



The Wizard's Promise

Cassandra Rose Clarke

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As she tries to get back, she learns there may be more to her apprentice master than she realized, especially when a mysterious, beautiful, and very non-human boy begins following her through the ocean, claiming that he needs Hanna's help.

The Wizard's Promise Details

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From Reader Review The Wizard's Promise for online ebook

Esmay says

"I am a coward. That's why I need you. Because you're brave."

3,5 Stars!

I really enjoyed this book, I loved The Assassin's Curse and I thought it would be a good idea to read this book. I do have to say that you should read the Assassin's Curse before reading this one, because it does contain some spoilers and you might not understand some parts of this book.

The character of Hanna was really interesting and I loved how unlike any other protagonist she is. She is no Hero and just wants to be a witch and live a normal(ish) life. Her interactions were just as interesting and overall I am excited to see how book 2 will play out.

I do think it was slow at times, but not too tedious. All in all a good read!

Hannah (fullybookedreviews) says

It has my name in it. OF COURSE I HAVE TO READ IT.

Kidding. Sort of.

I adored the author's previous duology, but unfortunately The Wizard's Promise didn't quite measure up.

Make no mistake, I still enjoyed it - strong female characters, action and adventure, magic and mayhem. I also love the way the author captures life at sea, and the moods of the ocean.

I did get quite annoyed that the main character was kept in the dark for so long, particularly when withholding information put her life in danger. Not cool.

There was just something missing from this book that prevented me from loving this as much as the pirate duology - that spark of magic, if you will. (pardon the pun)

Faye, la Patata says

I do admit that there are times I *do* judge a book by its cover. I am easily attracted to vibrant, well-drawn or well-edited layouts, and if one caught my eye, you sure can bet that it also caught my full attention, and I am more likely to check it out rather than walk pass it. That's pretty much what happened between me and *The Wizard's Promise* in a nutshell. I mean, dude. DUDE. Look at that beauty. It totally gives off that

Magical Fantasy aura, and not to mention, the ocean-like colors give it such a cool feel. Even though I didn't like *The Assassin's Curse*, a series of books that Cassandra Clarke has also authored, I requested and hoped that the content was as good as the cover.

Unfortunately, it wasn't smooth sailing, this book and I (get it? SAILING? ... okay you probably don't get the pun, but more than half of this book was spent in a ship wandering the seas sooo... yeah...). Forget the fact that it's set in the same universe as *The Assassin's Curse* (which I threw in the DNF pile 15% in; sorry, Ananna, but you just tick me the heck off), **it just left me feeling... empty and void, like I just consumed something that seemed terribly pointless.** It's not a bad book per se; I reckon loyal fans of the author's writing would likely find it enjoyable. I, unfortunately, found it annoying and a wee bit boring.

And I am saying that mildly.

What's it about?

Hanna is a fisherwoman-in-training, her mentor being Kolor, a well-known fisherman. While she toils left and right to catch swimming creatures, what she really wants is to be a Witch, especially since she has a strong affinity with the Wind. She can summon and command it to do her bidding, a feat proven useful when sailing the high seas. She, however keeps this tidbit to herself.

One day, she was summoned by her Master to go fishing, which usually lasts for 2-5 days. What was supposed to be a simply fishing trip drastically changed when bones of fortune-telling were thrown and a magical force whisked them off -course, and the next thing Hanna knew she was a long ways from home. Another Witch, one who had a strong affinity with BOTH the wind and the sea , soon joined them, off to join her Master do an "errand" he decided on a whim, to lands beyond her wildest imagination.

That is, if the creatures of the Mists don't get to them first...

Dun dun duuuun...

Well?! How was it?

Dull. Amazingly dull.

Is this surprising? It sure was to me. For such a wonderful cover that pretty much skyrocketed my expectations, I had thought there to be some action, some adventure, heck, maybe some plot. **But what I got was a book about a snarky and rude teenager (who kept on throwing sarcasm at her Master and another dude who didn't really deserve it rawr) riding the seas for more than 50% of the book.** It wouldn't have been so bad if the plot kept on going, but our long, arduous voyage aboard the *Penelope* was just full of her repetitive thoughts and action. She'd fix the sails, look at the sea, sleep in the cabin, call on the wind, glare at her Cap'n, throw a snarky comment, gaze at the sea again, fix the sails, call on the wind, sleep in the cabin, rinse repeat wash with Mr. Clean ten times over.

