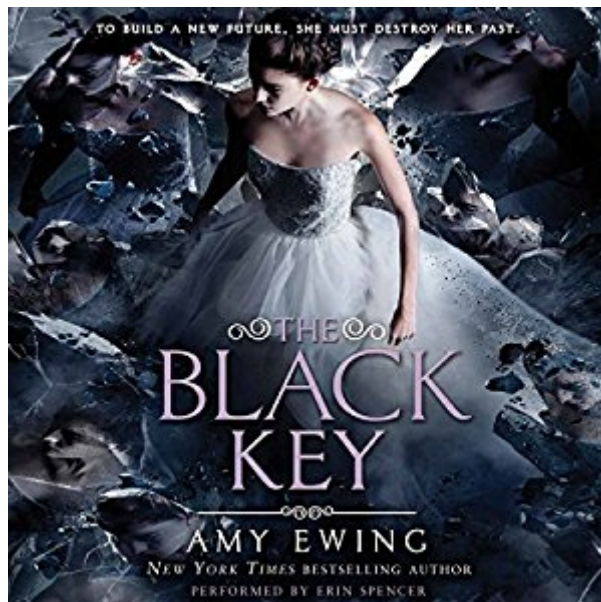


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The Black Key



Synopsis

The thrilling conclusion to the New York Times best-selling Lone City trilogy, which began with *The Jewel*, a book BCCB said "will have fans of Oliver's *Delirium*, Cass's *The Selection*, and DeStefano's *Wither* breathless". For too long Violet and the people of the outer circles of the Lone City have lived in service of the royalty of the Jewel. But now the secret society known as the Black Key is preparing to seize power. 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I agree with a few other reviews that this book felt rushed. For me it wasn't just the ending either. Some parts of the book I felt my eyes glazing over or me just skimming through a paragraph because the author wasn't really doing anything to build up the scene, it was like a rush through of certain parts. Then with the ending there really was so much more that could have been written about- maybe even another book on their new lives! This was a great series but I finished the book quickly during two layovers and flights. I recommend this series, I was just disappointed at this finale, I felt the author rushed through writing this.

As most of you know, I have been in love with this series since *The Jewel* came out. It started out as

a unique view of dystopian worlds, and the second book in the trilogy brought up deeper thoughts and ideas to think about. The Black Key expanded on the themes of colonialism, freedom of choice (and consequences), and classism. This final installment did not disappoint, and Ewing left me with a lot to think about after I finished the book. Violet, like most leading characters, grew throughout the course of the trilogy. However, unlike a lot of literature, she was still flawed and still made mistakes, even after she learned to take responsibility for her actions and saw what some choices cost. While I was frustrated with her at times, I really appreciated the fact that she remained a real and relatable character. Through Violet's trials and mistakes, other characters grew as well, including Ash. He wasn't my favorite in this installment, but he at least got more fleshed out and became a strong character in his own right. Lucien and Garnet were my favorites, though I would have liked to have seen a bit more of Garnet's complexity toward the end of this book. I also would have liked to have seen more of how being in the Jewel changed Hazel. I felt like that her growth was a bit rushed since she was such a background character until midway through the 2nd novel, and I think that really didn't do her justice. The Black Key started off kind of slow, in my opinion, but by the 4th chapter, things really picked up and I became invested in the story. After that event/Violet's decision, which started the narrative of freedom of choice and consequences, the Violet had trials coming at her from all directions, and it was interesting to see how she navigated each of those. Some of her decisions had dire consequences, and it really helped me see that even though we all can make small "incorrect" decisions from time to time, it's not our fault when something horrific happens because of those choices. Yes, Violet could have made a couple of decisions better, but the outcomes of those choices were a lot harsher than they should have been. I've made some small decisions in my own life that ended terribly bad, and I always beat myself up over that, just like Violet did. But through Ewing's writing, I was able to see that Violet wasn't at fault. The people who took things too far were the ones to blame for the horrific consequences, and that helped me view my own life differently. I love when novels can change the way that I look at things as well. In addition to the narrative of choice, there was also a background narrative of colonialism and the prices that are paid for people colonizing an area. As this novel shows, history is written by the winners, and because of that so many people didn't know who or what they were. The royals attempted genocide on the indigenous race, much like the English attempted genocide on America's indigenous peoples, and many colonizers (royals) didn't know that the indigenous race still survived. The terrifying lengths that the royals went to in order to control the indigenous population and get all that they could out of them mirrored how many corporations, and even our own government, treats our very own indigenous population in America. Ewing masterfully weaves

these two narratives together and creates a unique and enthralling story about Violet and the history of the Lone City. Overall, I'd recommend this series to anyone who enjoys unique dystopian and/or fantasy novels. Ewing assumes her readers are intelligent people, and she gives us a lot to think about with this trilogy. Her storytelling is excellent, and while there were some really harsh moments in this book, I feel like I'm a better person for reading it. Ewing has a strong voice, and she definitely has a lot to say about society. I look forward to her next project.

This was the final in the trilogy. I won't say that it was so good that I needed to know what happened next, but it just seemed so unfinished. The climax was okay. Predictable. SPOILER: It ends with the core group together looking out over the ocean. But, what happens now? One of the Royalty said the rest of the island NEEDED the Jewel. Why? Was she saying society would fail? I'd like to know what happened next. It would have been good to even give a flash forward. People in the Marsh were unhappy, are they happier now? Is there order? Otherwise, the storyline was predictable. People live. People die. Love story, etc.

Amy Ewing is new to me. In 5 books, she has made me a fan!! Her writing style swiftly transports you to wherever she is writing, in this case, the Jewel. Her descriptions are so vivid without taking away from the story. I can see everything the character sees and hear them beside me. Such a great writer!! Ok... on this book. I love the struggles the surrogates and The Society goes through and the failures of some plans. This book opens a surprise with an even bigger surprise ending. You HAVE TO catch this series!! Thanks Amy for a great series!! Looking forward to more!!

Excellent final novel in the trilogy. There was plenty of action and twists and turns. We fall in love even more with Violet in this novel as we learn who she really is and see how love drives her. We feel her pains. This novel is very movie-esque. Just plain excellent. Note for the Kindle edition: the pages feature doesn't work properly. It displays as location and doesn't make any sense with page numbers. All other things are normal and work though.

The third book picks up a few months later where our heroine is now back in the Jewel hiding underneath the noses of the royals trying to save her sister and overthrow the society. This third book was slow and brings up the inevitable that is much the storyline of YA books. There is a bit of twist that unfolds near the end. Good YA series.

I was so excited about the Black Key being released, but I was underwhelmed when I finished the book. I wish Violet hadn't been separated from all of the characters who made us love the series in the first two books. I would have liked to have seen more relationship development between Violet and Ash and Garnet and Raven, rather than spending so much time on new Royal characters in the Jewel. However, the world-building is as gorgeous as in the first two books and the sister scenes are quite touching. Would love to see a novella that shows what happens six months later!

I was met with mixed emotions as I was going through this book, all in reaction to seeing my favorite characters go through their revolution.. I was completely enthralled with the story from start to finish and even stayed up late many nights to finish it, whoops. Loved everything about the writing of the Jewel series, parts even reminded me of the Handmaiden's Tale. Overall great read and an even better end to the series.

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