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The Violet Hour



Synopsis

Secrets. Allegra Teagarden, a musical prodigy, flees her father's dominance and abuse while touring in pre-civil war Charleston, South Carolina. Plagued by depression over her mother's suicide during their previous visit, she escapes in an effort to piece together the details behind her mother's mysterious demise. Secrets. Down to her final coin, Allegra happens on Charleston's Fancy, the first southern amusement park, which is searching for musicians for its orchestra. At first, the park seems her salvation; but she quickly realizes she has traded the dominance of her father, for the even more terrifying madness of the owner, Silas. And more secrets. Allegra meets the dashing Brighton LeFroy, Fancy's engineer and pyrotechnics master. His shabby clothing cannot conceal the brilliant mind beneath. The musician's whisper he is a witch, is obsessed with storms, and is rumored...to fly. And despite the danger, despite her own misgivings, Allegra is inexplicably drawn to him. She ventures to his reclusive home on Fire Isle during a thunderstorm and together they seek to unravel an ancient mystery.

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Customer Reviews

I loved this book! The writing was absolutely superb, the characters so well-drawn, and the mystery so enticing that I was sucked in immediately and couldn't put this book down. Brynn Chapman has become one of my favorite authors. The ending left room for more to happen to these characters, so I sincerely hope there will be a sequel.

I read and absolutely ADORED Boneseeker by Brynn last year, and I vowed to read everything that Brynn Chapman writes from now on. It was honestly that good! When I saw the tour for The Violet Hour, I jumped all over it, without ever reading the synopsis. Didn't need to. It's Brynn Chapman! No wrong can be done! And I was right. I ADORED The Violet Hour. I will go ahead and apologize now for all previous and future exclamation points!!! So sorry about the delay in getting this review written. :(We have had some serious storms lately, and our power was out for almost 3 days, for the second time in as many weeks. Very frustrating. And very HOT without AC. Anyway, while I have power still *crossing fingers, knocking on wood*, here is my review! Allegra is in Charleston, SC, set to perform on stage, as her father demands since she is where his coin comes from, when she finally decides she has had enough. She runs, off the stage and into the crowded Charleston streets, and meets up with her lady's maid, Sarah and together with hardly anything between them, they start a new life. Allegra is a cello prodigy, and she finds herself a position at Charleston's Fancy, an amusement park for the wealthy ran by the evil Silas, playing in the orchestra. There, she meets Jonesy, who is her fast friend, and maybe a love interest for a certain ladies maid?! She also meets Mr. Lefroy, and she is instantly drawn to him. Allegra is hunted, and LeFroy is haunted, and together things are going to change in ways they never could have imagined. I am usually not a huge fan of historical fiction, but this is the second by Brynn Chapman that has sucked me in and held on tight, then spit me out the other side wanting MORE! Allegra was a fantastic character. Her father and brother are abusive, and horrible to her, especially after her mother passes. Then she finds herself at the mercy of Silas, who wants to own her and use her, as well. Yet, as frustrated and scared as she gets, she never gives up fighting. When she meets Brighton (LeFroy), she knows she ought to stay away, but she cannot even though he has secrets. Brighton was a very enigmatic character, and I loved that mystery that surrounded him. His and Allegra's romance seemed fast-moving, but it felt natural as well. I loved them together, and the things they were able to accomplish. Other characters side note: Sarah, Jonesy, Lucy and George (Brighton's sister and brother) and Allegra's deceased mom all play large roles in the story, even when their parts are small, and they are all very well-written secondary characters. The sci-fi/fantasy part of the novel

revolves around parallel dimensions. It was fascinating, how it came into play and the story behind its discovery. I loved this part of the book, but it is also where my one frustration lies. I wish there were MORE of it, and maybe a little more overall development with this aspect. I am hoping there will be a second book in the series, and it will be covered more in depth. Also, with that ending? How could that be the end? IT just CAN'T! Brynn Chapman has easily earned a spot in my favorite authors list, and I very much look forward to whatever she has for us next. Her writing is sharp, and smart and easily draws the reader in to the lives of the characters. Her characters are written with depth, and personality, relate-ability. I was pulled into this world, and could close my eyes and see the settings, the fancy-dressed well-to-do's oohing and aahing over the Fancy. I could feel Allegra's fear and worry and sadness, Brighton's anger and heartache and their combined hope. From beginning to end, *The Violet Hour* was just oh so good! I would absolutely, without a doubt recommend this book to anyone who likes historical fiction, science fiction and romance, one or all three! Thank you so much to YA Bound tours for allowing me to be a part of the tour! Looking forward to what's next, Ms. Chapman!

I received a copy of this book for free in exchange for an honest review. *The Violet Hour's* synopsis caught my eye because I thought it sounded like a unique and mysterious read. I don't get into historical fiction a lot, but that aspect of the novel has much to do with what drew me into reading it. I'm drawn to reading about characters who have lost a parent. I know that sounds macabre, but I've been through it myself and can relate. While *The Violet Hour's* main character, Allegra, lost her mom to suicide, I lost my mom to cancer. Throughout the novel, I always had this hope that maybe Allegra's mom wasn't really dead. Maybe it was all a mistake or some sort of twisted misunderstanding. I think my feelings about wishing my own mom was still alive bled into *The Violet Hour*. I really do. Allegra is a bright, intelligent young woman, and for her time, well, she's ahead of it. It was incredibly brave of her to leave behind the comfort her father's wealth afforded her and go out into the world to live her own way. I couldn't have done it, and I admired that about her. Her father sounds like a horrible man, and it's no wonder she was determined to get away. I definitely found Brighton interesting, and of course I wanted to know if everything the musicians whispered about him was true or not. I wouldn't say that Allegra and Brighton were victims of insta-love, but they were attracted to each other right away and I loved it! While Allegra was determined to try to spend as much time with him as possible, he was fighting his attraction to her. So they weren't instantly in a relationship, but one developed over time naturally. The mood of the story was a bit spooky and mysterious, which I loved. Each layer of mysterious happenings was revealed at a good pace - not

too fast, not too slow - and I was left wanting to find out more. I was right about The Violet Hour - this is a unique and well written story. The time period, right before the Civil War, made for an interesting setting. The Violet Hour could very well make you want to grab as much historical fiction as you can if you aren't already a fan of the genre. Plus the spooky mood with hints of danger throughout makes for an engrossing read. I recommend The Violet Hour to anyone who can't resist finding out secrets and Allegra and Brighton are characters you're definitely going to want to get to know well.

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