IT. WAS. SO. EXHAUSTING.

Of course, some may argue that there were some "events" that transpired in the book. Like, come on, they got whisked away by *something*! *Something* got on their deck! They got washed ashore *somewhere*! I

acknowledge all those, but honestly, these were just little details (and I guess Hanna had to do something else aside from fixing the sails) and **the overall "plot" was just useless, in my very humble opinion. It pretty much just comprised of her trying to be convinced by someone to do something 95% of the book, and her agreeing to do it at the very end.**

It's not that it was bad, it's just that half of the book felt so *meaningless*, like, is-this-part-even-necessary meaningless. It didn't feel like there were any direction at all. Not to mention, so much of the book were about Hanna's actions. I mean, I love her internal narration that talked about HER (and I mean the REAL her), every time the book decided to insert some. She may have come across initially as an entitled nitwit who thought the world revolved around her but I eventually grew to like her and even understood her frustrations. But the overall goal of this book could have been met halfway, if not for the unnecessary step-by-step description of the characters' doings. So, yes, forgive me for saying it, but if those exhausting repetition were cut off, I'm pretty sure we could have inserted more plot here aside from her finally agreeing to something she vehemently didn't want to do for, um, pretty much the majority of the book.

I **do** like the world-building, so there's that. **It's an interesting world where magic comes naturally and is part of nature.** I liked how even though magic is rampant, it's not something that's easily abused to gain an advantage over others. I also liked how it's used for simple tasks: calling the wind to sail to a particular direction, summoning a bit of fire to warm the people on a chilly day, casting preservation charms on freshly-caught fish or protection charms to shield you from harmful external forces. I liked it a lot. It's just too bad some annoying factors greatly overshadowed this aspect.

Overall...

Well, it was a disappointing read. I probably should've expected it, given I wasn't impressed with *The Assassin's Curse*, but I was really hoping and praying to the high heavens that this experience would be different. Unfortunately, the writing, pacing, and "plot" of this book left me feeling empty and bored out of my mind, to the point that it felt like it was raining inside my head. I'm not certain whether or not I'll read the next book, but I probably will just to see if the plot will actually emerge now. At this point, however, I'm not feeling confident about it.

Anya says

The Wizard's Promise by Cassandra Rose Clarke is the first in a new duology set in the same world as *The Assassin's Curse* and *The Pirate's Wish*. The Wizard's Promise tells the story of a young witch named Hanna who finds herself thrown into the dangerous world of the Mists despite every attempt she makes to just get home. While Hanna had always been hoping for adventure, this wasn't exactly how she planned it, though it never is ;-). Hanna's mother served on the pirate ship of a certain pirate queen that might sound familiar to you if you read the previous duology, but you don't need that background to enjoy The Wizard's Promise. You just might feel compelled to go read the other books after finishing, hehe.

Note: I received The Wizard's Promise through Netgalley for an honest review. Some things may have changed in the final version.

The Wizard's Promise by Cassandra Rose Clarke (The Hanna Duology #1)

Published by Strange Chemistry on May 6th, 2014

Genres: Fantasy, YA

Length: 329 pages

How I got my copy: NetGalley

All Hanna Euli wants is to become a proper witch – but unfortunately, she's stuck as an apprentice to a grumpy fisherman. When their boat gets caught up in a mysterious storm and blown wildly off course, Hanna finds herself further away from home than she's ever been before.

As she tries to get back, she learns there may be more to her apprentice master than she realized, especially when a mysterious, beautiful, and very non-human boy begins following her through the ocean, claiming that he needs Hanna's help.

Strengths:

The Wizard's Promise introduces us to Hanna, whose mother served on a pirate ship before falling for an islander and settling in the northern islands. Hanna is a witch in training and a really fun main character. She's one of those MC's that I wish I could be friends with and not just so she would teach me her witchy powers ;-).

