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Magisterium: The Bronze Key **by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare**

Publisher: Corgi Childrens

RRP \$23.00

The Bronze Key is the third book in the five-book *Magisterium* series by two well-known fantasy writers. To gain a clear understanding of the characters and plot, it's recommended to start by reading the first two books in the series, *The Iron Trial* and *The Copper Gauntlet*.

The series will have considerable appeal to avid fantasy readers, especially Harry Potter fans. Within the *Magisterium* novels there are similarities to Rowling's books such as a core cast of three main characters, two boys and a girl, attending a school for young magicians. The young people are under constant threat of harm from devious mages and malevolent sorcerers.

In *The Bronze Key*, the tension builds as the main character, Callum, finds himself stalked by a spy intent on capturing his body and soul. His loyal friends, Aaron and Tamara do their best to protect Call but they're fighting against strong and evil forces. Who can they trust with the secret about what is locked in Call's soul?

The subterranean school of magic is described with vivid imagery and spectacular spells are unleashed by the protagonists with impressive effect. The elementals are a wonderful cast of nebulous creatures with unpredictable natures.

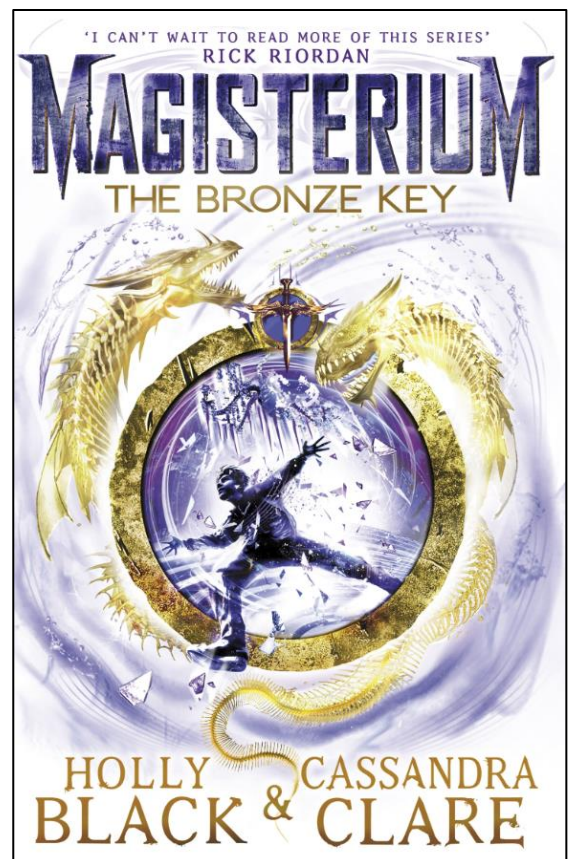
Overall, an entertaining read for young adult readers.

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Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett



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