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The Bane Chronicles



Synopsis

Fans of The Mortal Instruments and The Infernal Devices can get to know warlock Magnus Bane like never before in this paperback collection of New York Times bestselling tales, each with comic-style art. This collection of eleven short stories illuminates the life of the enigmatic Magnus Bane, whose alluring personality, flamboyant style, and sharp wit populate the pages of the #1 New York Times bestselling series, The Mortal Instruments and The Infernal Devices. Originally released one-by-one as e-only short stories by Cassandra Clare, Maureen Johnson, and Sarah Rees Brennan, this compilation presents all ten together in print and includes a special eleventh tale, as well as eleven comic illustrations.

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up • While he does not have a starring role, Magnus Bane, Warlock extraordinaire, is one of the most popular characters in Cassandra Clare's "Mortal Instruments" and "Infernal Devices" series (both S. & S.). His fabulous lifestyle, scandalous love affairs, outrageous parties, exotic excursions, and unique position with Downworlders (vampires, demons, werewolves), Mundanes (humans), and Shadow Hunters (half-angel demon hunters) are only briefly touched upon until now. Fans of Clare's books will eagerly devour the 10 short stories, which were previously only available as individual ebooks. The tales are organized chronologically, with the majority of them taking place during the Victorian-era "Infernal Devices" series; two feature Bane

and Alec, including their hilarious first date. Every story is preceded by a quotation and a one-page comic, drawn in manga-style, highlighting an important scene. Clare has teamed up with authors Maureen Johnson and Sarah Rees Brennan to flesh out the lengthy life of Bane, giving readers a unique insight into the characters and events they know from Clare's other books. At the same time, readers unfamiliar with the "Shadow Hunters" series will easily be able to pick up this book and enjoy it without much confusion. The stories are equally engaging and are organized well, seamlessly building on one another. An essential purchase for any library that has a Cassandra Clare following. — Marissa Lieberman, East Orange Public Library, NJ --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"11 clever, touching, and hilarious short stories...starts with a brief, hilarious, mangastyle comic highlighting the trademark wit of coauthors — Clare, Maureen Johnson, and Sarah Rees Brennan... Fans (and they are legion) who are mourning the end of the Mortal Instruments series will be desperate to get their hands on this." (Booklist)"Only for series completists and fans of Magnus Bane — but who isn't a fan of Magnus Bane?" (Kirkus Reviews)"Fans of Clare's books will eagerly devour the 10 short stories.....An essential purchase for any library that has a Cassandra Clare following." (School Library Journal)

As I've been making my way through Cassandra Clare's "Mortal Instruments" series, I've found that however tired I get of the characters and reused plots, Magnus Bane, High Warlock of Brooklyn, is always the shining light of the series and somehow makes each book more enjoyable with his presence. So I was absolutely thrilled when I heard that a collection of short stories centered on everyone's favourite warlock was going to be released. If you love Magnus and his eccentric personality, "The Bane Chronicles" is the book for you. Spoilers follow."The Bane Chronicles" is comprised of eleven short stories that tell of different points in Magnus's life. Since he's been alive for hundreds of years (it's hard to say exactly how many centuries - he routinely lies about his age), Magnus has had quite a few adventures. The book covers his misadventures in Peru (why he was banned Magnus still doesn't know), a run-in with Marie Antoinette during the French Revolution, various encounters with members of the Herondale family in the 1800s, a couple instances dealing with the Hotel Dumont and the vampires that call it home, dealing with a newly-Changed Raphael Santiago, a battle with Valentine's Circle, meeting Jocelyn and agreeing to hide young Clary's Shadowhunter traits, and the growth of his relationship with Alec Lightwood. Throughout all of his adventures, Magnus is always magnificent, always looking for excitement and, of course, always

