



## The Madmen's City

*Cady Vance*

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Teen vigilante Gwen Kane uses her fists and a strict moral code to flatten any lowlife who dares prey on the innocents of Towton City. Her rival, Silas Snow, opts for a pistol, a silencer and a shot in the dark. To Silas, death is the only suitable punishment for the iniquitous criminals who prowl the seedy streets. And to Gwen, Silas is just another murderer. Working together would only end in World War III.

When someone frames Gwen's father for a mob death that Silas actually caused, their paths seem destined for a head-on collision. Silas doesn't want an innocent man to take the fall, but if he fesses up to the crime, he'll only land behind bars himself. But Gwen will stop at nothing to discover the truth. The clock ticks down to her father's date with death row.

It's time to stop playing nice.

## **The Madmen's City Details**

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Author : Cady Vance

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## From Reader Review The Madmen's City for online ebook

### Gavin says

This was an enjoyable and engaging YA superhero novel. It was not a 5 star read, but I was happy with the story and will definitely be reading the sequel. This was a superhero story with a similar feel to DC's Arrow or Batman. The heroes had no superpowers and the story was quite dark at times and we had plenty of ambiguity and moral dilemmas.

Towton City is ruled from the shadows by two rival crime gangs. The police and city officials are helpless to do anything to change this due to a combination of corruption and intimidation. The one shining light is the masked vigilante Phantom. He has fought the gangs for years and helped imprison a number of evildoers and is known by all as a man of honour. However Towton City has a second vigilante on the go, the newcomer Ethos, and he could not be more different to Phantom. Where Phantom captures the criminals and delivers them to the police for justice Ethos simply kills them! A major gang war is in the offing and when Phantom is framed for the murder of a underworld lieutenant he finds himself in prison and on death row. It is up to his young protégé, and daughter, Gwen to stop the gang war from exploding into a bloodbath and prove her fathers innocence before he is executed. Can she manage the task alone or dare she accept the help of the mysterious Ethos? And what of Ethos? He has a few secrets of his own. He is Silas Snow, the son of the notorious Snow gangs leader, and worse yet, he was the one who really killed the man Phantom was framed for murdering!

The story was quite engaging. Gwen was a likeable character who was easy to root for and it was interesting to see her morals and beliefs challenged as her methods clashed with those of Ethos and were put to the test as dark circumstances pushed her to the limit. Silas was also an interesting character and surprisingly likeable despite his willingness to kill and somewhat questionable morals!

All in all I quite enjoyed the tale and will definitely be willing to read the sequel!

Rating: 4 stars.

Audio Note: It would probably have been best if a female narrator had been used for Gwen's POV chapters, but I guess Ryan Kennard Burke did an OK job.

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### Shana says

I devoured this book! The dynamic between Silas and Gwen kept me turning pages with their complicated relationship, the way they admire each other while still disagreeing, and the sizzling chemistry. I loved both of them and found their distinct voices to be a refreshing change of pace from most YA.

The gritty atmosphere crackles from the page, enhanced by the skilled world building. With gorgeous prose and three-dimensional characters, this book is one to move to the top of your TBR list.

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## **J.L. Dobias says**

The Madmen's City by Cady Vance

This novel helps fill out the growing number of super hero novels I've been reading lately. It's a tough job without all the panels of drawings; but when done right they read quite well. This one is definitely going into the well done pile. This novel is more about vigilante than super powered heroes; but that's what Batman started out as. And this novel fits well with that in that it is drawn in a dystopic world that has the noir mood and images that go along with crime bosses and thugs and suspicious authority who don't know what to do about the vigilantes.

Silas Snow is the rougher side of vigilantism. The story opens up after his having cleaned one more soldier from the Nerozzi crime family off the streets. Disguised as the faceless Ethos he's cleaning up the Coil; in part because he's the son of a crime boss that is in prison and he'd love to see a few more of the crime bosses sent away. Tonight while disposing of the body he is confronted by Phantom, Damian Kane, who is more like the morally correct super hero in the story. Phantom asks Ethos to vacate this particular area of the Coil: while Phantom is busy with some unknown project. Instead of vacating Ethos sticks around to find that Phantom is training his daughter to become a vigilante. At the same time some of the Nerozzi thugs show up threatening Phantom and his daughter; and Phantom is forced to leave with them to save his daughter; who ends up still in danger, but Ethos helps her get away in time for them both to see her father, Phantom, being arrested and placed in a police cruiser. Gwen Kane, Lady Hood, would rather not have had to rely on the seedy Ethos to get away, but she has no choice.