We got brief glimpses of magic in the previous series, but in The Wizard's Promise we find out about how the human magic works first hand. Hanna has an affinity with the wind, she thinks the south wind to be specific, haha. Wind magic is pretty cool and useful when you are a fisherwoman in training :D. I like that the magic system in this world is similar to the typical four elements, but adds in ingredients and other complications to keep things interesting.

I'm happy to report that you don't need to read the previous series before this one, since The Wizard's Promise takes place a generation after the first series. However, it is a lot of fun to catch references to events I read about previously, so The Wizard's Promise is definitely enriched by the previous series. I think it would be a lot of fun to go in the other direction as well though, with the caveat that you'll spoil a few minor/obvious things for yourself.

Given how much we heard about how spooky and dangerous the northern islands are in the previous books, it was so much fun to get to see them finally! The Wizard's Promise definitely has a bit of a spooky atmosphere to it because of this awesome setting, though we also get a well-rounded view of the different cultures that are lumped together by outsiders.

Weaknesses:

I feel like I say this with every Strange Chemistry book, but like the previous series, The Wizard's Promise had a bit of a wandering plot. You think you know where things are going, but then they don't really end up there. I couldn't honestly tell you what the main plot of The Wizard's Promise is besides Hanna just reacting to events and trying to stay alive/get home, though that doesn't really work since there wasn't much of a resolution on that front....

Overall The Wizard's Promise very much felt like a setup for the second book both because of the previous point of just getting Hanna to the northern reaches and because of the cliffhanger. I'm not dying to find out what happens next, but I feel a bit unsatisfied.

The Wizard's Promise is a bit awkwardly similar to The Assassin's Curse in that it is about a special girl meeting and eventually helping a magical guy who she might have feelings for. Sound familiar?

Summary:

The Wizard's Promise introduces a great new set of characters and setting within the same world as The Assassin's Curse. It's a lot of fun to get to explore new areas while also hearing stories about the characters

we loved previously. Hanna and her magic are quite enjoyable to read about, and as long as you don't die from lack of closure, you'll probably enjoy The Wizard's Promise as much as you did The Assassin's Curse (whether positive or negative).

jesse says

part of me will always be impressed by cassandra rose clarke's novels and "the mad scientist's daughter" will forever and ever occupy a part of my heart.

so, let's get to the book, now, shall we?

set in the same world as "the assassin's curse" our heroine hanna, is the daughter of a former pirate and fisherman but with aspirations to be a proper witch. under the tutelage of kolure, one very grouchy fisherman, who is following his own agenda she has to push through all kinds of obstacles including saving herself, help a non-human boy, prevent evil to spread and find a way back.

after the first few chapters you can already see some character similarities between hanna and ananna. a little ignorance, a pinch of anger and the always underlying ambition to make their dreams come true. scrolling through other reviews both the goodreads and non-goodreads variety, makes me realize that most people thought that "the wizard's promise" lacked a special something and they wanted this hole to be filled. more worldbuilding, a greater level of characterization, tense action or at least less repetitiveness and focus on some daily activities.

in some ways i certainly did too, because as a reader i tend to expect more of an author whose books made it to my all-time-favorite shelf and keep their level of awesomeness to increase with every new book, which is strictly speaking doing both the author and me a disservice.

and you know what?

i've read too many bad books and this is definitely not one of them. i have this niggling feeling that after reading the not-yet-released sequel that my mind shall be appeased and that is quite enough for me, till cassandra rose clarke releases her next adult novel.

this e-arc has been kindly proved by strange chemistry through netgalley!

Isa Lavinia says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars

Don't miss Cassandra Rose Clarke's guest post about Magical Systems!!!

[ARC provided by Strange Chemistry through Netgalley](#)

Hanna Euli grew up listening to wondrous stories of the adventures of Ananna, the great pirate queen with whom her mother had sailed before settling down with her father.

An apprentice to Kolur, a fisherman, Hanna dreams of being a witch. Possessing a special affinity with the south wind, Hanna keeps practising her spells during her free time, between hauling the day's catch and tending to the sails of the *Penelope*, Kolur's boat.