fashionable. The short stories vary in length and quality, but they're all enjoyable (though the first story about Peru does go on a bit long, especially since we never really learn why Magnus was banned from the country). It's interesting to see Magnus in different settings with different characters and varied scenarios. Like I said earlier, he's easily one of the best characters in Clare's books, so it's very satisfying to have some stories that focus solely on him without the drama that other certain characters (looking at you, Clary) bring to the other books. While I wish we could have seen more of Magnus's earlier life (more on that in a moment), these tales provide some amusing insight into his past escapades and what ultimately makes Magnus, well, Magnus. I had to keep reminding myself that these were short stories, as I often wanted more information and more content than was provided. My interest was piqued and I'd have loved to see more, but I was ultimately content with the length and content of the stories...they were typically as long as they needed to be and told the tale they needed to. Some of them feel more connected to one another than others, but they all do their job: telling interesting, enjoyable stories about everyone's favourite warlock. I was impressed by the writing in the stories and felt that they captured a good range of themes as well as Magnus's overall tone. Like Clare's other books, "The Bane Chronicles" is written in the third-person, but the writing definitely demonstrates Magnus's character. He practically could have written it himself since his snark, whimsy, occasional obliviousness, and lofty opinion of himself shine through in the word usage and general tone of the book. What's more, we get a lot of different emotions from this. Sometimes the prose takes on a more humorous element. There were several points in the warlock's misadventures that made me chuckle or snort with amusement (generally a little embarrassing since I read most of this novel while at the gym, but no matter!). Other moments were more somber. I was particularly touched by Magnus's plight of living forever and how it affects his romantic life in that people he cares about tend to die in what essentially amounts to a blink of an eye for him. He also routinely faces discrimination from both the Shadowhunters and fellow Downworlders, which he mostly takes in stride. Perhaps it's because the last "Mortal Instruments" book I read was such a disappointment, but I wasn't expecting this level of writing from these stories. I came into this novel expecting some fun tales that focused on the best character from Clare's books and was pleased to find some snappy writing and impacting moments of introspection, all of which aid the book in fleshing out the mystery that is Magnus. In addition to providing some more insight into Magnus's character, "The Bane Chronicles" also builds more detail into Clare's world. I know some readers complain about her world building, but I'm actually rather impressed with how consistent and detailed it is (for the most part). I enjoyed reading about the different groups of Downworlders presented here, and since Magnus has more of an insider's

perspective than the usual Shadowhunter, we perhaps see more than we otherwise would. We also get a better feel for the complex relationship the Downworlders have with each other and the Shadowhunters, again because of the different viewpoint. There are stories devoted to different historical events that are alluded to in the other books as well as events that are completely new, so we don't just learn about Magnus, but also gain more knowledge of Clare's world. On a random note, I love the small nods here and there to the pop culture of the time. Being as fashionable as he is, Magnus tends to enjoy whatever's "in" for the current time period, and having these references adds a certain level of authenticity to the text. It's a nice touch and a small detail that manages to stand out. The main character is, of course, Magnus Bane. If you don't like Magnus in the other Shadowhunter books, I don't know why you'd bother picking this book up because it's all him and everything he entails. Some reviewers have complained that Magnus is whiney, judgmental, and selfish. All I can say to that is of course he is...he's Magnus, after all. He's never exactly hidden who he is. Like I said earlier, I've always thought that Magnus was consistently the best character in the series, and all "The Bane Chronicles" has done is solidify that opinion. He's delightfully in character throughout and novel and shows signs of having grown by the end of it. It goes without saying that he's a satisfying main character...these stories likely wouldn't have been written if he wasn't so intriguing. I've read some reviewers that claim that this book takes away the mystery that surrounds this magnificent warlock, but I don't think that's entirely true. Yes, we see more of him and get a better understanding of who he is and how he functions, but there are still so many unknowns that aren't addressed, so many things we have yet to learn about him. It's possible to flesh a character out without destroying the enigma of the character, and this book manages to do that quite well. Magnus surrounds himself with a colourful array of characters...both figuratively and literally, in some cases. I haven't read all of Clare's books, so both Ragnor and Catarina were new to me. They're written well enough to get a feel for their personalities, and definitely add something to the stories in which they are present. Fans of Clare's "Infernal Devices" trilogy will likely be pleased to see a couple members of the Herondale family as well as Tessa, Will, and Jem. I can't comment on how true to character they were since I haven't read that trilogy, but what we see of them is interesting enough. I personally enjoyed Raphael's journey and seeing his character grow into what we see in later books. Perhaps most significantly, we see more of Alec. I'll be honest; Alec has never been one of my favourite characters. I don't dislike him, per se, but have never considered him to be that intriguing or even important a figure. Here, however, the character really shined, possibly because, as Magnus himself puts it, Alec is often overshadowed by Jace and Isabelle's beauty and strong personalities when he's with his friends (and perhaps Clary's drama, but that's

