



## Game of Secrets

*Kim Foster*

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## **Game of Secrets** Kim Foster

Felicity Cole sells flowers in the streets of Victorian London to feed herself and her young brother. But she has a close-guarded secret--her brother is a Tainted, born with special abilities that society fears and a shadowy organization called the Huntsman scours the country to eliminate. When Felicity becomes the target of one of these individuals, she discovers something horrible: she's Tainted, too.

Rescued by a mysterious gentleman on the eve of execution, she's whisked away to a school funded by Queen Victoria, established to train selected Tainted into assassins in service of the crown.

Struggling to harness her incredible strength, speed, and agility, and despised by her classmates, all she wants is to use her new position to find a cure so she can be normal and reunited with her brother.

But with the Golden Jubilee fast approaching and the discovery that there's a traitor in their midst, she has no choice but to embrace the one thing she's been fighting all along.

## **Game of Secrets Details**

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Author : Kim Foster

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## From Reader Review Game of Secrets for online ebook

### Jennie Shaw says

Historical fantasies are a sleeper genre for me--I don't read many, but when I do, they hit the mark. GAME OF SECRETS was a lighter sort of dark (if that makes sense haha) with violence of the PG-13 variety. The first half of the book felt a little rushed, and I wish the world building in regards to the powers had been fleshed out more. During the last hundred pages or so, I had to keep putting the book down to tend to adult responsibilities and it made me quite stabby because so much was happening! Talk about reveal-central! Several major twists went down, and I do love when I don't see things coming.

Overall, I think GAME OF SECRETS would be an excellent read for younger fans of YA, but even as an adult, I'll for sure be reading more (if there are--series potential is certainly possible).

Big thanks to Thomas Allen & Son for a finished copy!

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### Hamad says

I usually start my reviews by a quote I liked from the book, well I didn't find anything spectacular here so I won't put a quote this time! That does not mean that it has a bad writing style, but it was just mediocre?!

I like fantasy and fiction standalones because there are not many of them and because I don't want to engage into a whole series every single time I read this genre -and I read it a lot since it is my favorite- and when I read the synopsis I was not very intrigued but I downloaded an ARC anyway because I wanted to give the author a chance (she's a doctor <3).

Then I started reading this and I felt like I have read this many times before, it was like a mix of X-men (They literally say to the new recruit let's go and meet the professor!!!!) and Kingsman: the secret service. I decided to push through this hoping it will deliver something new but I expected like 99% of this.

Those expectations are due to the fact that this is like every single YA novel: an annoying heroine who does not know she has powers, she suddenly develops power, she can't control them, she learns to, she becomes powerful.... etc

So in short: this was not a bad book as much as it was redundant, if you are new to the genre then this could work for you because it is light and a standalone which is pretty good, but if you read a lot of fantasy then you may want to skip this!

*ARC provided by the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.*

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### Amanda says

**You can also find my review here**<https://devouringbooks2017.wordpress....>

Game of Secrets was great. It was a book that combined some of my favorite topics to read about; spies and

supernatural abilities. It was incredibly fast-paced and the plot was interesting. By the time I had reached the fourth chapter I was absolutely hooked. I tore through this action packed novel within 24 hours.

The pacing of the novel kept me turning the pages as the action rarely let up through the course of the book. I love fast paced books like this. I expected this to be a slow historical fiction book with spies, but it was so much more than that. For some reason I didn't expect this to be that good, but quickly after picking it up I realized that I misjudged this book.

It does lack a bit on character development. Well I did like all of the characters, I didn't feel overly attached to any of them. The relationships between them felt surface-level. Since I didn't feel overly attached to any of the characters I didn't find myself becoming emotionally invested in the book.

The other thing that could've been better was that I didn't feel like the intensity rose in correlation with the big moments of the story. It just kind of felt level all the way through. There was a big plot twist that I totally didn't see coming, that I think could have been done better. It could have been emotionally heart-wrenching moment, but it wasn't.

Overall I did really enjoy reading this book. It went really fast and it was certainly a good page turner. I didn't know that there would be characters with supernatural abilities, which is probably a big part of the reason that I didn't have high expectations. I guess I forgot what the book was about by the time that I actually picked it up. That was a nice little surprise for me, because I love anything fantasy. This is the first novel that I've ever read by Kim Foster, but I would definitely come back for more of her books.

