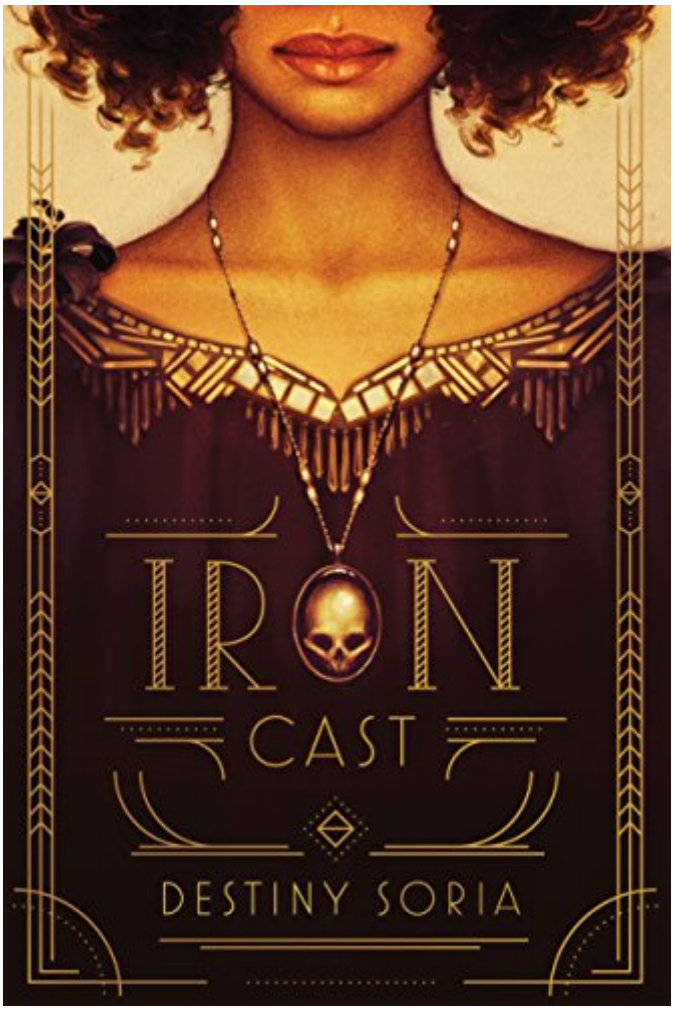
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Iron Cast



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Synopsis

ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Boston, 1919, and the Cast Iron club is packed. On stage, hemopathsÃ¢â ¬â •whose Ã¢â ¬Å“afflictedÃ¢â ¬Â• blood gives them the ability to create illusions through artÃ¢â ¬â •Corinne and Ada have been best friends ever since infamous gangster Johnny Dervish recruited them into his circle. By night they perform for JohnnyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s crowds, and by day they con BostonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s elite. When a job goes wrong and Ada is imprisoned, she realizes how precarious their position is. After she escapes, two of the Cast IronÃ¢â ¬â„¢s hires are shot, and Johnny disappears. With the law closing in, Corinne and Ada are forced to hunt for answers, even as betrayal faces them at every turn. An ideal next read for fans of Libba BrayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Diviners.

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Customer Reviews

After everything, I have to say I was disappointed with this book. I did enjoy the story, overall. But, based on the book blurb, I had much higher expectations. For fans of Libba Bray's The Diviners, this is far from that level.My biggest problem: I felt like I was thrown into the middle of a series and the

world-building was just skipped.The whole book is built around a society divided between hemopaths and regs (regulars). Hemopaths have afflicted blood that gives them artistic gifts - wordsmiths, songsmiths, thespians, artists, etc. And for some reason this affliction gives them a serious aversion to iron, and apparently several other metals to a lesser degree? The reader gets a lot of information about what wordsmiths and songsmiths (and other talents) can do, but there is absolutely no link between these gifts and the blood affliction or iron aversion. The reader is told the "affliction" manifests during teenage years, that it is very painful, and then you have a gift and a metal aversion, but that's all you get. There is no other information about why the blood disorder causes the metal aversion or how the gifts are linked. It was almost like the author had an idea about characters with a blood issue and it segregating them from society, and an idea about cool magical talents, and just decided to use both. There was not enough world building to relate these things together. When I read the book blurb, I had envisioned hemopathy being something magic in the blood of these people and the controversy behind it was going to be trying to obtain and use hemopath blood. Almost like a Prohibition dealing with magic blood instead of alcohol? And the reference to an infamous gangster made me think there was going to be a lot more about gangsters... But actually it's nothing like that.The reader is told that scientists don't know a lot about hemopathy, there's an asylum where they are doing all kinds of secret experiments to "cure" hemopaths, but you get no information as to whether this is a worldwide new disorder, or where hemopathy came from, or how it manifests. The two sides of hemopathy just don't link together well.Furthermore, I got the impression there would be more gangster and Prohibition/speakeasy action, but actually this book is set before the beginning of Prohibition, which was a big disappointment to me. The clubs were kind of underground clubs, and there were raids, but the raids were about performing illegal hemopath shows, not about serving illegal booze. It was like the author liked the era, the clothes, and the idea of the secretive clubs, but didn't feel like bothering with the rest of the 1920s. And the club that was the focus of the book was the Cast Iron Club - having read the book I'm not really sure why the title is Iron Cast.The story is not bad, I just kept waiting for information and world-building that never came. I had been excited about this book for months, and it just didn't deliver.

I have mixed feelings about this book. There were definitely positives. I loved, loved, loved the setting and the magic system in this story. I thought the author handled the historical details very well, especially in the dialogue. The two main characters were great, and I loved their friendship, and it was great to see diversity explored in this time period. My problem with this book was the

pacing. For the 1st 60%, the characters are meandering about, visiting family, doing a little magic here and there. They have no goal. There's no story problem that they're working to solve. I almost gave up on this book half way through because by that point, literally nothing had happened yet. I started skimming, and things did come together in the last 30-40% of the book. The ending was well done, which improved my overall impression. There were some lovely things about this story, but tons of untapped potential that left me feeling frustrated and disappointed in this book.

Destiny SoriaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Iron Cast is a wonderful historical fantasy with a unique magical system and compelling characters. For those like Corinne and Ada, the world is not a welcoming place. Hemopathy, the ability to manipulate a personÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s perception, is against the law. Clubs like the Cast Iron provide a safe haven for hemopaths who are shunned by the world and who still wish to practice their unusual talents. As a wordsmith, Corinne can create illusions with a simple poem. Ada, a gifted musician, has the ability to pull particular emotions from people with her violin. Even though theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve both found a place at Cast Iron, there are those who will stop at nothing to rid the world of hemopaths for good.I must start off by saying that I loved the relationship between Corinne and Ada. They may be very different people, but they are equally committed to one another. Their friendship didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t come about easily and there are still times when their personalities clash, but they play off each other really well and know that above anything, they can rely completely on the other. Their sassy banter was a delight to read and they made a powerful pair in spite of all the things that went against them. I loved all of the powerful women in this book. There were no damsels in distress in this one and each female character showed strength in different ways which made the entire ensemble a delight to read about.The world of hemopathy is beguiling and awe-inspiring. These gifts are described in such beautiful writing, I felt immediately transported. The author also does a really good job showing the negative side of having such a dangerous talent: the fear and ethical questions that arise when having the ability to manipulate others. Iron Cast emphasizes the importance of a self-made family in a world that wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t accept you for who you are and showcases a strong female friendship that had me smiling and pulled at my heartstings.

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