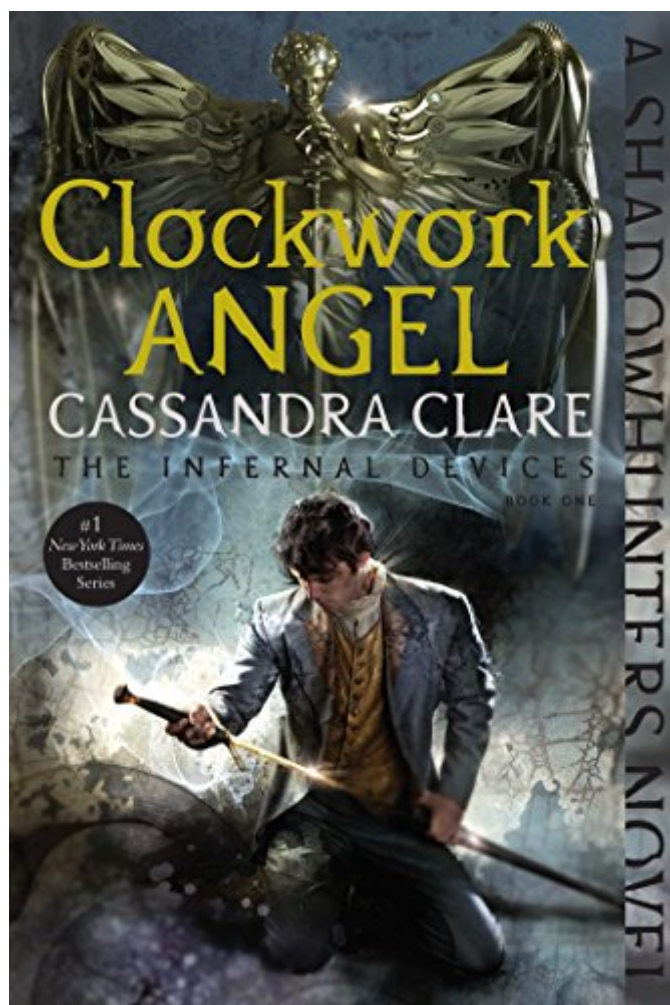


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Clockwork Angel (The Infernal Devices Book 1)



Synopsis

Magic is dangerous—but love is more dangerous still. Discover the riveting first book in the #1 New York Times bestselling *Infernal Devices* Trilogy, prequel to the internationally bestselling *Mortal Instruments* series. In a time when Shadowhunters are barely winning the fight against the forces of darkness, one battle will change the course of history forever. Welcome to the *Infernal Devices* trilogy, a stunning and dangerous prequel to the New York Times bestselling *Mortal Instruments* series. The year is 1878. Tessa Gray descends into London's dark supernatural underworld in search of her missing brother. She soon discovers that her only allies are the demon-slaying Shadowhunters—including Will and Jem, the mysterious boys she is attracted to. Soon they find themselves up against the Pandemonium Club, a secret organization of vampires, demons, warlocks, and humans. Equipped with a magical army of unstoppable clockwork creatures, the Club is out to rule the British Empire, and only Tessa and her allies can stop them....

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Clockwork Angel is the first book in the Infernal Devices trilogy by Cassandra Clare. It is set in Victorian London and has an air of steampunk although it is not explicitly that genre. There are clockwork creations and automatons, a Shadowhunter inventor that tinkers with gears and wires, but the overall setting is not one of steam powered air machines and gear-covered outfits. As a fan of the steampunk genre and aesthetic, I quite enjoyed the subtle notes of it in this series. The clockwork automatons are intriguing, as they are made from neither Heaven nor Hell and thus the Shadowhunters have no experience dealing with them. They create a unique foe to fight against and are a greater mystery as our heroes do not know who truly created them, or their nefarious purpose. Each chapter is headed with an excerpt from a poem that Tessa might have found herself reading over the years. Each is not only a wonderful addition to the story but if you enjoy them, perhaps it will lead you to seek them out in their original forms. I personally do not find myself frequently reading poetry, but the first time I read this book I fell in love with the poems selected. It caused me to go in search of them and read poetry. Perhaps you too will find yourself inspired. As with the Mortal Instruments, our main character is a female who is unfamiliar with the Shadow World at the beginning of the novel. Before long, she is completely embroiled in the world, the politics and must learn as she goes. In this novel, our heroine is given the Shadowhunter Codex to read which allows her to quickly understand the roles of the Shadowhunter and the world she didn't even know existed. I have always liked Tessa and felt a kinship to her, as we are very similar. Tessa is quite tall, especially for a woman in the Victorian era, brunette and loves books more than anything else (other than perhaps her family.) Her Aunt was a very learned woman, so Tessa received a decent education and fostered a love of reading. She is able to quote from books that she loves and does not discriminate between books considered high-brow and those considered for the lower class of society. Tessa is very intelligent and not afraid to voice her opinions, even though it was not widely accepted at that time for women to be sharp of tongue. She also does not like chocolate, which endeared her to me immediately as I also am one of the few people it seems who does not like chocolate. Our two male leads are Jem and Will, who are parabatai but quite dissimilar from one another. Jem was originally from the Shanghai Institute but found himself in the London Institute when his parents were murdered by demons. He is quiet, kind, intelligent and loves Will like a brother. Will is a Herondale, with all of the charm that comes with it. He is more reckless, boasts about frequenting brothels and dens of vice, and despite his outward attempts to appear cheerful is prone to melancholy. The Institute is filled with other Shadowhunters and servants with vastly different personalities who bring a lot of interesting storylines with them. Charlotte and Henry are the heads of the Institute, despite their young age.

