



Chain of Iron by Cassandra Clare

Reviewed by Fadila



Book 2 of *The Last Hours* series, Fiction, Fantasy, Paranormal, Magic

Give a summary without spoilers!

A continuation of Cassandra Clare's previous series, *Chain of Gold* follows Cordelia Carstairs as her life significantly changes once she moves to London. You don't need to have read Cassandra Clare's previous novels to understand and follow the plot though. In fact, *Chain of Gold* was the first of Clare's writing, and I had no trouble keeping up with the plot. Cordelia and her family desperately try to redeem their social status and clear the family name. Told from multiple perspectives, Cordelia and her group of new and old friends find themselves wrapped into a world of demons and danger, at the mercy of their own skills with weaponry, experimentation, and logic. The first book in *The Last Hours* series sets the stage for a plot with content that grows exponentially.

What drew you to this book?

I had heard of Cassandra Clare from TikTok, everyone had said they loved her writing style and characters. Even though people say not to judge a book by its cover, *Chain of Gold*'s cover was certainly enough to convince me to read it in addition to the good reviews I had heard.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

If you've never read Cassandra Clare's writing before, then you are in for a surprise. It can be very dense, and almost seems to go off on tangents, including seemingly unnecessary details. I had never read a fantasy novel which had gone into such detail. I really can't say that *Chain of Gold* reminded me of any other book I'd read because the fashion in which the plot slowly unravels itself and the characters come to life after just a few chapters is unique to any other fantasy novel I'd read.

To whom would you recommend this book?

Chain of Gold by Cassandra Clare doesn't really contain adult topics, so I would suggest it for the age range 12 and up. I wouldn't recommend *Chain of Gold* to someone who hadn't read much fantasy in the past. The novel definitely suits people who enjoy fantasy, and I feel as though they could really appreciate it. I would also

recommend this book to people who like historical fiction, because Chain of Gold has a significantly REAL vibe to it. The amount of precise detail put into building up 19th and 20th century London would certainly appeal to a history oriented audience.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

Despite what people will say about Cassandra Clare's writing style, I actually really liked Chain of Gold. It wasn't my favorite book, but the characters were so life like that they stayed with me long after I finished the book. It wasn't the most fast paced book, but I don't think it was meant to be. It's become a sort of comfort book to me. I would recommend this book to others, but in moderation. This isn't the type of book you recommend to a friend who doesn't like to read, or doesn't typically read longer detailed books. Often times I found myself avoiding the book simply because I didn't have enough motivation to keep up with the sheer amount of detailing. But I was so glad when I eventually finished the book that I had stuck with it. I simply cannot stress how astronomical the character development was (especially for Matthew Fairchild). I forced my sister to read Chain of Gold, and we both found that the plot was a great topic to debate about.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

After reading Chain of Gold by Cassandra Clare I felt like I had read a classic novel without the usual onslaught of hatred I feel. The book genuinely gave off the vibe of being a classical piece of fantasy literature.