 14 and 16. It made for some interesting conversation openers with my girls.

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