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# City of Ashes

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Clare, Cassandra. *The Mortal Instruments: City of Ashes*. New York: Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2008. Kindle File.

“You grew up in a falsely beautiful paradise surrounded by fragile glass walls, my daughter. Your mother created the world she wanted to live in and she brought you up in it, but she never told you it was an illusion. And all the time the demons waited with their weapons of blood and terror to smash the glass and pull you free of the lie.” – location 5729 of 6942

Clary is trying to live a normal life. But when you are a Shadowhunter with little training, when your mother is in some sort of spell-induced coma, when you have a vampire for a best friend, and when your surrogate father is a werewolf, normal is a little hard to come by. And Clary isn't sure if she really does want a normal life anyway – at least not as long as Jace is still living in the Shadow World.

Jace is having issues of his own. Despite trying to explain the events of the past few weeks to the Shadowhunter Clave, no one seems to believe that before meeting Clary, Jace was unaware of the truth regarding his own past. Now, in addition to struggling with his conflicting emotions concerning Clary, he must balance his loyalty to the Clave with his loyalty to his own father. Ultimately, he must determine exactly where his allegiance lies.

The second book in *The Mortal Instruments* series, *City of Ashes*, picks up where *City of Bones* left off. Clary and Jace, still reeling from recent revelations have no time to rest; with the continued help of Simon, Alec, and Isabelle they must not only contend with their own problems, but attempt to stay one step ahead of Valentine – Clary's evil father, who with demonic aid, is determined to overthrow the Clave. But Clary and Jace are only teenagers, and despite knowledge, training, and other unique talents, the odds are certainly stacked against them.