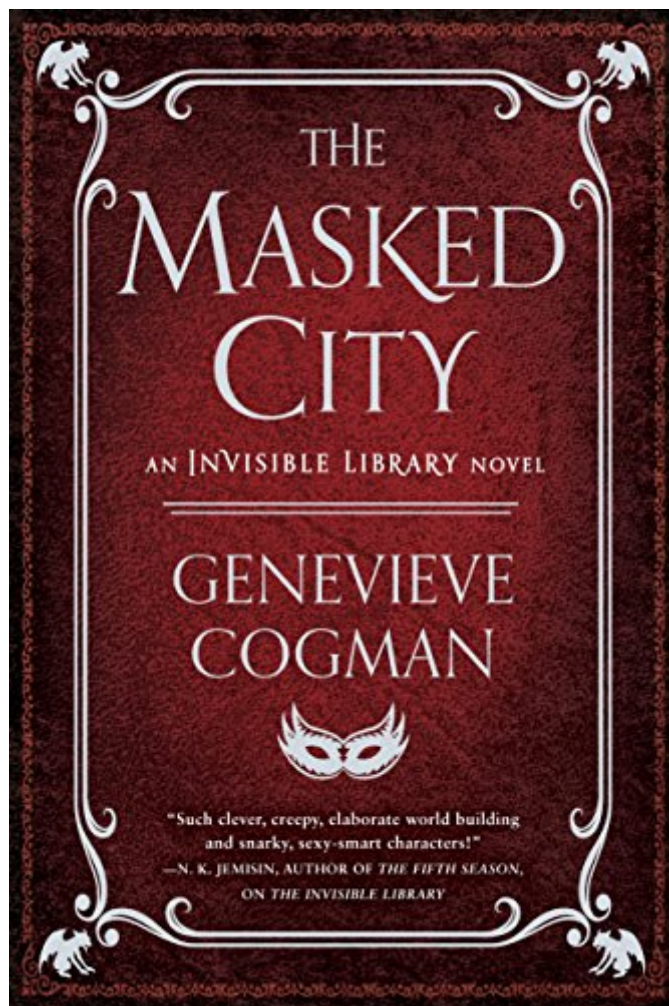


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The Masked City (The Invisible Library Novel)



Synopsis

Librarian-spy Irene and her apprentice Kai are back in the second in this “dazzling” book-filled fantasy series from the author of *The Invisible Library*. The written word is mightier than the sword—most of the time... Working in an alternate version of Victorian London, Librarian-spy Irene has settled into a routine, collecting important fiction for the mysterious Library and blending in nicely with the local culture. But when her apprentice, Kai—a dragon of royal descent—is kidnapped by the Fae, her carefully crafted undercover operation begins to crumble. Kai’s abduction could incite a conflict between the forces of chaos and order that would devastate all worlds and all dimensions. To keep humanity from getting caught in the crossfire, Irene will have to team up with a local Fae leader to travel deep into a version of Venice filled with dark magic, strange coincidences, and a perpetual celebration of Carnival—and save her friend before he becomes the first casualty of a catastrophic war. But navigating the tumultuous landscape of Fae politics will take more than Irene’s book-smarts and fast-talking to ward off Armageddon, she might have to sacrifice everything she holds dear....INCLUDES AUTHOR INTERVIEWFrom the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

I loved the first book in this series, *The Invisible Library*, and was incredibly excited to read this one. After devouring it in one sitting, I can safely say that the sequel does not disappoint. The story begins with Irene and Kai going about their business as Librarian-in-Residence and her assistant when the story opens. There is a small time lapse between the end of the first book and this one, however I believe that it shows how the characters have adapted to their new situations. After a successful book retrieval mission, Kai is kidnapped and the real story begins. As Irene is forced to negotiate with dragons and Fae alike, the reader is given an in-depth view of the world that builds upon the foundation established in the first novel. It was very interesting to see how Irene navigated the world of the Fae, using their own magic to her advantage (well, most of the time). This book takes us far outside of the sphere where Irene and Kai have made their home and it is utterly fascinating to see the contrast between the dragon and Fae controlled spheres. Much like the first novel, Irene accomplishes her goals using mostly her intelligence with a little help from magic. I think what I enjoyed the most about this book is that the damsel in distress trope was given a role reversal. The male dragon was taken captive and was powerless to escape on his own and Irene had to undertake a quest to free him. Overall, this was a highly enjoyable book and I would highly recommend it (although I do suggest reading the first book in the series first as it establishes the world and relationships present in this novel). As for the ending, it made waiting for the third book in the series slightly torturous.

This has been another great read, absolutely on par with the first book with even more action, world-building that goes deep & lots of fun. The story picks up where it left off at the end of Book #1. Irene works as Librarian-in-Residence in an alternate, steampunk, Victorian London with Zeppelins, Faes, werewolves & most importantly Peregrine Vale (an alternate Sherlock Holmes with better-developed social skills, lots of money and a title). When Irene's assistant, Kai (incognito royal dragon, youngest son of the King of the Eastern Ocean) is kidnapped by some Fae, it has far-reaching political consequences. A threat of war between Fae and Dragons is looming over all alternate worlds and humanity would be the loser, not to mention that Irene's position in *The Library*=her whole existence may be at risk. So she is willing to make a pact with the "devil" or in this case the notorious Fae of the alternate London, Lord Silver, who has his own agenda in assisting Irene. Thankfully, Irene remains the awesome MC she was in Book #1: still level-headed, sensible, funny & "normal", though there are some hints that activate my special-snow-flake radar, but no cause for red alert yet. It is also delightful to see that both Kai and Vale (and even Lord Silver) respect & value her without her having to prove herself to them or to anyone else. We get a whole lot

of information concerning The Library, the Dragons and The Fae, which is intriguing and you end up wanting to learn even more.

Surprisingly, this sequel, was better than the first book. Of course knowing most of the main characters and the setting already was very helpful. This book had much more action & suspense than the first and gave you the opportunity to really get to know Irene as well as learn much more about the Fae. It was a sincerely a great read, but I would point out that reading the 1st book in the series is very important so as to already know the lay of the land and who the people are.

It has been a few months and Kai and Irene have settled in as trainee and Librarian in Residence in Vale's world. They have just won an auction for a book the Library wants when they are ambushed. Suspecting it is about the book, they split up Irene back to the Library to drop it off safely and Kai to see Vale. Really this is an elaborate ruse to kidnap the dragon prince though. Fae are trying to start a war. Irene must nearly single handedly sort the situation out. Lots of drama and interesting focus on the Fae. Look forward to the next entry

I loved the Invisible Library and the clever and unique development of the concepts for the book but even more in this book I loved Kai, the dragon! I cheered for Irene and worried about Kai the whole time! Can't wait to read the next book and I hope Genevieve just keeps writing!

This is pure and simple, a fun read. The characters are quirky and enjoyable - I like how the author plays with stereotypes and cliches, twisting them slightly to go in a new and amusing direction. I look forward to the continuation of the story.

Better than the first book. Could not put this down. More details on how the Great Library works, what it's purpose is, and how it helps stabilize alternate worlds in this book.

I recommend this series to any reader who enjoys escaping into imaginary worlds, and loves reading books about books! Her world building scratched what I will always refer to as my "Harry Potter" itch. An invisible library whose sole purpose is to send their librarian agents out into alternate worlds to capture/claim books for the library? Check! Fae and dragons? Check! Secret agents, a detective who resembles Sherlock Holmes, and an assortment of other possible spies and traitors? Check! Sign me up for more!

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