As it turns out Gwen's father is charged with the murder committed by Ethos, which fact Gwen does not yet know. Gwen also, in super hero irony, is not aware that her friend Silas Snow (she befriended him after the trial that sent his mother to prison) is really Ethos. Ethos is quickly placed in a tough situation with her father taking the blame for his crime. There's a long dance of the secret identities where Ethos helps Gwen and her friends try to get to the bottom of things. Once the cat is out of the bag and Ethos is unmasked, Silas decides to turn himself in; except other people have other plans; and Gwen might have to now return the favor and save Ethos, before they can clear her father's name.

The story is an interesting if frequently used storyline in this genre. The Phantom's vigilante justice is righteous and clean, but is falling short of effective. Ethos is brutal and exacting and perhaps has wakened the crime community to a point of wanting to pull his plug. Gwen, Lady Hood, must learn to walk the line between the two types of justice in order to help her father and she'll have to see how far she might go to compromise everything her father has stood for and taught her.

This is a well written evenly paced story with interesting characters in a typical situation for the realm of noir vigilante justice. A great read for fans of the Graphic Noir (Suspense and Mystery) novels minus the graphics and a pretty good read for YA and even some SFF fans.

J.L. Dobias

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## **Charity Bradford says**

First off, this didn't read like a dystopian. It was more like an Arrow/Batman comic world read, and I

LOVED that feel! Seriously, Towton City is just like Gotham in my mind. This book was easy to fall into and keep reading. The only reason it took so long for me to finish was simply lack of time to sit and do just that. Last night I picked it up a little before 11 determined to find out how it was going to end. I finished right before midnight and then lay in bed another hour imagining out the scenes.

I really enjoyed the relationship between Gwen and Silas. It made sense and progressed logically for me. They both had their own idea of how things should be handled, but in the end they realize they have more in common "moral-wise" than Gwen originally thought. Perhaps the best part for me was there were no "seriously, you're going to kiss her now?" moments. They start to like each other but nothing happens until the bad guys are vanquished and all is as good as it gets in Towton.

This was a well written, fun read. There is some language. I give The Madmen's City a solid 4.

1-5 scale and what it means:

- 1: I couldn't even finish it / just plain bad
- 2: I hope I didn't pay for this / disappointing
- 3: I didn't hate it, but it was still missing something / forgettable but inoffensive
- 3.5: On the line between good and ok / like, not love
- 4: Solid mind candy / worth reading
- 4.5: So very close to perfection! / must read
- 5: I could not put it down and I'm still thinking about it! / a true treasure

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### **LoveBooksAndCats says**

I got this book by signing in Read it and Reap program in exchange for an honest review.

In the start I really The story is about Gwen whos father is the phantom of towtown,a city filled with mafia and douchbags. Something happened in past that made Gwen's father to be the hero and savior of town. But he is now framed for a murder that he didn't even commit. Gwen vowed to clear his name and get him out of jail. She is not alone in this. Silas, the Ethos, whom she calls murdere coz he doesnt show mercy on wrongdoers and doesn't hand them over to police for the simple reason that the judicial system is not as perfect as it should be but under the influence of mafia. There is a strong reason why Silas is like this and why does Phantom was framed for the murder he never committed. Together Silas and Gwen will fight the criminals and try to fight the attraction they have for each other.

Three stars coz I couldnt give more. I didn't enjoy it as much as I did in the start till halfway through. I was happily ignoring few things that were bothering me but couldnt do it later. I couldn't connect to characters. There is something missing. It looks like rushed or I don't know. The characters weren't given justice in my views. Things weren't explained fully. I don't know may be my fault but I didn't enjoy it.

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## **Susan Lulgjuraj says**

Vigilante ... super heroes. They can be the same person, but usually it depends on which side of the situation you are standing. Gwen Kane's father goes from super hero to vigilante to murderer in just a matter of hours, and she wants to clear his name.

Towton City is run by two crime families, which would love nothing more than to see Gwen Kane's father stay in prison and make the street just a little more accessible for them.

To get to her goal, Gwen befriends the other vigilante in town, who happens to be someone who she already knows – and someone with a lot of secrets.

