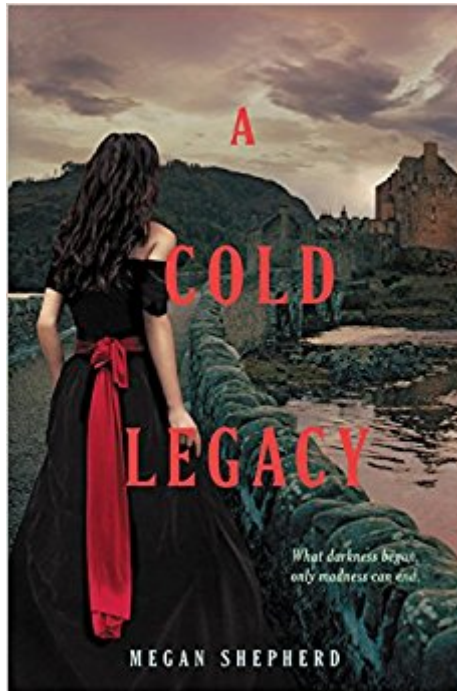


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A Cold Legacy (Madman's Daughter)



Synopsis

With inspiration from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*—and perfect for fans of Libba Bray—this breathless conclusion to the *Madman's Daughter* trilogy explores the things we'll sacrifice to save those we love—even our own humanity. After killing the men who tried to steal her father's research, Juliet and her friends have escaped to a remote estate on the Scottish moors. Owned by the enigmatic Elizabeth von Stein, the mansion is full of mysteries and unexplained oddities: dead bodies in the basement, secret passages, and fortune tellers who seem to know Juliet's secrets. Though it appears to be a safe haven, Juliet fears new dangers may be present within the manor's walls. Then Juliet uncovers the truth about the manor's long history of scientific experimentation—and her own intended role in it—forcing her to determine where the line falls between right and wrong, life and death, magic and science, and promises and secrets. And she must decide if she'll follow her father's dark footsteps or her mother's tragic ones, or whether she'll make her own.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—The final volume of the "*Madman's Daughter*" series (HarperCollins) accomplishes something too often lacking in trilogies—a third volume that is as compelling and well-written as the first installment. In this entry inspired by Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Juliet, Lucy, Montgomery, Balthazar, and Edward have escaped from their pursuers to the Scottish estate of Juliet's friend and benefactor, Elizabeth von Stein. They find the isolated estate inhabited by a

number of young women and girls, "wards" of Elizabeth, and one very strange male child named Hensley, Elizabeth's son. Juliet also discovers that the secrets of the rich woman's ancestor Victor Frankenstein have been preserved by the family, and with no legitimate heirs, Juliet has been chosen to receive the knowledge of "Perpetual Anatomy." The heroine wonders if she can use this knowledge to save Edward, but the complicated process is fraught with danger. Intrigue, the growing fear of discovery by their pursuers, romances between Elizabeth and Edward as well as Juliet and Montgomery, danger from within the house and its inhabitants, and secrets abound. In addition to the outer turmoil, Juliet continues to worry whether or not as her father's daughter she, too, has the "madness" gene. The skillfully drawn and well-developed characters face their emotional upheavals and outside dangers with aplomb. Shepherd's adroit weaving of the Frankenstein story line into the already complex world of Dr. Moreau's daughter, brings an exciting new twist and a satisfactory ending to the trilogy. Fast-paced and romantic, this page-turning volume results in mixed emotions—contentment with the ending, but still a desire for more.—Janet Hilbun, University of North Texas --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“Fast-paced and romantic, this page-turning volume [is] . . . a satisfactory ending to the trilogy.” (School Library Journal (starred review)) “Riveting” A creepy and compelling tale.” (Kirkus Reviews) Praise for HER DARK CURIOSITY: “Unexpected twists and a cliffhanger ending that should leave [readers] craving more.” (Publishers Weekly) Praise for THE MADMAN’S DAUGHTER: “The fast-paced book is rife with excitement, romance, and intrigue.” (School Library Journal (starred review)) Praise for THE MADMAN’S DAUGHTER: “A deft twist on a familiar classic, THE MADMAN’S DAUGHTER has the best of everything: beautiful writing, breakneck pacing, a pulse-pounding mystery, and an irresistible romance.” (Carrie Ryan, New York Times bestselling author of The Forest of Hands and Teeth series) Praise for THE MADMAN’S DAUGHTER: “Romantic, haunting, and full of spine-tingling thrills, THE MADMAN’S DAUGHTER kept me reading late into the night.” (Veronica Rossi, New York Times bestselling author of UNDER THE NEVER SKY)

