



The Black Key

Amy Ewing

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For too long, Violet and the people of the outer circles of the Lone City have lived a life of servitude, controlled and manipulated by the royalty of the Jewel. But now, the secret society known as the Black Key is preparing to seize power and knock down the walls dividing each circle.

And while Violet knows she is at the center of this rebellion, she has a more personal stake in it—for her sister, Hazel, has been taken by the Duchess of the Lake. Now, after fighting so hard to escape the Jewel, Violet must do everything in her power to return, to save not only Hazel, but the future of the Lone City.

The Black Key Details

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From Reader Review The Black Key for online ebook

Josiemaus85 says

Zu einem krönenden Abschluss hat noch ein bisschen was gefehlt.

Lizzie says

I NEED THIS RIGHT NOW

Clary Morgenstern says

4.5 :)

Isa Cantos (Crónicas de una Merodeadora) says

"Es diferente leer un titular en un periódico a ver las ruinas ennegrecidas que dejamos atrás".

La Ciudad Solitaria fue una trilogía distópica que me sorprendió gratamente. En realidad no esperaba mucho de la historia porque ya estaba un poco saturada de tramas de chicas bonitas, revoluciones y opresión. Con *La Llave Negra* se cierra una historia cruda, desagarradora y sangrienta.

El final ha llegado y las apuestas son muy altas. La revolución, toda la Sociedad de la Llave Negra se están jugando sus vidas con este ataque definitivo que están planeando. Hay infiltrados, información que va y viene, reclutas y aliados inesperados. Pero, sobre todo, hay fichas que están cambiando constantemente, hay jugadas que ni la Sociedad ni la realeza de La Joya se esperan. Hay movimientos desesperados, sentimientos que deben contenerse y un objetivo que oscila en el filo de una daga.

Con *La Llave Negra* nos metemos de lleno en el papel de una líder que no sólo pelea por la justicia de toda una clase, sino también por la seguridad de su familia y amigos, que son quienes están más expuestos al peligro. Este es un libro de tácticas, de dejar enfriar la venganza hasta que está en su punto y de redención por todo el daño que la realeza ha causado.

La Llave Negra es una historia en la que la muerte está en cada página, nadie está a salvo. Y eso es algo que no me dejó soltar el libro en ningún momento. El ritmo es tan vertiginoso y las ganas de saber si el gran plan maestro va a funcionar, que te lo acabas en una sentada. Como les decía, hay muertes necesarias, hay muertes por las que te alegras y hay muertes que te dejan destrozado. Pero los personajes se adaptan a las situaciones y se hacen más fuertes, creen profundamente en su causa y en que los sacrificios de sus amigos no fueron en vano.

Si hay algo que rescato de los dos últimos libros de esta trilogía es que, afortunadamente, no se centran mucho en el romance... que incluso desde el primer libro no me convenció mucho. Si bien la relación de

Violet y Ash está ahí, nunca es el motor principal de nada y la autora se centra muchísimo en las injusticias, la crueldad y la revolución que están gestando desde la Sociedad de la Llave Negra.

Quiero decir que me fascinó el papel y la redención que obtienen los acompañantes en este libro. Durante toda la saga y a lo largo de la historia de la Ciudad Solitaria, no los han considerado más que objetos sexuales y en *La Rosa Blanca* y *La Llave Negra*, gracias a Ash, entendemos profundamente lo miserables que son sus vidas, lo solos que se sienten y los vicios a los que tienen que recurrir para poder seguir trabajando y enviando dinero a sus familias. Gracias a Ash el foco ya no sólo se centra en la vida inhumana de las sustitutas, sino que también la misera de los acompañantes sale a la superficie.

La *Trilogía de la Ciudad Solitaria*, a pesar de estar enmarcada en el molde de la revolución contra un sistema opresor, es una historia valiente y sensata que, sin duda, marca un montón por los temas tan difíciles que trata de una manera cruda e inolvidable. Me encantó que la autora nunca tuvo miedo al escribir sobre drogas, sexo, violaciones, prostitución, trata de personas, tortura y abuso.

Giska Anandita says

i need this like right now!!! THE ENDING FROM THE WHITE ROSE IS KILLING ME!!!

WE GOT THE COVER OHMYGOD

Sarah says

“Help me. Help me help my sister.”

This was a YA dystopian story, and the end to the series.

Violet took a lot of risks in this book, and really went out of her way to try and do what she thought was right. She did maybe take too many risks at times though, and put herself and other people in danger because of it.

The storyline in this was about Violet returning to the Jewel to try and save her sister, and working to take down the royalty from the inside. This was an enjoyable story but it did take me a while to get into it, we certainly got a lot of deaths thrown in towards the end to keep things a bit more interesting though.

The ending to this wasn't quite as strong as I hoped, but it was a happy ending.

SyaSya Syed Nasir says

Lucien...oh Lucien...I'm gonna miss you! I really don't know what I feels. Its all mixed up. I'm sad, angry, happy, disappointed, and etc. This third book of the series really makes me emotionally crazy. However, I do think this book is much more better than the other two. Gonna miss all the characters though. The whole review will be in my blog soon.