The dynamic between Gwen and Silas was great. They had a relationship that made you want to root for them every step of the way, even when the situation got complicated. Also, their relationship didn't get in the way of the overarching story.

However, the book was a bit darker than I had expected, but nothing that would have made me put down *The Madmen's City*.

\*\*Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. \*\*

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## **Tamara says**

This is a superhero story without super powers. It reminded me of the series "Arrow". It is well written and fun to read. I can recommend it to everyone who likes action, doesn't mind some violence and who is satisfied with a pinch of romance.

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## **Savannah Rohledder says**

Gwen Kane's dad is the famous vigilante Phantom and she is training with him. There's another vigilante around town named Ethos and he isn't afraid to kill. When Phantom is framed for a murder he didn't commit, Gwen will do everything she can to prove his innocence, even going out on the streets at night and teaming up with Ethos.

I absolutely loved this book. I am a huge fan of superheroes/vigilantes in stories, but this is actually the first book I've read about them. This book reminded me a lot of the feel of the show Arrow, which I love as well.

Cady Vance did an excellent job with writing this book. It played like a movie across my eyes and I could visualize everything. Typically with reading, I visualize it to a point, but this book went way beyond that. Through the descriptions and writing, I could see everything that was going on.

I really liked the characters in this book, especially Silas Snow. His personality really showed through and I'm really glad Cady Vance decided to write the book from both Silas and Gwen's perspective.

The pacing of this book was perfect. While reading I just kept wishing there would be a sequel. I read this book in one sitting because I couldn't put it down. Nothing felt forced in this book and the things the characters were able to do seemed very true to who they were.

I also really liked the aspects of this book that are focusing on good and evil. Gwen and her father don't believe in killing the bad guys, they give them to the police to be arrested and put to trial. Ethos isn't afraid to kill criminals. One of the most interesting parts of this book the whole back and forth debate on whether killing the bad guys was okay. I definitely think this could have been expanded even further in the book, but the tastes of it presented in the book are enough to make you think.

The ending was very satisfying, but maybe a tiny bit rushed. One small thing at the end I felt confused why it happened, but the author acknowledges what she is doing it by having the characters give a reason for it.

This book was amazing and I highly recommend it. This is a book I can totally see myself rereading.

**(Spoilers!)** Lastly, I am so glad that when Silas wants to kiss Gwen in the middle of the climax of the book, he doesn't and he acknowledges that it isn't the time. It's really refreshing that this book wasn't ruined by the 'everything is falling apart around us and we are in a time crunch, but we are just going to stand here and make-out for a bit' that so many movies have. It's so unrealistic and stupid when they do that. **(End Spoilers.)**

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### **Gail says**

#### **Excellent**

Loved the book and the characters. Wonderful story, written well enough to keep you hooked to the end. Hopefully there will be a sequel to this.

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### **Amanda Lyles says**

I really liked this book. I thought the pace was nice and Silas and Gwen were pretty developed characters. I had a problem with the constant moral question of whether Ethos was right to kill bad guys or not. I definitely think he was right. I also thought the ending was very rushed. It just ends so abruptly. It could have been spread out a little bit more.

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### **Jennifer says**

This review was originally posted to Jen in Bookland

\*Note: I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review\*

Overall I really enjoyed The Madmen's City. It was a fun noir style book. It is like a dark super hero, Batman type story. I can just see Towton as a similar city to Gotham. I loved that aspect of it.

Towton is a dark, gritty, corrupt city. There are two different families ruling different parts of the city. They have their hands in everyone's pockets. The cops are corrupt and the ruling families can get away with anything. There are few people who are actively working to try and keep the city safe. Gwen is learning from her father, the vigilante known as Phantom. Phantom also works with Ethos, the other masked vigilante. While Phantom catches the bad guys and turns them over to the cops (only to have them be set free again usually), Phantom kills the bad guys and doesn't think twice about it. After all why capture them to have them be set loose to kill more innocent people? I understand why he does what he does and in his place I might do the same.

Everything is going great, Phantom and Ethos sharing patrolling the city. Only one night Phantom gets arrested for murder, a murder Ethos committed. Someone is setting up Phantom and Gwen is determined to figure out who and save her dad.