Henry is a brilliant inventor, although a bit scatterbrained. Jessamine was forced to live in the Institute after the death of her parents, but she has never desired to be a Shadowhunter. The first book introduces us to the Shadow World of London, as Tessa is invited to travel from New York to London to live with her brother. Her plans do not turn out as she had expected and it leads her on an adventure with the Nephilim. It is fascinating to see how different the Shadowhunters of this era are, and yet utterly the same. It was also interesting to see how the Shadowhunters view the Downworld. While it was not entirely equal to the time of the Mortal Instruments series, you realize that it has improved in the century since the Infernal Devices and must be leagues above the treatment in the earliest years of the Nephilim. Whether *Clockwork Angel* is your first foray into the Shadow World, or not, it is a highly entertaining and well-written novel that I could not recommend more. Many people feel that this series is the best of the three, so if you've been considering reading any of the Shadowhunter Chronicles but were not quite sure perhaps this is a good place to start. I personally would recommend reading a number of the Mortal Instruments before beginning this series, but that is just my opinion. Either way, if you have not yet read this book please go do so now! It is one of my favourites and I hope that it will be yours as well.

This had a lot to live up to after reading *City of Glass*. The first half of *Clockwork Angel* just fell short for me. I just did not connect with the new characters like I was hoping I would. The first half was boring compared to the last book, and I was feeling disappointed. It did start to pick up towards the second half! Once it did, I started to understand why everyone loved this one too. I started to get to know the characters a little more, and the twists and turns started to come left and right. I ended up really enjoying it. Of course, I am going to continue with the series. I am hoping the *Infernal Devices* gets better though. I know most people loved it more than the *Mortal Instruments* so I am thinking it will!

An interesting first book for the trilogy. As a big fan of the Victorian Era, I found the book interesting, though one could argue that parts of the book are steampunk inspired. I already adore two characters in this series, and I'm excited to see where they end up by the end of Book 3. The pace is relatively good, and there are definitely a few twists that left me feeling pretty betrayed. I can already see a budding romance. You may notice that my reviews on the *Mortal Instruments* series speak of the author's placing too much on romance, thereby taking away from the small female character. This was not true for *Clockwork Angel*, much to my happiness.

It all starts with the dashing Will Herondale and the ethereal James `Jem' Carthakis. Both Shadowhunters are doing a routine demon hunt when they stumble upon the corpse of a young lady. It's a horrible mystery which they cannot help but investigate. Switch POVs and we have Tessa Gray, who came to London at the request of her brother. She has been held captive for six weeks now by a pair of evil sisters, during which time Tessa has discovered powers she never knew she--or anyone else--could have. The Dark Sisters think she is finally ready to meet The Magister and become his bride. As Tessa tries to escape for the second time, she meets Will who is there following a lead on the murder. After a fierce battle against the sisters a deeper plot will be revealed; one that involves automatons, the breaking of the Accords, demons, and the unique powers that Tessa has. I know this is a point that bothers most people but I really like how the Infernal Instruments echoes The Mortal Instruments. Tessa has a certain spark, not a Clary kind of spark but still one. Though it is somewhat subdued by the conventions of the era, Tessa's ideas are about to change as she takes on this strange new world. It became a bit infuriating at times the way she would go on and on commenting about what a woman should and shouldn't do. I say, to hell with conventions! Most of what Tessa knows has come from the novels she so loves to read and not personal experience. It's no wonder then, that all she spouts at the beginning is propriety nonsense. However after a short time with the Shadowhunters, we can see Tessa changing her ways. By the end she's ready to be Boadicea herself, and sacrifice herself for others. As always love the quotes before each chapter. As an English Major I read most of them in college, and it's nice to see them here taken out of context. I also love it when Will starts quoting literature. He might be a bloody bastard sometimes, but good Lord is that boy fine. And those glimpses we get where he is at his most vulnerable make me feel as if he is really worth it. There's just something holding him back from opening up to people, hopefully that will be explained further in the trilogy. On the other hand, Jem is the complete opposite of Will. He is so kind and loving and poetic with his words--really insightful. I could see Tessa falling for him eventually if Will doesn't get his act together. My favorite character, Magnus Bane, makes an appearance however a short one. I almost keeled over when he made the comment about how "Black hair and blue eyes are his favorite combination." Great prediction on the future, as we know Alec is the lucky boy who gets Magnus. Overall I liked re-reading this book, but I still find it more subdued than The Mortal Instruments. The plot was quite intriguing and now I can't wait to read Clockwork Prince!

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