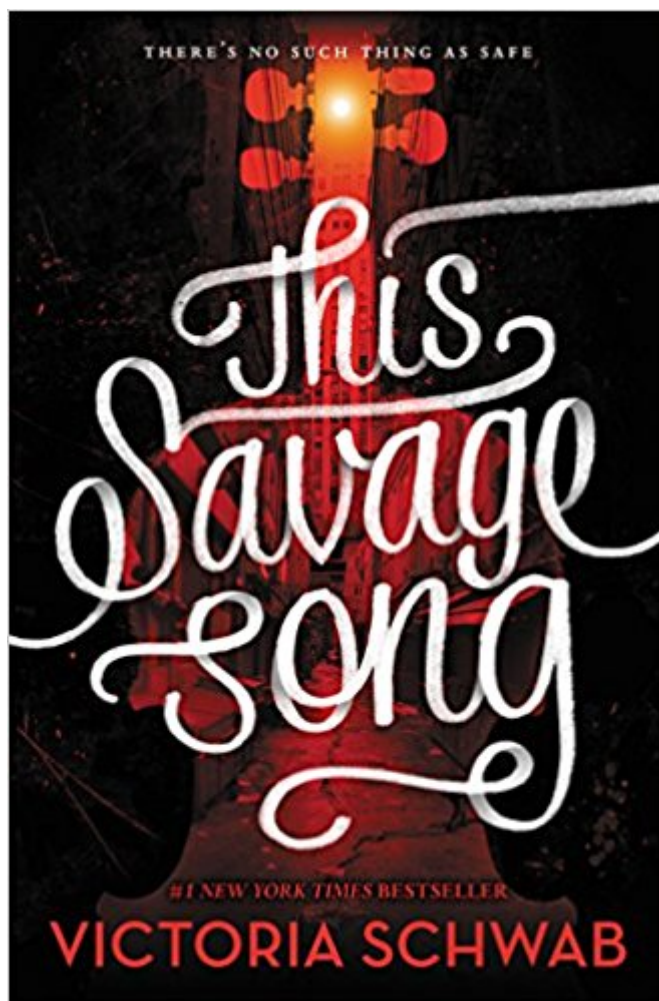


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This Savage Song (Monsters Of Verity)



Synopsis

#1 New York Times Bestseller * An Best Book of the Year There's no such thing as safe in a city at war, a city overrun with monsters. In this dark urban fantasy from acclaimed author Victoria Schwab, a young woman and a young man must choose whether to become heroes or villains and friends or enemies with the future of their home at stake. The first of two books, *This Savage Song* is a must-have for fans of Holly Black, Maggie Stiefvater, and Laini Taylor. Kate Harker and August Flynn are the heirs to a divided city—a city where the violence has begun to breed actual monsters. All Kate wants is to be as ruthless as her father, who lets the monsters roam free and makes the humans pay for his protection. All August wants is to be human, as good-hearted as his own father, to play a bigger role in protecting the innocent—but he's one of the monsters. One who can steal a soul with a simple strain of music. When the chance arises to keep an eye on Kate, who's just been kicked out of her sixth boarding school and returned home, August jumps at it. But Kate discovers August's secret, and after a failed assassination attempt the pair must flee for their lives. In *This Savage Song*, Victoria Schwab creates a gritty, seething metropolis, one worthy of being compared to Gotham and to the four versions of London in her critically acclaimed fantasy for adults, *A Darker Shade of Magic*. Her heroes will face monsters intent on destroying them from every side—including the monsters within.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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Gr 9 Up • In a dystopian future, evil deeds begin spawning three kinds of monsters who wreak havoc in human cities; Corsai are created by nonlethal violent acts, Malchai by murders, and Sunai from mass murders. This novel takes place in one such city, which is divided into two parts. Kate Harker's father rules one side by using the monsters as an army and selling protection to residents who can afford it. On the other side, the Flynn family strive to eliminate the Corsai and Malchai by utilizing the deadly talents of the three very rare Sunai who have become part of their family. When Kate returns to the city after being expelled from a slew of boarding schools, August, the newest Sunai, is sent undercover to her elite private school to keep an eye on her. However, the two become unlikely allies when August is framed for an attack that would threaten their fragile peace. This first installment in a planned two-book saga can be described as a postapocalyptic urban fantasy with a Romeo and Juliet theme. The plot unfolds very quickly, with more twists and turns than an average thriller. The budding romance between the main characters is predictable, but Kate and August both undergo an impressive amount of character development, and fans will like them despite their flaws. VERDICT Combined with the nonstop action and the author's immersive writing style, this first purchase is sure to be a hit with older teens and fans of urban fantasy. • Sunnie Scarpa, Wallingford Public Library, CT