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

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I've been sitting here for several moments trying to figure out how to begin this review. *The Lone City* is such a weird YA trilogy: it's dark, and yet not dark enough; it makes genuine attempts to be gritty, but is bogged down by cliche and tepid romance; it appears to be a fantasy novel, yet the world-building is so terrible that it could just as easily be a drastically different version of *our* world. In short, *The Lone City* is the perfect storm of things that I don't generally like in YA, and especially NOT in YA fantasy, and by all rights, I should have figuratively thrown this book out the window (figuratively, because I read it on my laptop, woo).

And yet, by some miracle, *The Lone City* was...okay.

THE JEWEL was confusing and shallow, but was dark enough that I thought there might be something to the world-building. It raised more questions than it answered, however, so my expectations for book two went up. THE WHITE ROSE answered some of my questions, but raised a whole host of new ones *and* took the world-building in the complete opposite direction of what I thought the author was setting it up for. Suddenly, I wasn't looking at a dystopian future, but a bizarre alternate universe fantasy world, apparently.

What.

Book three, THE BLACK KEY, was fair game. I decided that I just wasn't going to *have* any expectations; this time, I was just going to sit back and try to enjoy this crazy, crazy little ride.

WARNING: SPOILERS

Violet used to be a surrogate - an empty vessel for the rich upper class to impregnate and then kill when they were done with her. Except, all surrogates have magical powers. And it turns out that these magical powers are far more potent than anyone bothered to tell them, and are linked to the land. Because, as it turns out, the royal class are invaders in this world; the *surrogates* are the original inhabitants - "the Paladins" - who were enslaved and then exploited by the invaders.

At the end of the last book, it's revealed that Violet's *preteen sister has been impregnated by Violet's ex-owner*, so she and the other Paladins devise a plan to not only take The Jewel by force and free all the surrogates, but also to rescue Violet's sister. Violet's love interest, Ash, goes on to stage the rebellion while Violet poses as a lady-in-waiting inside her old house for reconnaissance. The clock for their grand coup is ticking down. All they need are the last few pieces of the puzzle.

The world-building was never fully resolved (or if it was, I missed it). We know that the royals are exploitative pieces of sh*t, but the middle classes weren't really explained. It's sort of implied that Paladin powers can skip a generation, which is why Violet's mom didn't have any, so I guess we're just supposed to assume that everyone who isn't royalty is a "native" inhabitant who was then subjugated by outsiders. We also never really found out where the invaders came from, why they can't get pregnant, *and why the hell they have cars*. (I'm still hung up on that getaway car from THE WHITE ROSE. It makes me think that, like THE SELECTION, this world might be a futuristic version of our world, but again, since the world-building was so badly done, *I can't be sure*.)

I felt the pregnancy thing with Hazel was a cop-out, but mostly I was relieved that a preteen hadn't actually been impregnated against her will because that would have been awful. I decided I hated Violet again in this book, because all she does is a) whine, b) blow cover, and c) make stupid and selfish decisions. When she's going undercover under the name "Imogen" she actually falls for it when someone tries to trick her by saying, "Violet?" Add to that the fact that she can't stop smirking at people and glaring at Carnelian (her "rival" for Ash), and it's amazing she wasn't discovered from page one of this ridiculous plan. But going back to cop-outs, in the conclusion of this book there are two glaring ones that I literally *could not believe*.

Cop-out #1: This whole plan has been building up to getting revenge against the people who exploited them. Violet has it in for The Duchess, who killed one of her friends, almost got her love interest killed, and then kidnapped her younger sister. At the end of the book, she has the opportunity to use her powers to kill The Duchess - in fact, The Duchess even *challenges* her to do it - and Violet actually says, "I could, but I'm not gonna." (Maybe not in those *exact* words, but it was close.)

I'm sorry, but WHAT?

Cop-out #2: Violet went undercover to save her sister. She knows that her sister was kidnapped because of her. She's constantly talking about how much she loves her sister. But when she thinks she might have to choose between her sister - *who she's known and allegedly loved for years* - and this boy she just met but has decided she loves for some reason, Violet literally freezes in place and does nothing, while thinking (again, not in these exact words, but close), "I can't make this choice!"

B*tch, I don't see a Kellogg's label on your forehead, so you cannot POSSIBLY be cereal.

But don't worry, Violet doesn't have to make any hard choices at the end, because Raven - who has undergone much more terrible things at the hands of the royal class - kills The Duchess and saves both Ash and Hazel, so Violet doesn't have to decide between her sister and her insta-love. I couldn't help but feel like the author wanted to keep Violet a "nice" person, and thought that Violet wouldn't be able to be "nice" anymore if she had a murder under her belt, however deserved. There was a lot of cognitive dissonance and back-tracking, with Violet deciding things like, "Oh hey, Carnelian isn't a bad person after all, even though she tried to steal my boyfriend (whom I technically stole from her...) because she totally saved my boyfriend for me so I wouldn't have to lift a finger! Wow, what a great gal!" It led to some serious character inconsistencies, and I lost whatever respect for her character that I reluctantly gained over the last two books. I've decided she's a spoiled twit.