When the *Penelope* gets caught in a storm and thrown off course, Hanna starts suspecting Kolur is more than the mere fisherman he claims to be. Especially when he brings Frida, a witch from his mysterious past, on board of the *Penelope*.

But trouble is just starting for Hanna, who finds herself being followed by an ethereally beautiful... *merboy*?

Having absolutely loved Cassandra Rose Clarke's *The Assassin's Curse* duology (it made it into my Best Reads of 2013 list), I was delighted to discover I wouldn't have to leave that series' universe just yet!

Though different from Ananna, I loved Hanna just as dearly.

Ananna was more impulsive, her life was pretty adventurous before *The Assassin's Curse*'s events, what with her being a pirate's daughter.

Hanna was easier to relate to: her life is mundane. There is a set and dull fate she is expected to take. But she never gives up, she doesn't just set aside the banality of everyday life for a great adventure, we see her make time within her ordinary life, to train so she can achieve the extraordinary things she wants. We need more characters like her in YA!

And then there is Isolfr, the merboy... or perhaps not a merboy, but not quite human - who came from a palace in the sky. He was interesting, but all the effort that went to keep everything so mysterious meant his relationship with Hanna didn't feel as strong as it should have been...

I didn't like how we, along with Hanna, were kept in the dark for most of the book. The Mists never really felt threatening enough to warrant the slow pace. As a reader, instead of feeling more engaged with the story, I felt more and more disconnected from it.

Perhaps that was what I felt was missing in *The Wizard's Promise*. I wasn't as invested in the story. While the whole atmosphere felt right in *The Assassin's Curse*, whether the characters were in the desert, an enchanted island, or at sea - in *The Wizard's Promise* I never really felt there with them. It lacked that... spark - I don't have another word for it - that made *The Assassin's Curse* books shine so brightly.

Then again, I remember raising *The Assassin's Curse*'s rating after I read *The Pirate's Wish*... Perhaps Cassandra Rose Clarke's duologies are meant to be read as one single work, and a reader never fully appreciates the first one until having finished the second? We shall see!

It's still a delightful book, and I certainly cannot wait to get my hands on *The Nobleman's Revenge*. So, if you're a fan of Cassandra Rose Clarke's writing, do not miss this book!

Jen (The Starry-Eyed Revue) says

An advance copy of this novel was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

This review can also be found at [The Starry-Eyed Revue](#).

I am a super-huge fan of Cassandra Rose Clarke's *The Assassin's Curse* duology. It's fast-paced and full of awesome characters -- some human and some not. I expected much of the same from this first book in the Hanna duology, especially with this series being set in the same world. But CRC managed to make Hanna's story completely different by setting it in the far north in a much colder climate and focusing more on magic this time around. You can read more about the author's world-building in this post for the blog tour for *The Wizard's Promise*.

Hanna intends to learn magic and avoid life as a fisherman, which she seems destined for at present. All Hanna's heard from her mother since she was young were stories of Annana's adventures. Hanna's mother actually sailed with Annana before starting her own family, and Hanna is actually named after Annana. So, you can see why Hanna has such wanderlust, why she's so keen on setting out on adventures of her own.

But when adventure does finally find Hanna, it's not quite what she was expecting. Nor was it what I was expecting. Whereas the previous books in this world had been quite fast-paced and full of action sequences, I found the setup for this series to be much more subdued and much slower. It felt like I was being kept in the dark right along with Hanna, and it was a bit frustrating at times. I can appreciate the slower build-up on this book because I'm already familiar with some of the intricacies of this world because of the earlier books, like life spent on the water, the magic, and the Mists. But I think the thing that really kept me going was the promise of an Annana/Naji cameo in the future. I'm intrigued by what's happening with Hanna and Isolfr, but as of right now, their story pales in comparison to that of Annana and Naji.

That's not to say that any of the characters are lacking; I just think that the chemistry isn't quite there yet. The potential for it is, though. All of the characters in this book are as well-rounded or as mysterious as they should be, though maybe Kolur and Frida should have been a little more forthcoming a little earlier on in the story to save everyone a bit of trouble. But probably the most impossible character to figure out was Isolfr, a) because he was *supposed* to be crazy mysterious and b) he didn't get near enough page-time for my liking, making him even more of an enigma. That's probably also why he ended up being my favorite character in this story. That and his terribly frustrating riddle-speak. I usually hate it when characters beat around the bush, but I'll make an exception for Isolfr.