just my bias sneaking in again). So we not only get a better look at Magnus, but Alec also is given more depth. There aren't really any boring characters in the book; all do their part and add their own unique flavour to this colourful collection. There are ultimately two things that keep me from giving "The Bane Chronicles" a five star rating. The first is, as I mentioned above, that I'd have liked to see more of Magnus's earlier life. He mentions his rough upbringing with a family that couldn't accept what he was and the hardships that entailed many times throughout the stories as well as other potentially entertaining escapades he's had in his earlier years, but we don't get to see any of this. Perhaps seeing these things would have succeeded in taking away the mystery that some claim this book did. Who's to say? The farthest any of the stories here go back is the late eighteenth century, and I'd have personally liked to see the authors explore some settings that aren't already covered in Clare's other books. Magnus has been around for a while, so why limit what we're shown to a mere two hundred or so years? The second issue is more of a personal thing. As I've already mentioned, I have not read the "Infernal Devices" trilogy. Yes, shame on me, but I was too interested in some Magnus-centric stories to read Clare's other works before this book. I had hoped this wouldn't be an issue, but I got the distinct impression that the reader is supposed to have read all of Clare's other books before this one. There are a couple stories that take place during the same general time period as the "Infernal Devices" trilogy and feature the same characters and I frankly found myself getting a little lost simply because a lot of things weren't explained. For example, at one point Magnus is marveling that Will, Tessa, and Jem are all together again and, despite many years apart, have maintained their strong friendship. He goes on about this for a bit, but it was sort of lost on me because the context was never provided. What made them such good friends? Why have they been apart? Why is this significant? Again, this is mostly my fault for not reading everything, but I was thinking this would be a more independent novel that didn't require explicit knowledge of the events and lore of the other books. As a result, things that I felt were supposed to be significant fell a bit flat due to simply not having the context for them to have much of an impact. I can't end this review without a brief mention of the little comic pages before each chapter. Each story gets a one-page, sort of manga-style drawing that portrays a scene from the chapter. They're pretty cute and provide a nice little sneak-peek to what's in store for the reader. "The Bane Chronicles" certainly succeeds in what it set out to do; that is, give us some entertaining stories of Magnus's adventures and provide some insight to this enigmatic fellow. If I'm going to be honest, I might have been disappointed had I purchased each story individually since they're so short, but they work well as a unified collection. I don't think it really needs to be said, but I'll say it anyway: if you don't particularly care for Magnus in Clare's other novels, please don't bother with this book because you likely won't

enjoy it. If, however, you're like me and think he's the best part of the series, then this book is a must have, full of the quirky fun, entertaining misadventures, and sometimes solemn (and a tad melodramatic in the best way) brooding that accompanies this fashionable warlock. Four stars.

This series of short stories gives you a more in-depth look at the fascinating character of Magnus Bane. It was also nice to see some of the back story of the "Circle" which gives you a better understanding of why the characters in the Mortal Instruments series face the struggles they encounter. It was also nice to get a better feel for Alec Lightwood's character. On the down side, there was no story specifically about Magnus's childhood with his mother and step-father which would have been nice in order to understand how and why he ended up seeking sanctuary with the Silent Brothers. Although this fact is mentioned a couple of times, there are not really any details explaining how that came to pass. Also, it would have been nice to know how and when Magnus first encountered his demon father and why he later (in the Mortal Instruments series) indicated that it was an experience he never wanted to repeat. Perhaps the answers to these questions will be forthcoming in the upcoming Dark Artifices series.