A Cold Legacy is the last book (sigh* and sad face) in The Madman’s Daughter series by Megan Shepherd and is a classic retelling of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein (I have to type it like that because it does not sound as good if written the other way LOL). I have a lot of bitter sweet memories about this book. I HATE saying good bye to all the

interesting and unique characters from the series. I also feel like I grew with these characters; like I really invested a lot of my time on them so it is very hard for me to let them go. THIS is one of the things that I look into when it comes to a series, so 5 hearts to Ms. Shepherd. What I liked: Again, we see Juliet's character grow into someone strong, yet dark. When she is trying to find her place in life, trying to run away from her father's (Dr. Moreau) legacy will she be like him or will she be like her mother. I liked how relatable and realistic Juliet was. She was no Mary Sue, I'll tell you that and at one point, I almost thought that she would go the other way and give in to the darkness. Balthazar is my absolute favorite character in this series. I loved how he has grown to a Lurch-like (refer to The Adam's Family) butler to someone of great strength and loyalty. I really felt bad for him when everyone, including Juliet and Montgomery were taking advantage of him. It was a relief to find out that in the end, Juliet thought of him as a friend and included him in her HEA. Yay, for Sharkie! I love dogs, so with the addition of Sharkie to Her Dark Curiosity (book 2), I loved the series all the more. So even if Sharkie wasn't a major character in the story, he was there for Balthazar. So yes, I love Ms. Shepherd for adding Sharkie. There were a LOT of layers to this book. There were a lot of stories (side quests, if I may) that were prominent in this book. Like McKenna's story, Lucy's story, Elizabeth's story, and even Valentina's story and it kept me guessing. Even if there was a main villain, I love that there were multiple villains (Valentina, the Beast). It made the story more interesting and definitely NOT boring. The seamless adaptation of Mary Shelly's Frankenstein was done superbly. I love the transition from Her Dark Curiosity which was an adaptation of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde to A Cold Legacy. It did not feel like it was different classic adaptations at all. Brava to Ms. Shepherd for this! What I did not like: Juliet and Montgomery's romance wasn't central to the story but I did not really feel the spark between the two. I mean, if I were Montgomery, I would be frustrated with Juliet! I did not like the ending at all. Maybe it's because of the fact that I wanted the story to go on and on and I really did not want the series to end. If you haven't read The Madman's Daughter trilogy, recommend reading it ASAP! The series (and each book) is just too unique to miss out!

spoilers ahead This book made me want to roll around on the floor. Not because it gave me and good feelings but because this book was so bad. And I hate that it was bad. This was my first review of 2015, my first read, and the end to a wonderfully morbid trilogy I fell in love with. I wanted to love this. But this sucked. And this is an emotional review, you're warned now. The plot was weak. I read