The Lone City is a strange trilogy. I can't say it's one of the best I've read, but it was engaging enough that I couldn't put it down and never really felt bored. Some readers might be annoyed by Violet's selfishness and confused by the world-building, but it's different enough that they'll probably be grudgingly fascinated by it, like I was. If *The Lone City* is anything, it's definitely unique.

1.5 stars

Stopfi says

Es ist vorbei ??

Ich habe dieses Buch innerhalb von 24h gelesen...das sagt schon alles, oder? Es lässt sich einfach so schnell lesen und verschlingen und macht total süchtig!

Auch wenn ich gern noch ein bisschen mehr darüber gewusst hätte, was in der Zukunft passieren wird, ist das mein Lieblingsband der Reihe ? Die Charaktere sind so stark und bilden ein so großartiges Team.

Außerdem gab es in diesem Buch einige geniale Szenen (ich denke nur an das Aufeinandertreffen Ravens mit ihrer früheren Herrin! BADASS!), die mein Herz erobert haben.

Toll ?

Jenny says

Ein gelungener Abschluss der Reihe.?

Zwar hätte ich mir den Kampf am Ende ein wenig ausführlicher gewünscht, aber das ist meckern auf hohem Niveau.

Die Charaktere haben eine so unglaubliche Entwicklung durchgemacht und ihr Entschlossenheit für ihre Ziele zu kämpfen und einzustehen ist überwältigend.

Insgesamt fand ich den ersten Teil am Besten, aber auch Teil 2 und 3 sind nur knapp an den 5 Sternen vorbeigeschlittert.

Von daher klare Empfehlung für diese Reihe.

Maddie (Heart Full Of Books) says

Such a fast paced read, I had to stay up late to finish it in one sitting! I love Violet and how powerful she is, and what she inspires in others. Her sense of loyalty to her family and friends was lovely to read about. Aside from that, man, did things get real at the end there. The plots and motivations for the different characters all came to the surface and it made So. Much. Sense. I also thought that all the deaths were really well handled too, so overall, this is one of the best finales I've read in a series....ever!

Kiki says

This was unexpectedly excellent. I actually loved it.

RTC.

Tanja says

4,5 Sterne

Ein schöner und spannender Abschluss dieser Reihe.

Alina says

Der Anfang war soooo viel versprechend aber das Ende hat mich doch irgendwie enttäuscht. Ich dachte das Buch endet mit einem großen boooooom aber irgendwie war es wie ein kleines pff... Schade aber ich kann damit leben. In diesem Teil ist Violet anders, einfach rücksichtslos, nur zwischendurch kam die alte Violet zum Vorschein. Die Liebesgeschichte fand ich ehrlich gesagt auch einfach zu gezwungen ohne dies wäre es

such nicht schlimm. Ich fand es war nichts ganzes und nichts halbes. Aber im großen und ganzen war es trotzdem eine tolle Reihe.

Drew says

1 1/2 stars

I want to say this was a completely ridiculous, stereotypical dystopian/fantasy trilogy and I would never recommend it, but that's not entirely true. For some odd reason, I liked the second book. Sequels are usually the ones that end up disappointing me, but here it was the opposite. **Let's run through what I thought of this series:**

The Jewel was addicting, but I had so many problems with it. The vague world building, underdeveloped characters, instalove, and clichés, just to name a few...

The White Rose was dramatically improved. I grew fond of Violet and Ash (even the romance!), there was so much more action, and above all, it was super entertaining...

And then there's The Black Key. This turned out to be my least favorite in the trilogy. Violet Lasting and her friends - a group of rebels known as the Black Key - are planning to revolt against the Jewel, a city where wealthy people thrive and treat the poor like animals, making them into servants, surrogates, and "companions" (aka prostitutes).

In The Jewel, Violet was purchased as a surrogate, but she escaped. Now she has a plan to overthrow the city entirely by disguising herself and sneaking into the heart of the Jewel - to the house of the Duchess of the Lake.

These books are pretty terrible and I'm not sure why I continued reading them, though I suppose that's one good thing about them - **the unexplainable desire to read more**. Maybe it's the addictive writing or so-bad-it's-good plot similar to The Selection. I've compared The Selection to bad TV you can't stop watching, and I feel like this series is much the same.

So many of the plot points didn't make sense, like when Violet suddenly felt the need to use her powers to make a bunch of key shapes in mirrors - and then her friend got blamed for it and killed. All for something stupid that Violet never had to do in the first place.

The Duchess was a looming threat, but she seemed ridiculously fake. She was a **caricature of a villain** whom I couldn't take seriously. There was a reveal about her toward the end that changed nothing and was only there for the sake of having a "plot twist."

A very **rushed, mindless, action-filled finale** that hurriedly tied everything up. I know I brought this upon myself and can hardly be surprised by this poor conclusion. **I can't deny these weren't quick reads, though.** I might pick up a different book by this author in the future.
