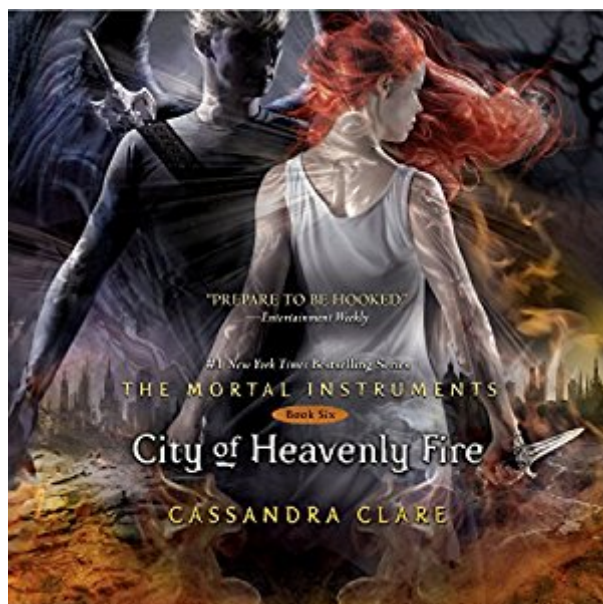


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City Of Heavenly Fire: The Mortal Instruments, Book 6



Synopsis

Darkness has descended on the Shadowhunter world. Chaos and destruction overwhelm the Nephilim as Clary, Jace, Simon, and their friends band together to fight the greatest evil they have ever faced: Clary's own brother. Nothing in this world can defeat Sebastian - but if they journey to the realm of demons, they just might have a chance.... Lives will be lost, love sacrificed, and the whole world will change. Who will survive the explosive sixth and final installment of the Mortal Instruments series?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I went into "City of Heavenly Fire" with low expectations. The second trilogy of "The Mortal Instruments" has thus far proven to be drawn-out, underwhelming, and has felt less like an attempt at telling a compelling story than it has a way for Clare to line her pockets. Going into the sixth and final book, I hoped that it would at the very least provide an ending to this mess and, fueled perhaps by the knowledge that whatever the quality of the book, it would be the last one, was cautiously optimistic that it would provide a more satisfying reading experience than the previous two installments. I'll give the book this: it's an improvement over the fourth and fifth novels...but that's not really saying a lot. Spoilers follow. Sebastian is at large with his newly-created Endarkened to support him. His willingness to strike against both Downworlders and Shadowhunters alike points to the inevitable: devastating war. As the Clave prepares for an all-out battle, Clary, Jace, Simon, Alec, and Isabelle are focused only on how they can stop Sebastian before he can carry out his deadly

plans. The stakes are high. The risks are unimaginable. If they succeed, the threat will be vanquished and order restored. If they fail, the world as they know it will be obliterated, everyone they love destroyed. Can they defeat Sebastian or will he succeed in unleashing an evil upon the world that has never been seen before? I'll start with a positive: stuff actually happens and the plot moves forward. It's an improvement over the last couple books for that reason alone. The last two books seem like mostly filler since all the "big" stuff happens in this one. There's a decent story in here...if you can slog through all the unnecessary fluff and subplots to find it.

I was really hoping City of Heavenly Fire would redeem City of Lost Souls and City of Fallen Angels, but it didn't. But it wasn't a completely horrible book either (which is what most reviews I was reading made it sound like). There were moments - especially at the beginning - where it was really irritating, but all in all it was an "OK" book (which is what three stars mean, even though I meant to give it 2.5). So here are some pros and cons to illustrate how I felt about the book:

Pro: It's good for a series to end with a lot of questions answered. Cassandra Clare brought stories and characters back from The Infernal Devices, from the Bane Chronicles, and wrapped them all up in a nice Mortal Instruments bow. She even introduced her next series The Dark Artifices. And, unlike many people, I really enjoyed the parts about Emma and Jules.

Con: It felt really forced, sometimes, that everything would fall exactly into place like that - all the pathways neatly colliding. And all the Emma and Jules parts were obviously meant as characters introductions, and were sometimes left in the air.

Pro: Cassandra Clare's books are action packed and often funny. It's a light read and that is how I treat it. She is a good writer, but she is good at writing fun, light, superficial things - at least that is my point of view. I really like her writing and especially the world she created.

Con: this story lacked depth. They were dealing with the end of the world, life and death situations, but I felt nothing for them. Not pity, not dread, not sorrow. And that is not what I'm looking for in a book.

From now on I'm afraid there are only cons:

Con: The main characters are - and there is no better word for it - stupid!

After the excellent ending to the far superior Infernal Devices trilogy, and the much-improved writing in Clockwork Prince, Clockwork Princess, and City of Lost Souls, I had high hopes for this book. Unfortunately, it didn't really live up to them - which I should have expected, considering the nearly unreadable quality of about half of the Bane Chronicles interludes. There was so much potential for an incredible ending here, and it was squandered. It wasn't terrible by any means, but it wasn't amazing, either. It was merely adequate. While there were some things about it that I really enjoyed, there were quite a few others that I hated. There were SO many problems that I'm shocked Ms.

Clare's editor didn't do a better job in cleaning it up. Others have complained about the large amount of filler this book contains, and it's true. It would have been half as long and twice as good if all of the unnecessary vignettes were removed. While a lot of them involved the new characters from the upcoming Dark Artifices trilogy, they weren't the only superfluous scenes. As a writer myself, I'm a firm believer that unless a scene is moving the story forward or laying down the setting, it's not needed. All of these unnecessary scenes bogged down the story and threw off the pacing, so that it sped through certain parts and dragged incessantly through others. Several of the scenes involving Emma and Jules were necessary to the story, and I appreciated them. Most, however, added nothing at all to THIS story and should have been saved for a prologue to the new series. We didn't need scenes of Jules and Ty fighting, or of them trying to feed Tavvy. We didn't need the drama involving the decision to become parabatai, Emma stealing the file on her parents, etc.

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