The Wizard's Promise is an interesting reintroduction to this world but also a veritable launch into new aspects of this world I've already come to love so well. But that would be the launch of a ship at sea, *not* like the launch of a rocket into space. Truth be told, this felt like a world-building second book, but that just means the next will be full of action and answers. And I'm very much looking forward to discovering what the Mists are all about and what the future holds for Hanna.

GIF it to me straight:

This was me for much of the novel...but as with The Princess Bride, the ending is worth the wait.

Olga Godim says

Seventeen years old Hanna wants to be a proper witch but she is stuck as a fisherman's apprentice. Bemoaning the tedium of her life, she is sure nothing interesting is ever going to happen to her. When she and her master Kolor embark on their regular fishing run, she expects the routine to continue. Even after a magical storm blows their ship, *Penelope*, towards a remote island, she has no clue.

Then instead of sailing back home, Kolor points his ship in the opposite direction without explaining anything to his apprentice. He also picks up a trained witch to help him maintain course and perform other magical tasks. With no way home, Hanna has no choice but to accompany her secretive master on his mysterious errand.

Nobody talks to her, neither Kolor nor his witch. One night, stewing in frustration and longing for answers, Hanna meets a strange magical merman who seems to be following the ship. Unlike Kolor, the merman talks to Hanna but he speaks in riddles. He spouts vague warnings of danger and mayhem, caused by the otherworldly evil Mists, and professes his readiness to help Hanna. He doesn't give straight answers to any of her questions either.

Hanna is mad at them all, especially at Kolor for abusing her trust. This irritating situation continues for half the book, while Hanna fumes and collects disjointed snatches of information to make informed decisions. The plot moves as slowly as Hanna's life at sea, but the tension soars. Nothing happens, but something will and soon. And the reader keeps waiting for the break in monotony, until another magical storm shipwrecks *Penelope* in a distant land.

Finally Hanna abandons her master: he doesn't deserve her loyalty. Because of his idiotic mission she has stumbled into an unscheduled and hazardous adventure, and she doesn't like it one bit. It's cold, wet, and life-threatening. All she wants is to get back home. Unfortunately, she can't. Out of options, she finds a job at another fishing boat and hopes to save enough money one day to return home. But her adventure is not nearly complete. Kolor's unwise actions unleashed terrible perils and magical monsters, and they target her and her new friends. In the end, she would have to fight the villains, no matter how unwilling she is.

The story is a classical case of a reluctant hero, but this book is only the beginning of Hanna's journey. As soon as she says Yes to her adventure, the book ends. No surprise I hate cliffhangers.

The protagonist is controversial. On one hand, her heart is in the right place. She helps her friends whenever they need her, even risks her life, when necessary. On the other hand, she is whiny. She weeps a lot – tears are her signature reaction to any distress. She is as unlikely a hero as you could get, but what is a girl to do in her situation? She doesn't know where her boss is taking her, for what reasons, or for how long, and not for lack of trying to squeeze the answers out of the old sailor. When belligerent magic breaks their ship, he still wouldn't say a word. He seems to keep her ignorant out of a misguided wish to protect her. But ignorance doesn't protect anyone. Only knowledge gives power.

I came to hate Kolor's guts together with Hanna – for his dratted silence and his multiple lies and evasions – and I did sympathize with Hanna's trials, but to tell the truth, I'm not sure I want to read her next story. I couldn't bond with her.

I will read other books by this author though. The writing was excellent.

Michelle {Book Hangovers} says

Review: The Wizard's Promise by Cassandra Rose Clark All Hanna Euli wants is to become a proper witch – but unfortunately, she's stuck as an apprentice to a grumpy fisherman. When their boat gets caught up in a mysterious storm and blown wildly off course, Hanna finds herself further away from home than she's ever been before. As she tries to get back, she learns there may be more to her apprentice master than she realized, especially when a mysterious, beautiful, and very non-human boy begins following her through the ocean, claiming that he needs Hanna's help.