*I received an advanced review copy from Edelweiss and Sky Pony Press.*

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### **T. Beasley says**

This book was a great introduction to this author's writing. I enjoyed this suspenseful thriller filled with characters and their unusual abilities. The storyline was wonderful especially the action between the Tainted and the Huntsmen. I look forward to reading more from this author.

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### **Meghan says**

I received this book as an advanced reader's copy and we are always looking to expand our young adult collection and promote young adult fiction especially in high schools to involve more teens into loving reading again. This book in particular I was a fan of because it gave a twist on the Victorian Era and the adventure in the plot was very captivating. I hope Kim Foster makes this a series because I think our reader's will be asking about it. Truly a fascinating read that we are looking forward to adding to our collection. 5 stars!

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### **Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says**

February ---> May and a cover change? Boo! Also not a fan of the cover :/

## heather - NightlyReading says

I have a lot of feels going on inside of me over this book. My emotions are running wild and I am not exactly sure if I loved this book or just thought it was okay?? Hence the 4 star rating, I figured somewhere in between was good:)

Felicity (love the name BTW) lives in a world where some folks have special abilities and they are called "tainted". You do not want to be tainted because it is very much frowned upon and most of the time you are given a good hanging in towns square just for being different. In a horrible turn of events, Felicity finds out that she is a tainted and gets taken to a special school for tainted where they teach you how to become a spy/assassin. Sounds pretty cool right?

The premise of the book sounds awesome! And the plot *was* super awesome but I could not handle our little female heroin, Felicity. She kept putting herself in harms way and getting into trouble without a thought or care about anyone else involved. To me, she seemed very selfish. Honestly, there were quite a few times while reading that I literally rolled my eyes and thought to myself, here we go again. \*double eye roll\*

I really liked Kit for the short period of time that we knew him. He seemed like he had it all figured out and knew exactly whom he was and didn't back down for what he believed in. Not quite sure about Julian. He seems sweet enough but I felt that we really couldn't get a read on him since there was so much else going on and Felicity was always out on a rampage somewhere needing to be saved. And no, there is not a love triangle. Just two boys that happened to touch Felicity's heart.

The shocker of an ending I DID NOT SEE COMING!! That was a complete surprise and it actually made my heart skip a beat! That may have been only one of 2 times that I felt for Felicity, the first being in the beginning with Kit and the second being when she learns of Nate.

I am not sure if this is going to be a series. I feel that it could definitely be since the bad guys are still out there and Felicity has a lot more to learn! I only hope that if it is...I get to see her mature over time and that would make me super happy!!!

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## Stephanie L (catteabooks) says

*ARC provided by the publisher and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review!*

**--2.75/5 stars--**

I always love me a good Victorian setting to a fantasy novel; it's somehow comforting--yet also anxiety-ridden at the same time. Maybe it's because of all the drama that inevitably follows, or the politics of the time, or maybe the way the steampunk genre always seems to be set in the Victorian era.

This novel does not fall into the steampunk genre in any way, though. It's an historical fiction with some fantasy elements and, because every good historical fiction apparently needs it, romance as well. The romance was kind of...*meh*, but more on that later.

Felicity Cole is a poor girl living in the slums of London trying to take care of herself and her little brother,

Nate. It quickly becomes clear that both she and Nate are both *Tainted*--this book's derogatory term for someone possessing unexplained powers--and are pursued by both police specialized in hunting and extricating Tainted from normal society and those who wish to recruit them for some other greater good. You can probably guess which one Felicity "chooses" to turn toward to help her out.

This started out pretty strong. However, as I got to the meat of the novel, it sort of stumbled around trying to find a straight course but not entirely getting there. Felicity is recruited by a secret Hogwarts-esque school that was started specifically for the Tainted to learn and control their gifts, and there she is subjected to a myriad of tropes that typically follow the "new girl in school" scenario, including, but not limited to:

1. the pretty but talented mean girl
2. the mysteriously attractive and talented boy
3. the maid best friend
4. the teacher that hates her but also helps her, and
5. all the secrets the staff are hiding.

