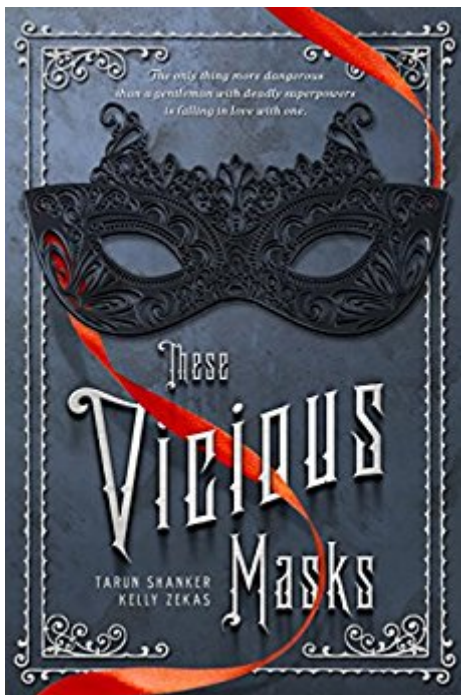


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# These Vicious Masks



## Synopsis

Jane Austen meets X-Men in this thrilling Victorian adventure full of magic and mysticism, perfect for anyone who loves a confident, rebellious heroine, snappy dialogue, and a hint of romance. England, 1882. Evelyn is bored with society and its expectations. So when her beloved sister, Rose, mysteriously vanishes, she ignores her parents and travels to London to find her, accompanied by the dashing Mr. Kent. But they're not the only ones looking for Rose. The reclusive, young gentleman Sebastian Braddock is also searching for her, claiming that both sisters have special healing powers. Evelyn is convinced that Sebastian must be mad, until she discovers that his strange tales of extraordinary people are true—and that her sister is in graver danger than she feared. Chosen by readers like you for Macmillan's young adult imprint Swoon Reads, *These Vicious Masks* is an action-packed, genre-bending novel by debut authors Tarun Shanker and Kelly Zekas. Praise for *These Vicious Masks*: "Striking a strong balance between romance and mystery, this novel captures society's rules just as well as it does the unbelievable powers of the main characters. Readers will easily be swept up in its fast pace and sympathetic narrator, who is filled with both self-doubt and resolve to do anything to protect those she loves. This is a perfect pick for someone who wants a little magic in their Victorian novels, and its combination of historical fiction and mysticism will remind readers of Libba Bray's Gemma Doyle trilogy." **Booklist** "This tale has brisk pacing, plenty of action, and a heroine with more than her fair share of girl-power confidence." **School Library Journal** "This is a great read, compelling and addictive. Well written and great character development you cannot stop reading. I was spellbound from the beginning and I thoroughly enjoyed the journey!" **Sue Speakman**, reader on Swoon Reads.com "My favorite thing about this book is the dialogue. The authors intricately composed period-style phrasing with a modern-day wit that is incredibly nuanced and thoughtful—very well done. I was successfully transported by the characters in a way that rivaled my indulgence in Harry Potterland." **Cayla O'Connell**, reader on Swoon Reads.com "So much fun! Like a story by one of the Bronte sisters or Jane Austen, except the characters are much more self-aware and genre-savvy." **Duncan Pflaster**, reader on Swoon Reads.com

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book. Was everything I wanted and more. Pride and Prejudice with super powers. That's what it is. Described as Jane Austen meets X-Men. Well that is a perfect description. And I loved it. You know that feeling you get when you have to put down a book to do something. But you get itchy and antsy and keep thinking, "Ugh I just want to go back and read!" All the while you can't stop thinking about the book. Yes. That is the feeling I got while reading These Vicious Masks. This is the first book in a new trilogy. And while there wasn't a huge cliffhanger, I absolutely cannot wait until the next book comes out. I don't want to say too much for fear of spoiling it. The synopsis does a really fantastic job. But I will say that there were twists I wasn't expecting and a swoon-worthy love interest. These Vicious Masks went above and beyond anything I could have expected. As a lover of Austen novels, this was the perfect read for me. Overall I am absolutely in love with this book. I cannot wait until the second comes out. If you like Jane Austen novels and novels with a slight fantastical twist this one is for you.

