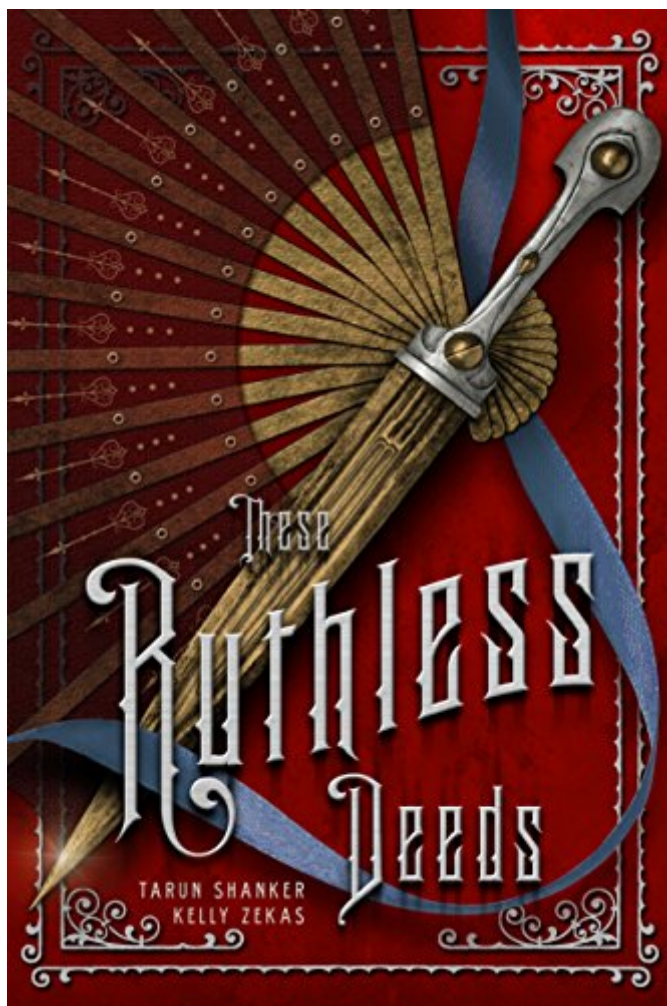


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These Ruthless Deeds (These Vicious Masks)



Synopsis

Everyone's favorite sarcastic Victorian healer is back in the sequel to *These Vicious Masks*, and this time she's struggling with both a sinister secret society and an increasingly tangled love life... England, 1883. Recovering from a devastating loss, Evelyn has become determined to use her powers to save other gifted people from those who would study and oppress them. But when her rescue of a young telekinetic girl goes terribly wrong, Evelyn finds herself involved with a secret society devoted to recruiting and protecting people like Evelyn and her friends. Like magic, Evelyn's problems start to disappear. Her reputation is repaired, her friends are provided for, and her parents are thrilled at all her new suitors. She's even been reunited with the dashing Mr. Kent and the reclusive Mr. Braddock (who is much less brooding now that the society is helping him to control his dangerous power). Yet, somehow Evelyn can't help fearing that there is something sinister going on. Don't miss *These Ruthless Deeds*, Tarun Shanker and Kelly Zekas's gripping, action-filled sequel to *These Vicious Masks*, chosen by readers like you for Macmillan's young adult imprint Swoon Reads. Praise for the *These Vicious Masks* trilogy: *These Ruthless Deeds*: "I have to admit that I'm truly becoming obsessed with this series. The writing is humorous and brilliant. The characters are all perfection. ... Utter brilliance." —BookCrushin "Intrigue, action, magic, swords (lots of swords), and fantastic characters await the reader in this newest installment to *These Vicious Masks*! ... I can't wait for the next one and the ending of this one will have you screaming for more." —Crossroad Reviews "These Ruthless Deeds is everything the title suggests: it is ruthless, but the synergy between Shanker and Zekas allows the novel to be so much more. It is a romance, a suspense, a comedy, a fantasy, an adventure—it is everything I love in YA books and more and I cannot wait for the third and final book in this amazing series." —thebookcorps *These Vicious Masks*: "Striking a strong balance between romance and mystery, this novel captures society's rules just as well as it does the unbelievable powers of the main characters. This is a perfect pick for someone who wants a little magic in their Victorian novels, and its combination of historical fiction and mysticism will remind readers of Libba Bray's Gemma Doyle trilogy." —Booklist "This tale has brisk pacing, plenty of action, and a heroine with more than her fair share of girl-power confidence." —School Library Journal

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Customer Reviews

This book. It kicked me right in the feels.Lol. I absolutely loved These Vicious Masks when I read it last year. And I was so excited to see more of Evelyn and Mr Braddock and Mr Kent.We start off in a rescue gone fairly wrong. Evelyn and her friends have been using their powers to help other powered people, but things go awry when they try to rescue a girl from an asylum. Things quickly intensify as Evelyn is rescued by the infamous Society of Aberrations with the help of Mr Kent. She learns that her good friend has been working with them for months.The Society attempts to recruit her group, and Evelyn can't say why, but something bothers her. She still doesn't trust them, even after all of her questions are answered truthfully with Mr Kent's power. Still, she decides to work with them for the time-being, because they can find Mr Braddock, who disappeared at the end of the first book.So the things that I liked? Well first, this book took me completely by surprise. Which is not easy. There was something tat happened that I had not expected at all. It was a gutsy move, and I respect the authors for doing it. The end was excellent, being a cliffhanger that doesn't kill me as I wait for the next book. I still really need the next book, but I'm not going to go insane over the next year.Mr Kent would be the next thing. He doesn't play as much of a crucial role in These Vicious

