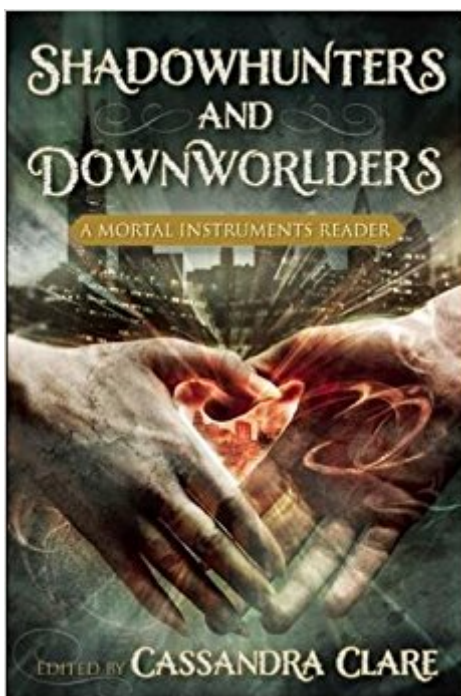


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# Shadowhunters And Downworlders: A Mortal Instruments Reader



## Synopsis

Explore the world of the Mortal Instruments with Cassandra Clare and more. Join Cassandra Clare and a Circle of more than a dozen top YA writers, including New York Times bestsellers Holly Black, Rachel Caine, and Kami Garcia, as they write about the Mortal Instruments series, its characters, and its world. Inside you'll read:

- A cinematic tutorial on why the best friend (Simon) always loses out to the bad boy (Jace)
- The unexpected benefits of the incest taboo
- What we can read between the lines of Alec and Magnus
- European vacation
- The importance of friendship, art, humor, and rebellion
- And more, from the virtues of Downworlders to the naughty side of Shadowhunting

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-Cassandra Clare, author of the "Mortal Instruments" series (S & S), has gathered a collection of essays (Smart Pop, 2013) by fellow fantasy authors analyzing the characters, setting, and themes of her popular young adult novels. "Why the Best Friend Never Gets the Girl" by Kami Garcia, author of the "Beautiful Creatures" series, describes the relationship between main characters Simon and Clary, and compares the book with major films, such as *Pretty in Pink*, and *The Outsiders*. Kendare Blake takes on incest and discusses Jace and Clary's forbidden relationship and how it infuses the stories with dramatic tension. Sarah Rees Brennan's

stream-of-consciousness essay, "What Does That Deviant Wench Think She's Doing?," is by far the most engaging of the chapters. She dishes the dirt, dealing with all of the deviant drama in the "Mortal Instruments" books. The recording is admirably performed by Emily Beresford, Luke Daniels, and Tanya Eby who alternate chapters. Although the essays are self-indulgent and uneven in quality, die-hard fans of the series will be interested in digging deeper into Clare's fantasy world, especially with the August 2013 release of the film, *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. Only for libraries with extensive fantasy collections. -Lisa Hubler, Charles F. Brush High School, Lyndhurst, OH

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Edited by Mortal Instruments helmer Clare, these 13 nonfiction essays are a companion volume rather than fan-fic extension of her popular series. Chapters range from an exploration of GLBTQ themes to the power of drawing, from (possible) incest to tattoos, and are written by an impressive array of YA authors, including Holly Black, Sara Ryan, and Kami Garcia. The introduction was unavailable at the time of review, so it is hard to know why or how the essays were selected, but Clare does preface each entry with a few adulatory comments. This may not be the book fans are expecting when they pick it up: the essays are literary-criticism-lite treatments of themes and memes, and readers will require familiarity with the Mortal Instruments titles to make heads or tails. On the other hand, the Mortal Instruments series is hugely popular, lending this book interesting potential as a nonfiction text for meeting Common Core standards. Grades 9-12. --Welch, Cindy

This volume, edited by fantasy writer Cassandra Clare, contains a series of essays on aspects and themes presented in the Mortal Instruments Series by the same Cassandra Clare. The essays are all the work of authors of fantasy and/or young adult fiction. Each essay addresses a different theme (such as war, violence, searching, heritage, character formation) through some of the concrete social depictions that Clare offers in her series. The essays examine literary motifs as well as a number of contemporary controversies that most YA fiction avoids, but which the Mortal Instruments attempts to treat in a fair and realistic manner, as the essayists bring out. Here let me add that each essayist, an author in her or his own right, allows the fan and casual reader of Cassandra Clare's writings to understand the depth of meaning that make it clear why the Moral instruments contributes to contemporary literature in English-language fantasy fiction. This is a solid yet amenable study, which I highly recommend.

If it's from Cassie Clare's universe, I'm hooked!

What can I say? I am a true Shadowhunter and Cassandra Claire addict! Most people think this whole business is getting run into the ground but I honestly can't get enough and I know I am not alone. This book is full of contributions from other prestigious writers analyzing and giving their opinions on the hit young adult series. More for the hardcore fans out there I would say but I suggest everyone to at least give it a once over.

I love the Mortal Instruments and this is just an added bonus.

Loved this insight into the world of Shadowhunters.

Very interesting views on the Shadowhunter world Cassandra Clare created and some of the themes in the series.

thanks

This anthology of essays is insightful, thought-provoking, and humorous. That being said, it is certainly not for movie bandwagoners, casual readers, or those who don't get a kick out of literary analysis. Die-hard fans will most likely enjoy what other authors have to say about the world of Clare's books. English majors who are also fans will definitely enjoy the essays.

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