This is the first book I've read by Cassandra Rose Clark and honestly the only reason why I was intrigued to read this one is b/c of her previous books and well....because of it's cover.

I mean... It's pretty damn wicked!

Sadly. I can not say the same about this story!!!

I didn't think it was horrible by any means. It is, however, slow....

Though the world building was done very well, I felt that the characters lacked any depth. The ideas and plot of the story was interesting, just not executed well enough.

My advice for anyone who's going to read this book: make sure you have patience.

This arc was provided by the Publishers via NetGalley for my honest review!

Amanda says

Hanna wants nothing more than to become a full fledged wind witch. But for the time being, she's stuck being an apprentice on Kojur's fishing boat. What was supposed to be a quick 3 day trip turns into an adventure (kidnapping) north. You see, Kojur, as it turns out, has secrets. (Don't we all.) Secrets that make him decide to take (kidnap, force) Hanna to stay with him and sail north without any information or promise of safety. They pick up another witch who also has, wait for it, secrets! This adventure (kidnapping) continues and we meet a very beautiful, very cowardly, young man who desperately needs Hanna's help but, of course, he has.... wait for it.... secrets and can't explain a damn thing to Hanna.

I hate to say how disappointed I am in this book. I completely loved The Assassin's Curse duology. I was hoping this story, set in the same world just a generation later, would be equally as wonderful. It's lacking something, I'm not sure what, but it's what made The Assassin's Curse special to me. Hanna was likeable, a bit brave and certainly makes the best of her unfortunate situation (kidnapping). I'm not sure if I was supposed to like any other characters because I didn't. I didn't like a single supporting character. They were dull, predictable and frustrating. Every conversation Hanna has with someone gets cut off abruptly or is ended because they refuse to answer her questions. I understand the need to create a mystery but this was ridiculous. The very few answers we do get were the ones that were so obvious from the beginning that you want to bop Hanna on the forehead and say DUH. The Big Bad is dull, so far at least.

It isn't all bad though. I do love the way Rose Clarke writes. The magic system she creates is intriguing and

believable. As I said before, I liked Hanna well enough so I will give the sequel a chance in the hopes that it will redeem this story.

Thank you, Netgalley, for letting me read this in exchange for an honest review.

AH says

Initial Thoughts: While I enjoyed this book, it didn't have the same impression upon me as the author's earlier books **The Assassin's Curse** and **The Pirate's Wish**. I felt frustrated for the main character who was led on a wild goose chase without anyone telling her why she had to go.

The Review:

I picked up **The Wizard's Promise** because I've enjoyed other books by this author and this book takes place in the same world as **The Assassin's Curse** and **The Pirate's Wish**. In fact, the main character Hanna is named after Ananna and Hannah's mother sailed with her as well. So much for the background. This is a very different story and while I enjoyed the fantasy world aspect, it really did not wow me like its predecessors.

Back to Hannah. Hannah is a fisherman (fisherwoman?). Her dream is to become a powerful witch. Hannah has some power – she can control the wind and is therefore useful on board a fishing boat. Hannah reluctantly goes on a fishing trip with Kolor who promises to bring her home as soon as possible. Hannah is therefore surprised to find out that the trip is not going as planned and that they have voyaged far from home. To make matters worse, Kolor is being very secretive and does not give Hannah any information about where they are going or why. Also on board the ship is Frida a powerful sea witch. She too does not tell Hannah anything.

This is where the book drove me crazy. Hannah is carted around from island to island, each time getting further and further from home, with absolutely no way to return on her own. At no time is she told the purpose of their mission (it certainly can't be a fishing trip). I found myself just as frustrated with the story line as Hannah.

"No one would tell me the truth. And I was sick of it, sick of being a puppet they pushed around whenever they needed."

This is not to say that the book is bad. After all, it does take place in the same magical world as **The Assassin's Curse**. The magic is still intriguing and the magical creatures were unique. It just lacked some of the spark of the previous books. If you have not yet had a chance to read any books by Cassandra Rose Clarke, I would suggest starting off with *The Assassin's Curse*.