Masks. His witty self (including his power) is showcased much more in the second book. He's such a great character. He clearly loves Evelyn and will do anything for her, but he always has to put his own spin on it. There were so many new powers in this book. We meet more people with even more interesting and dangerous powers. It kind of makes me wish I had some kind of special ability. What I wanted more of was Mr Braddock. I get that he was missing for the first so many pages, but once he was found, I would have loved for him to be included in more of the scheming. I started this series because I loved the description of Jane Austen meets X-Men. And it was totally true. I love the writing and the characters. I cannot wait to read more. Characters: 5 stars Plot: 5 stars Writing: 5 stars World: 4 stars Feels: 5 stars

These Ruthless Deeds is the follow up book to These Vicious Masks. The authors are forthcoming with how hard writing this second book was for them. Most authors writing a trilogy wind up making their second book as a build up for their third. Often times, the second book is lacking something. I'll be honest. These Vicious Masks was very entertaining and I fell in love with the Victorian England setting intermingled with these strong and memorable characters and plot. However, These Ruthless Deeds completely stunned me with it's awe-inspiring plot. Evelyn becomes even more fierce in her convictions in this book. With her sister's looming death, Evelyn travels down an arduous path to uncover the Society of Abberations, the organization that led the evil Dr. in book one to inadvertently kill Evelyn's sister. In the process, we see Evelyn struggle with first, the idea of joining up with them, and then trying to reason with her convictions to stay with them. The organizations liaisons do their best to convince Evelyn & co. that they stand for the protection of their kind, and in Evelyn's sister's memory, she decides to join them in order to help others like herself. However, a long the way Evelyn is faced with the true intentions of the organization and is forced to try and bring down the regime behind it. I've grown tired of the love-triangle angle in books, especially in YA. However, the love triangle between Evelyn, Sebastian, and Mr. Kent is one that I will gladly entertain. I remember being completely fond of Sebastian in book one, because I found Mr. Kent to be very pompous. However, in this book it seems to completely work for him. Zekas and Shanker did an amazing job with creating Mr. Kent's dialogue and interactions with Evelyn. He was witty, loveable, and down right loyal to a fault. When an author(s) can make me root for both suitors at the same time is when you know you have good romance writing skills. Both were viable options for Evelyn to the point where you didn't know which one she would lean towards in the end. What set this book a part and elevated it above it's predecessor in my eyes is the plot. We were introduced to some more characters with very interesting powers, and I was completely engrossed in that aspect

of the book. Things in this book get very dark compared to book one. Evelyn sees that not all gifts are a blessing like her ability to heal, and she's forced to see the true dilemma of how much damage her kind can do in the real world. There's more to life than balls, courtship, and status, whether Evelyn's mother would agree to that or not, but things get rough for our cast of characters. I want to address the ending without giving too much away. I know many see it as very controversial, considering this is a trilogy and not a duology. Zekas and Shanker made a huge choice to end *These Ruthless Deeds* the way that they did, and it will be interesting to see the ramifications come to light in the final book. *These Ruthless Deeds* does an amazing job at balancing rewarding moments and painfully devastating moments. Zekas and Shanker have mastered the push and pull of a reader's heart strings, and they are in complete control once you're pulled in. While flourishing in a Victorian England backdrop, Zekas and Shanker don't allow Evelyn to be a pawn between men. She's never objectified by her suitors because she has a sense of cogency that is admirable for both men and women alike. I look forward to reading book 3 whenever it comes out.

I didn't think I could love the second book in this series more than I loved the first book but I did! This was just everything I hoped for and more. Every character is well written and interesting. I liked that new characters were introduced in this second book and they all have unique powers. Evelyn continues to be an impressive heroine you can't help but like and support but my heart belongs to Sebastian. The story picks up where the first book left off and the pacing is perfect, you won't be able to put it down. I read it in a day. Like I mentioned in my review of the first book, this series has something for everyone. It has a really tight knit exciting plot full of interesting and well written characters, it is witty, funny, and at times it made my heart ache just a little. There are heroes and villains even if they aren't sure as to which side they belong on at times. The Victorian England setting is perfection as it adds to the story tremendously. If you like action there is plenty to keep you glued to the page. The romance is wonderfully slow paced and almost bittersweet. There is not a love triangle but two amazing and eligible gentlemen who are both great for very different reasons. And this series is just fun, fun, fun!! I can't recommend it highly enough. I love these two authors and have become a devoted fan of theirs. All of their hard work on this sequel has paid off because it was perfection in my opinion. I absolutely can not wait for book #3!

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