

10-30-2013

## Caster Chronicles

Maggie Mason Smith

Clemson University, [mason5@clemson.edu](mailto:mason5@clemson.edu)

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### Recommended Citation

Mason Smith, Maggie, "Caster Chronicles" (2013). *Publications*. 70.

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“We are given to the great, for great purpose, to great ends. We are given to the grave, for grave purpose, to grave ends.’ I closed the book and handed it back to Marian. I didn’t want to know any more.” – *Beautiful Darkness*, page 181

Garcia, Kami and Margaret Stohl. *Beautiful Creatures: The Caster Chronicles*. New York: Little, Brown, & Co., 2009.

Garcia, Kami and Margaret Stohl. *Beautiful Darkness: The Caster Chronicles*. New York: Little, Brown, & Co., 2010.

Garcia, Kami and Margaret Stohl. *Beautiful Chaos: The Caster Chronicles*. New York: Little, Brown, & Co., 2011.

Garcia, Kami and Margaret Stohl. *Beautiful Redemption: The Caster Chronicles*. New York: Little, Brown, & Co., 2012.

PZ7.G155627 Bea 2012

It all begins in Ethan’s dreams: black hair, pale skin, green eyes, and a sinking feeling when Ethan loses his grip and the girl to whom those features belong is pulled away from him. Ethan doesn’t actually know the girl he dreams about; at least he doesn’t until a hearse arrives at Jackson High on the first day of sophomore year. Lena Duchannes, the Caster girl in the hearse who also happens to literally be the girl of Ethan’s dreams, will be claimed by the Light or the Dark on her sixteenth moon and Lena’s Claiming will forever change Ethan’s life. It will also change Ethan’s death – both times.

Set in South Carolina, *The Caster Chronicles* is an interconnecting tale of magic and Southern culture. Ethan longs to leave Gatlin, the small town in which he grew up. In Gatlin, everyone has secrets and everyone else knows those secrets, church attendance on Sunday is mandatory, and the high school is a microcosm of the larger community that no one ever really leaves. Lena isn’t from Gatlin and as an outsider she doesn’t fit in; however, making friends is only one of her problems. Lena’s family, which is made up of Casters and Incubuses who each wield a variety of powers, was cursed generations ago. Ethan and Lena may be able to end the curse, but they may set off a chain of potentially apocalyptic events in the process.

*The Caster Chronicles* is a unique series in the genre of young adult paranormal romance. Through the inclusion of colloquial terminology and a southern vernacular that enhances rather than detracts from the dialog, Garcia and Stohl lend credibility to the characters. In addition, the authors highlight a variety of characteristics central to Southern culture, such as the correlation between the size of a meal and the importance of the day it is eaten, thereby lending credibility to

the series setting, as well. When combined with other interesting genre deviations, such as telling the series from a male point of view, Garcia and Stohl weave an exceptional yet traditional web around the supernatural focal point of the series: Ethan is a bridge between worlds and with a little help from family, friends, and the local library, Ethan and Lena may just save them all.