This book was so much FUN! I adored the main character Evelyn. She was a blast and everything you'd want in a friend and her inner dialogue was hilarious! This story has a little bit of something for everyone. It's hard to write a spoiler free review but I think that even if the blurb doesn't appeal to you that you should really give the sample a chance because you won't be able to put it down and

will end up hooked right away like I was. The plot and all of characters are well developed and interesting. There is action and suspense to keep you turning those pages. There are also two very swoon worthy guys. One more so than another but I really liked them both for different reasons. The book ends really well as it leaves you wanting the next book badly but not exactly hanging on the edge of a cliff plus it feels like these characters' adventures are just beginning! These two authors have written such a addicting, exciting, absolutely enjoyable debut. I can't wait until the next book!!!

Reviewed by Wendy for North of Normal Book Reviews (dot) com THESE VICIOUS MASKS by Tarun Shanker and Kelly Zekas is the first book in a YA historical paranormal thriller series. This is a stand-alone novel with a love triangle and a cliffhanger ending, which promises a sequel. I chose to read this book solely based on its comparison to X-Men. It was a very fair comparison! Evelyn and her sister Rose are being forced into a high society, a life they don't want to live. Their mother expects them to attend balls and find husbands while they prefer to tend to the sick as nurses. When Rose disappears, Evelyn must enlist help from a man she can't stand to find her. She learns what she is capable of and is introduced to a world she didn't know existed. There were a couple of things about this book that really worked for me. The first was Evelyn. She was supposed to act proper and represent her family name in the most respectable way. However, she cared for none of it. She was hysterical and tenacious. She wouldn't let anyone push her around or limit what she could do as a woman in the Victorian era. I also really enjoyed the love triangle. Although I had a clear favorite, and I believe Evelyn did too, there was a lot of back and forth between the men and her feelings for them. When a love triangle is done well, it's very exciting to see who's going to win. Since I loved Evelyn so much, I was invested in who she'd end up with. Unfortunately, the book ended with a cliffhanger before that question was answered, and I need the sequel yesterday. I truly enjoyed this one. For fans of super-hero fantasy, this is a must-read! I'm looking forward to the next book in this series. The characters are too good to not see how it ends. This book earns 3.5 North of Normal stars!

Well, I love Jane Austen and I love The X-Men, so you can imagine that the first tag line hooked me before this book was even released. And it did not disappoint! This story is fun and well-paced, more akin to X-Men in detail than any Jane Austen, although it also takes place in Victorian England (I know, I know, Austen was Regency- but the female protagonist is very much Over Society's B.S., living in the country, with shades of Lizzie Benet). This plot has action, romance, character growth, consequences, and some very funny moments. There's a love triangle, but definitely no 'easy out' of

it (not for the character, and not for the reader, as both men are morally grey and wonderful in their own ways). There are also a lot of secondary characters, which you know I adore. If you enjoy historical fiction, witty characters, believable romance, fantastical scenarios juxtaposed with harsh human-nature reality, and action/adventure romps, you should definitely read this one. I, for one, am eagerly awaiting the sequel.

This is my new favorite book. It has everything I could want in a historical, young adult novel. It is my jam and fits my taste perfectly...but I think others would relish in the novel as well. I'm still reeling from everything that happened in the end and I don't want to give anything away... So here is a list of what I love about this book, in no particular order. 1) Evelyn- A smart, witty, strong heroine that I love and can identify with. I love her banter and verbal tennis with everyone. 2) A love triangle where I can't easily decide whose team I should be on. (Leaning toward Team Sebastian) 3) It's historical! The Oscar Wilde-esque England/setting give the book an edge that I love. Darker than Jane Austen for sure. 4) The title... While I was reading I kept thinking back to how good the title is!!! 5) The mystery and characters kept me guessing about what would happen (now I'm wondering about the NEXT BOOK!!).

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