The book just kind of mashes all of these together in about 100 pages and then moves on to what should be the plot, which I couldn't really discern between the strange romance going on between Felicity and the mysteriously attractive and talented boy, Julian. I won't spoil anything here, but it's very....sudden, and not very subtle. So I guess we can add instalove to the list of tropes up there.

Unfortunately, the worldbuilding is also very lackluster here: we're not given how the Tainted came to be until about 75% through, just points that they possess unimaginable powers and are looked down upon by the general masses. I am assuming that Ms. Foster withheld this kind of information for so long for some sort of shock effect or "big twist" at the end, but in the long run, it just makes the plot weak.

I won't lie, I did enjoy this, especially the fight scenes, especially because those kinds of scenes involving people with weird powers like slowing time and superhuman speed can get kind of repetitive to the reader, but Ms. Foster does an excellent job of detailing just the right amount. The cliffhanger at the end left me a little bewildered, but I suppose that'll all be cleared up in the next book.

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## Online Eccentric Librarian says

*More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>*

This is likely going to be one of my most disappointing reads this year considering the premise sounded so interesting and the book began promisingly enough. But by half way through, this began to hit every trope/cliche in the YA genre (and not even creatively at that) and the writing began to feel rushed and simplistic through to the end. It felt as if the author spent a lot of time on the beginning and then hurried through the rest in order to get this published.

Story: Surviving in the streets of Dickensian White Chapel isn't easy for Felicity Cole; especially considering she and her brother are orphans and he has a fatal flaw: supernatural powers that would immediately see him mob murdered like her mother. When someone close to her is brutally murdered by an aristocrat, she loses control of her anger and discovers she has powers as well - physical ones. Hunted, imprisoned, she is saved by a mysterious benefactor and taken to a hidden academy to train to become an assassin and bodyguard to Queen and country. But Felicity only cares for being reunited with her young brother who may be walking the streets alone without her. Fortunately, a fellow aristocratic student is hot and interested.

I wish I could determine if it was lazy or just unsophisticated writing. But the tropes/cliches were painful:

- unique snowflake with mysterious past no one tells her about and mysterious superpowers she will have to learn to use by herself because no one wants to help her despite it being in their best interest
- Perfect bog standard overidealized love interest who inexplicably instaluvs her - super handsome, intelligent, in a position of respect, and 100% devoted only to her for no particular reason
- Mean girl rival for melodrama so author can show 'spirit' by giving her comeuppances and cat fights
- Perfect sweet best/friend maid who has the personality of a pansy but makes our gal look feisty
- Girl does completely brain dead actions, constantly, that always results in trouble for everyone else and needing to be rescued - and no one seems to mind that it gets them nearly killed several times.
- Girl had previous love interest who was murdered - does she think about him? Not more than "I should be sad about Kit but the new boy makes me tingle and blush." Oh and the brother she's desperately trying to get back to? Pretty much forgotten while she's so busy with super hunk and mean girl.
- Everyone puts new girl in positions of power for NO REASON - she's a moron, she screws everything up, she doesn't even care about those people. But hey, let's pick her for missions even though she doesn't have powers and over competent handsome boy even though she's proven several times to ruin missions.
- Betrayal from within their rebel group! Who'd a thunk it? Could it be the nice sweet older guy??

And then there are the logic holes about the worldbuilding. How no one seems to know anything about the 'tainted' except only a few yet everyone in London wants to kill them. Zero world building (why was Warwick photographing that day? Why does he want her? Why does the world hate tainted? What do the Hunters want? Why haven't they gained access to the academy before? etc. etc. etc. - don't expect answers this volume). She was supposedly raised in the slums but speaks perfect formal English - just missing some mannerisms like good curtseying that deportment school will fix?. Damn her father was a good English teacher! Her father was Greek - with the last name of...Cole? Something about Shakespeare and Marlowe - making her even MORE special. And don't get me started about the 'stunning' reveal of what the Tainted are - it was hard not to giggle derisively even for a YA book.