Despite its shortcomings, I still enjoyed **The Wizard's Promise** and I look forward to reading more books by this author in the future.

Thank you to NetGalley and Strange Chemistry for a review copy of this book.

?? c a i s e e ?? says

Perhaps if I had of read The Assassins Curse duology before I read The Wizards Promise, I would have understood things a little better? I didn't realize that this was a spin off continuation of another duology, and so I felt this book was lacking *A LOT* of backstory to the magical history of their world which was probably explained in The Assassins Curse. Anyway, I quite liked The Wizards Promise, I thought it was fun and it gave me the warm fuzzies. I really liked Hanna- she felt like a very real characters and her mood swings and emotional responses to most situations in the book were spot on! Especially her outbursts of anger. Isolfr (**I can't pronounce his name correctly which is frustrating**) is not a mermaid as I first thought, and that was a little bit of a disappointment... BUT alas, I did like this book. 3 simple stars.

nick says

The Wizard's Promise is a typical Cassandra Rose Clarke book, filled with an imaginative world, an intriguing cast of characters and a lovely writing style. The mixed reviews that the book has received were a little off-putting, but I'm happy to say that I was very much involved in Hanna's story as Ananna's.

I'm always amazed by the creativity and imagination that Ms. Clarke clearly possesses. Her writing is vivid, bright and full of life, making you feel as though you are part of the story as well. The Wizard's Promise was no exception either. I loved this new world extended off the world from The Assassin's Curse series. We meet all sorts of creatures and islands that had me invested in this book. I'm especially intrigued by the Mists and I can't wait to learn more about these terrifying beings. I do admit that the plot was rather lacking in that almost nothing really happened for the first 75% or so of the book, but I was still able to immerse myself in the book because of the gorgeous writing and the fascinating world-building. It felt like a long introduction, with the author focusing more on fleshing out her world rather than focusing on the plot, but I didn't think it was dull for one moment.

Unlike The Assassin's Curse, the romance was quite disappointing because it was barely there. The love interest, or the person I assume is the love interest, Isolfr, doesn't play a huge role in the book because he has very little screen space, so it makes sense that the romance was not a pivotal point of the story, but I was still a little let down because I seem to enjoy YA fantasies more when they are peppered with some romantic elements.

Despite that though, I enjoyed the characters quite a bit, especially Hanna. She does get a little whiny with constantly complaining about wanting to go back home when her mentor and fisherman takes her to the northern islands without being open with her, but I completely understood where she was coming from. I would be a hypocrite to say that I didn't because I'm constantly complaining about wanting to go home too. She was heroine that I personally thought was easy to connect with. I felt for her and I loved watching her slowly grow and trying to work her best so she could return home to her family. I also liked some of the side characters, mainly Hanna's mentor, but I did wish we could have seen more of Isolfr. He was intriguing and I wanted to know more about him and his people. With the way the book ended, however, I'm convinced that all these things I want await me in the next installment of this duology.

While The Wizard's Promise is not the author's best work, in my opinion, it is a book that I think is worth reading. However, I believe that waiting for the next installment and reading them back to back would

probably result in more readers enjoying it assuming that there is more of a plot in the next book. For me though, this was an entertaining read and I can't wait to set sail with Hanna in the next installment of this series.

Gina (My Precious Blog) says

Cassandra Rose Clarke is a very talented author. She has the ability to create wonderful, fantastical worlds in far off places where magical adventures can unfold. I love the way she paints beautiful images with her words. Her use of adjectives is so impressive, in her book characters "scamper", items are "snatched" and objects are "perched", nothing is left absent of great description. These are the reason I wanted to read her latest book, *The Wizard's Promise*. This book is set in the same world as her other series *The Assassin's Curse*. It takes place mostly at sea. The main character Hannah is the daughter of the lead, Ananna of the Tanaru, in Cassandra's other series. It's written in a first person narrative in the voice of Hannah our young wind wielding heroine.