• "A violently thoughtful, brilliant triumph of a book that will blind you with its genius." (Gaby Salpeter, Books of Wonder) "There are no wasted words here, and the end result is a darkly precise narrative that feels like a shiver down the spine | this taut creation about the nature of humanity lingers long after its disquieting finale." (Booklist (starred review)) "Schwab's latest seems poised to grab both her adult and teen readers; the world is fascinating | the characters complicated, and the political machinations and emotional depths both charged and compelling. | Crackling with energy, just the ticket for an all-night read." (Kirkus Reviews) "Schwab explores the natures of justice and humanity in an assuredly built world with a compelling settings and an intriguing music-based magic. And in August and his Sunai siblings, she introduces a type of monster both sympathetic and terrifying. A cliffhanger ending promises a sequel." (The Horn Book) "Kate and August both undergo an impressive amount of character development, and fans will like them despite their flaws. Combined with the nonstop action and the author's immersive writing

style, this first purchase is sure to be a hit with older teens and fans of urban fantasy. (School Library Journal) "Schwab has built a strange, captivating alternate America filled with offbeat, fascinating characters. Readers looking for a dangerous and engrossing new world to fall into will find it with this fast-paced, frightening read. (Publishers Weekly) "The pacing is fast, the narrative enthralling, but it is the depths of the novel - its acuteness of moral imagination and perception - that will stay with you afterward. My highest recommendation. (San Diego Union-Tribune) "Gritty dialogue and realistic scenes of violence will have senior high school students who enjoy The Hunger Games and Divergent series awaiting the next book in this series. (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) "Unique, thrilling, and impossible to predict, This Savage Song is something entirely new, and fans of YA will want to seek out this dark and powerful novel. ...Schwab has written a book with moments of cruelty and bleakness that also includes high adventure and heroic achievements. (Locus)

So Victoria Schwab's THIS SAVAGE SONG has a pretty unique premise, if you haven't already heard it: basically, the book takes place in a world where acts of violence create actual monsters. How cool is that? That was basically all I knew when I bought the book, and the premise definitely didn't disappoint. The first hundred pages or so, I kind of had trouble getting into it. It was a weird situation because I loved the prose, I found the world building fascinating, and while I was reading I definitely enjoyed it. But for whatever reason once I put the book down, I had less motivation than usual to pick it up again. Once I got past the first 100 or so pages, however, that quickly changed and I devoured the rest of the book in a few days. THIS SAVAGE SONG is more than just a fascinating premise - it involves some of my favorite plot elements, like betrayal, dealing with your own darkness, unlikely alliances, and trying to find hope in a hopeless situation. I loved the whole set up with the different tiers of monsters, and Kate's daring, guarded perspective was really fun to read, especially alongside August's more vulnerable chapters. All in all, I found this book fascinating, and now I'm very much looking forward to the sequel, OUR DARK DUET.

Started out a bit slow for me, but this is Victoria Schwab we're talking about so I had no worries. The story just kept building and building towards the finale and as it went I became more and more hooked. I didn't want to put it down or have it end. I loved the idea that monsters form out of the shadows of violence. Three different types of monsters: Malchai which form when an act of murder is committed; Corsai form from violent actions; and Sunai the most rare form out of the most tragic of losses, bombings, mass shootings, etc. They came about after an event called the Phenomenon,

where all the built of violent energy just pretty much coalesced and brought forth the monsters. The juxtaposition of monsters and humans, and what it means to be one or the other, or the perception of what it means to be one or the other, is a big concept throughout the book as both August (the "monster") and Kate (the human) struggle with their place in the world. Kate Harker comes from the North side of Verity where her father is the head boss, so to speak, citizens can get protection, for a price, from the monsters who also happen to be in Harker's employ. August Fynn is on the South side of Verity, and he, with his family and groups of humans, fight the monsters everyday to keep them out of their territory. Peace between the North and the South hinges on a quickly crumbling treaty, and it seems as though war is imminent. I liked that Victoria Schwab decided not to form a romance between Kate and August (this may happen down the line, but in *This Savage Song* it doesn't happen). I think forming anything beyond the tentative friendship would have detracted too much from the message of the book. Plus, I loved seeing these characters who are supposedly complete opposites (although more similar than they want to admit) come together in a time of need and help each other. It plays out so well. Even with the slow start, the ending makes me completely excited for the second book. If you've read other books by Ms. Schwab (either as Victoria or V.E.) you'll see a lot of similarities in writing style, which means even if things are left a little precarious for our characters, you know everything will turn out right.

Let me tell you this is my first Victoria Schwab Book and I now want all her books. I was hooked from the start. I do admit there were moments I wanted to put the book down throughout reading the first half, but once I got to the second half I fell in love with the writing and the story. You have two MC Kate and August. Now in this world when a horrible act is committed a monster is born from that act, whether it be murder, thieving, a cult killing, etc. You have August who was born from a horrible act, he is Sunai and his father controls the South City. He can play a beautiful song and take the souls of sinners. Now you have Kate a human, whose father controls the North City.

Kate's mother died in a car accident when her mother and she were trying to escape the city. Kate can not fully remember what happened that night. In the first few chapters, you get the layout of the city. August is from the South City. Kate is from the North City. They have a truce that keeps the monsters at bay and stops the bloodshed in the city, but that truce is crumbling. The monsters are rebelling and the humans can not keep them under control in the North City. The South tried to keep the monsters at bay and keep them out. August has been in the compound since he came from the act, he has never left. August finally gets his wish to attend Colton in North City, this is where he meets Kate and the two became friends. You see them go through turmoil with

each other, soon they can only depend on each other to get through the city and try to get to safety. You watch them find out the true problems within the city and who is behind all the fighting. You can never predict where the story is going. When you think you have it Schwab writes in a twist. The writing, plot, characters, are all amazing and so well written. I can not wait to dig into the sequel and see what happens. I am looking forward to picking up a few more of Schwab's novels and digging into them.

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