Typically, I'd suggest this is a no-brain Summer read that is fast and easy. But the writing is so bad in the second half and the book so much in need of a rewrite that I just can't recommend Game of Secrets (even the title is generic and meaningless). It's a cut above many Harry Potter fanfictions - but that's the best I can say about it. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

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## Lindsay says

Felicity lives in fear that the Peelers will discover her younger brother is Tainted and he will be ripped away from her. With both parents dead, she takes care of her brother by selling flowers in London's market. One day a carriage appears with two menacing men taking pictures of the poor residents trying to sell food, remedies, and items for their own survival. A brawl erupts between these men and her boyfriend/best friend Kit that results in Kit shot dead. Unbeknownst to her, Felicity discovers she is also Tainted when she channels her anger into attacking the two assailants, injuring one and killing another. She is hauled off to prison and next in line to be hanged when a mysterious man appears and offers her a way out. All she has to do is trust him and venture to Greybourne Academy where she will learn to harness her ability among other Tainted students.

This is an intriguing and fresh addition to the YA industry. I enjoyed the story and didn't predict the two big reveals (halfway point I think and then the end). Regardless, there were still a few issues. The instant love between Julian and Felicity was absurd. They barely exchange words and interact and by the 60% mark they have their first kiss. From there Julian pretty much ignores her and then they kiss again towards the end. This story would have been stronger without a romance factor that way it would have solely focused on teamwork

between top ranking agents at Greybourne, especially since the factor is teamwork is stressed so much.

Another issue regards Felicity's lack of intelligence. Every time she sneaks away from Greybourne she is attacked by the Huntsmen (they abhor and hunt Tainted) and Julian (and sometimes classmates) always end up saving her. You would think after the fourth time she would learn her lesson about sneaking off but she never does, and the Huntsmen always find her. On one of her excursions she stupidly gives out the password to a professor that she meets so he can venture into Greybourne whenever he pleases to give Felicity insight about a proposed cure. And of course he is followed by Huntsmen and Greybourne is breached.

The final issue regards Felicity's abilities. She taps into her powers once during the fight at the beginning, and then a tiny bit when she first meets Julian. She cannot harness it after that point and regularly gets beat up during sparring lessons with her classmates. About halfway through the book Julian takes her aside in attempt to help her out. She grasps onto her a power enough to barely lift up a huge potted plant, and then suddenly in the next chapter she is attacks a student during a sparing match and knocks him out. The point is, there isn't any practice of using her power. She goes from not knowing how to use it, to barely picking up a plant, to all of a sudden lethal.

Game of Secrets is a mixture of Divergent, Harry Potter, and The Dark Knight so fans of those will definitely enjoy this one.

I received an ARC from Edelweiss.

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**Anthony** ⇒ **KeepReadingForward** ⇒ **says**

3/5

**Date Reviewed:** 8 September 2018

**This Review was first posted on Keep Reading Forward. If you want to see more, check out our other locations as well as here.**

*ARC provided by the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.*

There was something that grabbed my attention about Game of Secrets. I always like a story that involves superpowers, but I think was more drawn to the idea of some secret organization involving those only with the abilities. Enter Felicity Cole and her brother. During one ordinary day, Felicity finds herself caught in some unwanted attention and discovers that she has some ability, officially making her a Tainted, just like her brother. They're rescued and taken to some top-secret organization that works for the Queen Victoria.

My first thought was Kingsman. Kingsman is a comic that depicts a secret organization of spies and the like. If you heard of Kingsman, chances are that you know of the movie. The movies are filled with action scenes and cool props and weaponry and interesting details. (It's a cool movie, especially the sequel, The Golden Circle. You should definitely check it out.) The second thought I had was of the X-Men, which I am sure that everyone has heard off. Wolverine, Storm, Cyclops, and Jean Grey are some of the members of the team. When you mix X-Men and Kingsman together, it sounds like a super cool idea to have a book about, right? Some may say this could describe Game of Secrets.

I would agree with having Kingsman crossed with X-Men would be a super cool idea. However, Game of Secrets fell short of that. I am not even sure if it could be the proper comparison. Game of Secrets is a good debut for the YA genre and it follows a typical YA story as well. It has the common feeling throughout most YA genre stories. I am not saying to avoid this at all. It deserves a chance. However, just don't expect much

anything new in the story.