When I started writing this up I re-read the synopsis and thought Gwen is 17? Really? She seems much younger. While reading I kept thinking she should be annoying me, but she was written in a way that was fun instead of annoying. She seems really young and not the smartest person. Well it is that she really just rushes head long into situations without thinking about them too much. She doesn't have a lot of patients and she sees everything in very black and white. She really just acted like a kid who would be upset if she didn't get her own way. Also some of her thought processes I didn't quite get. She doesn't like Ethos/Silas because he kills people. She says at one time that she would never ever kill anyone (so then I kept waiting for that to happen. It was near the beginning of the book that she said that so it was just like yep, that will happen eventually), but she is on board with the death penalty. Apparently she can't kill anyone, but the cops can. I just seemed odd to me especially since a lot of the cops are corrupt so...

Anyways in order for Gwen to figure out who is setting up her dad and save him from jail she has to work with Silas. Silas who was so sweet, who obviously likes Gwen, but who would be hurt by her mean words she would spew without thinking. Sometimes I thought I don't even know why he likes her, but I liked him. I got him. He was out doing something and he is good at it. Yes he kills people, but only bad people.

"Listen to me, Gwen. Not everything falls into neat, little boxes of right and wrong. I draw the lines too tight, but so do you."

He does what he has to to try and keep his city safe. Reading him was heartbreakingly at times. Gwen is so mean, cuts him so deep, and she doesn't even realize it. There are also some friends and family to deal with, some good, some bad, and it was just a lot of fun to read.

So why is it not rated higher? Well it was a good four plus stars most of the way through until the end. I was reading and thought oh, this must be the first book in what will be a series. I only have a few minutes left and there is no way to wrap everything up in that time. Only that is what the author does. The story gets wrapped up all well, there we go everything is sunshine and rainbows now. It didn't make sense. It didn't work. There is no way what happened in two pages stopped all the badness from happening anymore and made everything great. Also Gwen suddenly likes Silas and that felt like it came out of left field. I didn't see her actually coming around to him that much until the rush at the end to fit it in. So I was loving the story, but the end was way too rushed. Still a good read, but know that the end is a bit rushed.

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## **beautywithbooks says**

Read the review in the blog.

Note: I got this book to read in exchange of my honest review.

Towton City is a corrupt city. The cops are corrupt and the mafia family gets away with whatever they want. But there are few people who are working together to keep the city safe and clean.

Gwen Kane, Silas Snow, Phantom. The three vigilantes, whose only purpose in life are to take down the criminals and make Towton City a better place to live for the innocents. Though their ways are different. Phantom hands over the criminals to the police. Silas does not approve this. He thinks death is the only suitable punishment for the criminals. Gwen does not approve Silas ways. Silas was yet another criminal according to Gwen.

Gwen Kane is still learning from her father. Silas Snow, works with Phantom. They have divided the city to do patrolling. Silas never give mercy to his victims. But Phantom turns the bad guys to the cops only to be set free again.

One night Phantom is arrested in charge of a murder. Someone is trying to frame Phantom in a murder. Gwen does not know who. She wants to find out the real criminal. She has to take help from Ethos (Silas Snow).

Ethos, knows it is her mother behind framing Phantom in the murder. Gwen Kane befriends with Ethos. Eventually, Gwen knows that Silas is Ethos. How much ever Gwen dislikes Ethos or his way of working, now only he can help her track and free her father.

The story is fast moving and the dynamics between Gwen and Silas is entertaining. The end is much unexpected and very easy chase in a rush. The descriptions of the streets in dark snowy nights are creepier compared to the stay of Silas as a prisoner and his escape without much of a sacrifice. The feel of danger was missing in those last scenes.

Overall it is a good read.

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## **Isa Lavinia says**

This entire book was absurd.

Everyone, and I do mean everyone, was tstl.

How do you have a batman-like do-gooder running around telling his secret identity to a bunch of kids?

How are you going to write My Immortal descriptions of what the characters are wearing?

How are you going to dress up a crime fighting kid in a white trenchcoat and hat (I'm assuming fedora, from his behaviour) and have him say that no one ever sees him at night?

How are you going to write said kid's dialogue in a noiresque way that only makes sense coming out of a 50-something year old detective who is not only disillusioned with life but also a functional alcoholic?

How are you going to write your female mc as a complete idiot?

How are you going to write a plot as thin as a 15 minute episode of something out of cartoon network?

And how do you manage to make it all so boring?

So many questions...

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