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# Lady Midnight: The Dark Artifices, Book 1



## 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 best-selling *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, glammers, and Shadowhunters abound in this heartrending opening to Cassandra Clare's *Dark Artifices* series.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 19 hours and 45 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 8, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B017KWLX9C

Best Sellers Rank: #46 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Paranormal &

Urban #79 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Fantasy #83

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

My intention had been to download the Kindle version, read for about half an hour and go to bed. Here I am hours later, in the early morning, having finished the book. It really is a wonderful read and does not disappoint. There are a limited number of things that I can say because the book

reads like a mystery novel and there are certain surprises that are important to keep so as not to ruin it for others. It has been a bit since I've read any of the Shadowhunter books and have not read the mortal instruments. However, I found that the book was easy to follow without this background, although I need to read the Mortal Instruments at some point to have a better introduction to Jem and Tessa. It's nice though, there are multiple characters that overlap from the other books, but this is not a story about them, there is a recognition of the past history of the world that occurs in the other books and then "Lady Midnight" gives a nod to them and establishes its own story with its own characters. There was a bit of time in which I thought that the narrative was going to be very similar to that of Jace and Clary and Simon, but I then recognized that the characters of Emma and Julian, Mark, Cristina, and Diego are distinct; it's almost enjoyable to encounter these characters as the same age as Jace and Clary, who in turn now look at the younger generation from their own adulthood of early twenties. It's a reminder of how far the series has come and developed the characters. There is a stronger relationship with the Faerie in this book and it is insightful to see how this society/community establishes rules and responsibilities. It further expands the world of characters Clare has introduced the reader to over the years.

Lady Midnight by Cassandra Clare is the first in The Dark Artifices, a new Shadowhunters series set around the Shadowhunters Institute in LA. It focusses on Emma Carstairs and her parabatai Julian Blackthorn, characters introduced in City of Heavenly Fire, the final book in the Mortal Instruments series. This was one of my most anticipated reads of 2016 and I LOVED it. The setup for Lady Midnight was one of the things I enjoyed most about City of Heavenly Fire and it more than lived up to its promise. What I liked The characters. Although Emma is a smart, engaging kickass heroine, I found my sympathies being drawn more to Julian - his struggles and challenges spoke to me even more than Emma's. I was also very interested that this time we meet some Shadowhunters who do not necessarily fit the mould of young teens, perfect in mind and body who embody the ideals of the Clave. Particularly interesting to me was Tiberius, who is clearly on the autism spectrum. I thought it was wonderful how he was shown to make a significant contribution to our protagonists' quest even if it wasn't always by going out and fighting demons. I am interested to see how the Clave tries to handle him in the future. We also have Mark Blackthorn, who, although technically a Shadowhunter has been strongly influenced by his time with the Fae. In both these cases we clearly see how Shadowhunter society in general is not very accepting of those who do not fit a specific mould. The Law. The Law is a major theme in this book, specifically how to handle a law that seems harsh or unfair. This is symbolised by two Latin phrases "Sed lex, dura lex" -

the Law is hard, but it is the Law - and *œlex malla, lex nulla* • - a bad law is no law at all.

I just want to say congratulations to Cassandra Clare on the amazing book, and that this review contains NO spoilers what-so-ever in it, so feel free to read on without worry! I know many, many, MANY people have been complaining that this book is just a "cash cow" novel to milk Cassandra Clare's "Shadowhunter" world for more money, but I beg to differ. Not only is this an amazing book, but it's probably the best beginning of a series for any of Cassandra's Shadowhunter series. (At least for me) You'll love the story, you'll love the characters (more like worship the ground they walk on), and you'll not want to put this book down AT ALL once you begin it. Now, you might be wondering: "Do I need to read the other books to read this one?" My answer would be: "Yes and No." Why..?: "Because, you'll be missing out on all the amazing character's from the previous novels, and not understand some of the emotional attachments that the main characters in these books have for character's in it's predecessors; or even some of the family ties that come into play; or the subtle cameos that are placed in here and there. BUT, the reason you can read this without having to read the others is because, in itself, this book is the beginning of a new Shadowhunter Era; and Cassandra does an amazing job of explaining the world and what's been happening in it to the reader(s).

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