I do have to admit that I was really interested during the beginning. There was something that was grabbing my attention. I really thought this was going to be something worth raving about. Instead, I started to get a little less interested in the story by the chapters. It was still enjoyable enough to read through the end, but I only wondered when I was going to see something new, or something interesting again. I don't know if this is a series or not. I haven't seen anything yet. Therefore, I am choosing to believe this is a just a stand-alone. If it ever becomes a series, there is need for a something new.

There is one other thing I also have to admit. I really liked one of the twists the story pulled on me towards the end. It wasn't anything shocking or completely revealing, but I did not see it coming. I thought it was interesting twist. The twist did show that some hard work did, in fact, go into the story.

Game of Secrets is a good debut, but clearly shows the need of more work. It has the right plot and details, but both needed more emphasis and effort. Is the book bad? No, not at all. Is it worth reading? I would say so if you are a major fan of spies and super powers. If you're looking for something new, perhaps try this book at a later time.

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## Mayumi says

### 2 STARS

I can't really talk about this book without including a few minor spoilers so – spoiler alert.

**'And no matter what else I may be, I will always be common.'**

Literally this book summed up in a quote. ^ So this was kinda bad... It wasn't terrible, it was just full of cliches and tropes we've all seen before, and had an annoying protagonist.

Felicity Cole is an orphan who is devoted to taking care of her 'Tainted' brother by selling flowers. One day her entire world is turned upside down and she's put in an inescapable situation from which she's rescued by a mysterious stranger. In return she has to use her 'Tainted' powers for good, and train at a spy academy for those like her. There's also a competition between the candidates for the opportunity to become an agent in this spy network.

Felicity is literally a walking cliché. She's the completely clueless super special snowflake from the wrong side of the tracks who's lost it all. She catches the eye of the most popular boy from the very beginning but is bullied by jealous peers. She's not in control of her powers and is therefore looked down on and dismissed, but of course is revealed to be the most powerful of them all in the end.

The plot is basically her pining for her lost love and resisting her attractions to this new boy all while trying to control her powers. What annoyed me the most was that she literally just lost the boy she loved and saw a future with, and the moment she walks into the academy she gets flustered by this other boy looking her way.

**'My pulse quickens a little as I wonder if I might be seated next to Julian again... I smile and then a pang of guilt curls in my stomach. Kit.'**

Also this girl is incredibly stupid. She tries to do things on her own and nearly ends up getting killed or getting others killed. REPEATEDLY. The amount of times she had to be rescued by Julian. Talk about

#TSTL.

The rest of the characters include the perfect love interest, the haughty mean girl, a couple of other forgettable people, the mysterious but wise mentor, the appearances-are-deceiving villain, and said villain's thug gang.

I'm sorry if I seem bitter and ranty about this book, it's just nothing about this book stands out?? And none of the characters are actually worth caring? Like it just seems like the author just put together some of the most overused and popular tropes and tried to make it work?

ALSO. I'm beyond confused about the 'plot twists' concerning her powers? If certain characters weren't real then how does this happen??

**“Leave it be, Kit,” says John the turnip man**

Which'd lead to another plot hole cos that character knows another character who's not real?

#### My Overall Opinion

I didn't enjoy this as I found the main character pretty stupid and the plot to be rather unoriginal. This might appeal to those who are just getting into the genre and younger audiences maybe? I wouldn't really recommend it though, if you're into this kinda thing you're probably better off reading the X-men comics.

★ *Thank you to Edelweiss and the publisher for providing me with an ARC* ★

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#### **Rendz says**

\*My gratitude goes out to Thomas Allen & Son for providing me with a copy for review!\*

What I Liked:

I liked Felicity. She was headstrong and yet afraid of the new world she was thrust into. She comes from a lowly background which is much unappreciated by her new peers. She is one who looks for loopholes to get out of the world until she finally becomes a willing part of it.

None of the other characters really stood out to me. The love interest was really—in my opinion—bland. He had some substance but it was more like water. You can hold it for a while, but then it slowly slips away leaving just a wet feeling that lasts only until it dries. And yet I need him in the story to add in some interest. (How poetic, Rendz)

The magic was very cool and I liked how well it fit into the Victorian setting. All these Victorian books I have been reading always include a secret society of some kind and I honestly love it. It leaves room for mystery and adventure in an otherwise pristine and aristocratic era.