Frankenstein and disused it in detail in college and considering that this book was supposed to be inspired by it I was utterly heartbroken that there was practically no introspection with Juliet. The first was inspired by *The Island of Dr. Moreau* by H.G. Wells, and I thought it was such a compliment to the classic tale. The second was inspired by *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and it was very interesting by including the inner battle between man and beast. But this... I doubt the author even read *Frankenstein*. By the look of things, she just barely included the Hollywood basics, and missed the entire soul and miraculous points of *Frankenstein*. I will say that the travesties that happened to Edward (there were so many) were one of my major reasons for disliking this novel. He deserved better character development without the Beast and more time to finish his story arc! Also. Science doesn't work that way. I know nothing about science, surgery, and only the basics of medicine, but I know that you cannot literally cut rabies from a brain. I don't care that it was replaced *Frankenstein* style and stitched up all pretty. No, no. This is not how science works! No time or effort was spent to even try to make it sound even slightly plausible as was done with the science in the earlier books. I can suspend belief if there is a good, thought-out, a crazy yet planned-out reason to believe that blah blah is happening and this is why it will work. The prior two did this, but there was no explanation or even details to absorb. Lucy became the most irritating and stupid female character that I've read in a long time. She and Edward became an old, worn out cliché. It could have been done much better. I expected better. I mean, they fell in love while Edward was delirious and battling the Beast and Lucy was there to wipe the sweat from his head and try to feed him. Really? A woman takes care of a sick man and he falls in love with her; this is the oldest route in the history of romance, and it just flops. It tries to become more substantial after the Beast is gone but it's just not. A slow love? Nope, what you have there is what was available. Not that it lasts, anyway. Overall, my dislike stems from two reasons. The first: the fact that it was painfully predictable. I knew EVERY twist and turn, even the BIG secret Montgomery was concealing that Juliet never bothered to ask him about for 300+ pages, that completely undid every introspection Juliet had before. It just made it not relevant. Instead of surprises, we are told what is going to happen over the next few pages, and without fail, does. I didn't want to believe it was happening at the beginning, I hoped it was an editing coincidence they didn't pick up. Sadly, it continued throughout the entirety of *A Cold Legacy*. This, my friends, is lazy writing. The second: Juliet has gone through so much and changed and evolved into a strong young woman who knows who she is and what she wants. In the first book, on the island, she sees what evil science can do. In the second, she sees what obsession can do. As she advanced and grew, she makes no apologies for knowing herself in the previous books. But then suddenly, in this one, she devolves into a passive

character who seemed to lose her brain along with her guts. Juliet wasn't enough to hold my interest 90% of the time. Reading this, I felt that the author was done with this trilogy before she even began writing the end. It was so jostling as a reader, I'm unsure of whether I want to continue with her next trilogy *The Cage*. Maybe I'll give her Stand-Alone novels a try in the future. All of the characters became other people in this final book. People they weren't. People who had no real depth, who had no deep emotions, who were just there to end the bloody tale. It ended up being a disappointing end to an otherwise good trilogy. Overall: a predictable and lazy flop. I may reread this at some point in order to see if I do still hate it. It may be better tolerated if you marathon the trilogy.

This book was so difficult to read & I am extremely disappointed with it. I enjoyed the other two. I just can't finish this one, which says a lot because usually it's really hard for me to put down a book without finishing it. Usually I'll keep going no matter how much I hate a book just in case. There's always a small chance it may redeem itself. I have no hope for this one. There were so many times where I thought "what?! Why?!" Juliet, who I really enjoyed in the other books, turned into a reckless jerk. She didn't just make bad decisions & act like a child at times, she went behind the backs of people who risked everything to take care of her, lied to them, kept secrets from them. I just can't anymore. I give up. I'm not wasting anymore of my precious reading time trying to force my way through this book. So sad.

Out of the 3 books, this one was my least favorite...but I still enjoyed it immensely. Shepherd is the queen of retellings!

Creative wonderful piece of writing based on three different tales the island of Dr. Marot Jekyll and Hyde and Frankenstein follows the lead character Juliet Marot in her various interactions with these characters. Also a coming-of-age story of Juliet and her finding her true purpose in life which had nothing to do with her father or society's recommendation so much to say about this novel which is also a historical novel.

I loved all the books in this trilogy. Sad to be done after reading non stop. I'm not overly thrilled with the ending, but it's as good as any.

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