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City of Bones

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Clare, Cassandra. *The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2007. Kindle File.

“Keep in mind that when your mother fled from the Shadow World, it wasn’t the monsters she was hiding from. Not the warlocks, the wolf-men, the Fair Folk, not even the demons themselves. It was them. It was the Shadowhunters.” – location 3052 of 7217

When Clary Fray’s mother is attacked and abducted by a demon, Clary is introduced to an entire world of which she was previously unaware. Clary learns of the Shadow World, which is populated with Shadowhunters – a race of Nephilim sworn to protect humankind from demon invasion – as well as four types of Downworlders: vampires, werewolves, warlocks, and faeries. Clary also learns that she herself may be linked to the Shadow World in a very significant way.

To find her mother, Clary enlists the help of her best friend Simon and Shadowhunters Alec, Isabelle, and Jace. Clary and Jace share a clear and inextricable bond, but as they race to find Clary’s mother, they learn troubling new facts about themselves as well as about the Shadow World. Perhaps there are issues even more pressing than a continual demonic threat, and perhaps those issues arise from within the Shadow World itself.

City of Bones, the first book in Cassandra Clare’s *The Mortal Instruments* series, is high fantasy at its best. Clary is a strong and independent character who finds her perfect balance in Jace. In combining the relationship between Clary and Jace, a variety of dynamic supporting characters, a vividly imaginative setting, and an intricate plot, Clare creates a unique narrative into which readers can lose themselves wholly. Along with Clary and Jace, readers of *City of Bones* will learn that hindsight is not always lucid – the past may be just as mutable as the future.