Hannah is a fisherman's apprentice. She aspires to much more, in fact one day she hopes to train to become a powerful sea witch. However for now she must settle for controlling the winds for a fisherman's boat, something which is far less appealing to Hannah. One day, on a regular fishing excursion, the boat's captain Kolor decides to toss some bones, a way people in that time predicted the future. What the bones reveal is a mystery to Hannah, but what follows is a one day fishing trip turns into a great adventure to faraway lands.

Hannah is a smart girl. She's brave and a touch mouthy. In fact many times she finds she bites her tongue. Part of her has always wanted an adventure. She's heard all of her mother's pirate stories and feels a bit cheated with her dull life. She has aspirations of becoming a sea witch someday. Her magic is just in its infancy. She's able to control the winds. I sort of liked Hannah. It was hard to totally enjoy her due to her situation. It made her sort of stand-offish and grumpy, even slightly whiney. I couldn't blame her though. I'd be quite peeved if I found myself in her predicament.

The side characters are plenty. Kolor is the fisherman who Hannah apprentices for. He's stern, but does seem to care about Hannah. I think it was extremely rude of him to put Hannah in the situation he forces her into, even though he does make valiant attempts to keep her safe. It would have been better if he would have just sent her home. (Then we wouldn't have a story, though.) Freda is an old sea witch who Kolor picks up along the way on his quest. I believe they are old friends. She's kind, but in a sketchy sort of way. She treats Hannah fairly, even sometimes teaching her a little about magic along the way. Then there is Isolfr. He's not human. It seems like he's a boy and many times he felt like a merman. In the end, we find out both are incorrect and what he turns out to be is not something easily guessed. For me, Isolfr was an annoying character because of his allusiveness and inability to tell Hannah what was going on. His evasiveness and speaking in circles, giving no information made me very impatient and the story slightly less enjoyable.

Like I mentioned above, writing is just beautiful in this one. Clarke is very talented in her word crafting. She never creates a dull sentence. However, unfortunately the plot in this one is lack luster and the characters are kinda blah. If anyone else was writing this story I probably would have stopped, but Clarke's writing is so magnificent I still found myself interested in an unconventional way. I just enjoy reading her prose.

Overall, I found *The Wizard's Promise* to be a somewhat entertaining read, the writing was phenomenal. I think the biggest problem I had with the story is that, especially in the beginning the book lacked any

forward momentum. I just felt like it was just anchored in the seas. The book provided plenty of mundane details about the everyday lives of the characters, dropping no hints of what might be in store or what really was going on. I felt as frustrated and irritated alongside Hannah with the absence of information on where the story and boat for that matter were heading. Once the ship/story finally got going it did pick up and near the end there were some pretty action packed battles with magical storms, winds and sea monsters. However, the majority of the story was just a little too uneventful for my tastes.

In the end, the author does leave the story wide open for a whole new sub-set of possibilities. I'm totally hoping the conclusion of this duology will be much faster paced with a lot more action and plot building for me to really get excited about.

Nikki says

I like Cassandra Rose Clarke a lot, and although her YA books aren't as good (to my mind, anyway) as *The Mad Scientist's Daughter*, they're enjoyable. She creates interesting worlds that aren't your typical run of the mill fantasy worlds, with female characters at the centre who aren't limited in any way by silly sexism carried over from our world. We get several female characters, of varying importance, who do the same sorts of things as the men of their world, which is refreshing.

Some of the comments about the slowness of this plot are kinda justified, I think. It's just awkward when your plot depends on a major character basically kidnapping another and sweeping them off into lands unknown and a fair amount of danger, without telling them anything about it. It's hard for me to sympathise with Kolur, on those grounds, and Hanna's entirely right to be pissed about the way he swept her off and his motives for doing so, to my mind. It's not even entirely clear why he kept Hanna on board instead of just finding a way to send her home.

Isolfr is an interesting character in terms of what he is, but we don't really see enough of him yet. I'll be interested to see how he develops in the next book. I was actually a bigger fan of the husband and wife couple, Finnur and Asbera: they were good friends, understanding and accepting, and they had a strength and sweetness together that seemed entirely natural.

Overall, I enjoyed this, and will definitely read the second one when it's available. And I, uh, need to catch up and read *The Pirate's Wish*, ASAP.