*Overall 4.5 stars*To get the ultimate experience from this collection of short stories it is highly recommended that you first read The Infernal Devices series and The Mortal Instruments series.
What Really Happened in Peru : 3 starsThis is a short story spanning about 170 years of Magnus's many misadventures in Peru. From destruction to desecration to terrible music playing to jewel thievery. Sometimes with his companions, Ragnor and Catarina, sometimes alone. Out of all of his misdeeds it's still a mystery why Magnus was banned. It was an okay story.
The Runaway Queen : 5 starsThis short story was set in Paris during the Revolutionary War. A handsome, dark-haired, blue-eyed soldier pleads for Magnus's help to get Marie Antoinette and her family out of Paris. Magnus can hardly refuse. A very entertaining story. It made me laugh. Magnus is quite fond of himself. I enjoyed it.
Vampires, Scones, and Edmund Herondale : 5 starsThis short story was set in London. Magnus is attending a Shadowhunter/Downworlder conference to discuss the Accords. Prejudice is in full force so the talks are very one-sided. This is where Magnus meets the lovely vampire, Camille Belcourt. He also has an exciting evening with a Shadowhunter named Edmund Herondale (Will's father) that ends in Edmund meeting his future wife - a mundane. I love Magnus's promise to Camille. Great story.
The Midnight Heir : 5 starsMy favorite so far! This short story takes place in London. Magnus has spent the past twenty-five years in New York and he has returned as promised to Camille. Only that love affair was a rude awakening. One night while Magnus is out

being fabulous he meets the wild and debauched James Herondale, son of Will and Tessa. Tired of following James and saving him from himself, Magnus escorts James back to the London Institute, back in the loving arms of his parents. Squee! I'm always up for more Will and Tessa...and Jem! Magnus is such a great friend. Excellent story.

The Rise of the Hotel Dumort : 3 stars This short story takes place in New York during the stockmarket crash of 1929...and Prohibition. Magnus, not being the sort to adhere to mundane law, is running a speak easy. He's also having a spot of trouble with Aldous, the High Warlock of New York, who is, as Magnus puts it, older than the calendar and wants to take a final trip to Pandemonium. It was just okay.

Saving Raphael Santiago : 4 stars Set in New York in 1953, Magnus is now amusing himself with private detective work. He's hired by a woman to find her son who she fears has been changed into a vampire. Magnus finds him at the Hotel Dumont dirty and newly changed. That vampire is Raphael. Hopeful to go home again, Raphael stays with Magnus until he can learn to control himself and pass as a non-vampire, mainly by being able to wear his cross and speak the Lord's name without noticeable pain. I liked this story okay. One thing I do like is how Clare always adds a pop culture reference relevant to the era. Nice touch.

The Fall of the Hotel Dumort : 4 stars Set in New York during the Son of Sam era, New York is experiencing a blackout. Magnus has to work with the werewolves to force Camille to take control of her vamps. They've discovered they can get a high from drinking the blood of mundanes that are under the influence and that's making them greedy and sloppy and that's not good for anyone. I liked it.

What to Buy the Shadowhunter Who Has Everything : 5 stars It's Alec's birthday. His and Magnus's relationship is not yet defined and Magnus is stressing over what kind of present to get him. After an amusing conversation with a demon and his warlock friends, Catarina and Ragnor, and after a heartfelt talk with Isabelle, Magnus comes up with the perfect gift. Loved it.

The Last Stand of the New York Institute : 5 stars Set in New York, this short story gives us a look at some of the first devastation caused by Valentine's circle. A small werewolf boy that escaped a Downworlder safe house that was under attack enlists Magnus's help. Years later while Magnus is hanging out with Tessa (Eek!) Valentine's wife, Jocelyn, begs for Magnus's help in making sure her daughter, Clary, sees the world as a mundane does. So good.

The Course of True Love (and first dates) : 5 stars What begins as an awkward first date between Magnus and Alec ends on a high note when they have to work together on a job. Very sweet!

The Voicemail of Magnus Bane : 5 stars Poor Magnus is very upset with what Alec did. Now he's not answering his phone. This short story is a series of voicemail messages, some sincere (Alec), some hilarious (Izzy), and some professional (something to do with toads). Loved it!

I enjoyed so much reading more about Magnus's life...How he met Will's father, when Jocelyn brought Clary to him for the first time...how it went his first date with Alec. And also knowing more about his relationship with Camille, and his warlock friends. My favorite I guess I should say it is when he sees Will after 24 years...he helps Will's son, James, to go back to home and he encounter with Tessa and Will. It was so hear warming and one of the things i most like about this book, is that shows how much Magnus cared about Will and how many thing resembled him of Will.

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