The plot was fine. It was not utterly astounding, not too complicated in terms of following and keeping up with all the secrets, but it lacked that bit of oomph. It had some great action scenes, but not nearly enough. If this is a secret society of training assassins, how come there is so little action????

It is an evenly paced book. The writing is very smooth and I sped through it rather fast. I will say that the chapters were very short, sometimes where they paused was a little awkward. I felt like some could have

been combined, just to keep up a better flow.

What I Disliked:

Most of my dislikes comes from the fact that this book is tropey. You have the special snowflake MC. With powers that are better and more magnificent than all others. I would have been fine with this if there was a solid reason as to why she was so crazy amazing. And don't spring up this "one in a million chance" thing on me. That's not a solid origin. There was also some girl-on-girl hate. Not as terrible as other books I've read, but it would have been nice to see the girls not be competitors and instead allies in this mans world.

The book was not boring per se. I just thought that it could have used more excitement, more risk and more twists to make this something that really grabbed at my attention. It held it while I read, but I could close it to easily. There was never a need to read it. That's what I found quite disappointing.

Overall, the book was okay. It was neither utterly amazing, nor terribly awful. It holds your attention, the MC is quite fun at times, there is some drama and the few action scenes are ones to look forward to. And the author does bring up quite a mini twist at the end, which I found wrapped this historical fantasy quite good.

Rating: 3 / 5 Stars

Recommend: Like Historical fiction but want a fantastical twist? Then sure.

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## Jackie says

\*\*2.5 but rounding up\*\*

This book is a bit of a wonder in large part because it stays pretty one note but there's enough there that I could see it doing better in later books, the only question is whether or not they'll be more.

'Game of Secrets' follows orphan Felicity Cole, a street vender hoping to make enough money to support herself and her kid brother when unknown enemies rip her life apart and while sitting in a jail cell waiting on a death sentence she is offered a unique opportunity to join an elite academy to harness her talents and protect the Queen, but when the desire to be normal outweighs the opportunity to serve, she is forced to make a decision to accept who she truly is and learn the secrets of her past or to abandon those in her new circle to go back to the life she had before, that is if it's still there at all.

There's a lot of this book I enjoyed mostly the little snippets of other famous works as headings for the chapters that gave a bit of a teaser for the general mood and movement of the plot within those pages. The main character was pretty much what was to be expected for a girl thrown into a new life after everything she knows gets ripped away but she was street smart which I liked especially when she was thrown into a room with people very different from herself.

The reveal of the powers themselves were a bit disappointing but I might have Disney to blame for that and because of the title they gave themselves my mind when to Merlin when in actuality I guess I should have been thinking Milo. Also the antagonist was a bit anticlimactic because while there were moments leading up to the twist it wasn't done in a way to make me remember them enough to have the betrayal hold the weight it needed to really sell it.

The ending though has me confused and I think that was done nicely if there is to be more books because I'd

very much like to know the answer even if the book as a whole was just okay.

With a bit of a Victorian Era 'Kingsman' and a dash of magic mixed in this book has the potential to really be something great if given the opportunity to work out the kinks and lean into what was done well now that a majority of the exposition is done and I look forward to seeing if that's an option!

\*\*special thanks to the publishers and edelweiss for providing an arc in exchange for a fair and honest review\*\*

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## **Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says**

Game of Secrets is a story that is set in London during the late 1800's. In this setting the society is divided between the normal people and the Unnaturals. People who look normal but display abilities that are not possible for the average person are called unnatural. Or, they are also referred to as the Tainted because it is believed that somehow their blood had become tainted by something otherworldly. If someone was discovered to be tainted then they were usually taken away by the Peelers, sometimes on the spot, and never heard from again. Also, there is a group of individuals known as The Huntsmen who are akin to a secret society where their mission is to root out the unnaturals among normal society and deal with them harshly.

Felicity Cole lives in terror of anyone finding out that her little brother is one of the tainted. After her father passed away it was up to her to protect her brother and keep his secret. Felicity struggled to eke out a life for her and her brother but she does it willingly because she loves her brother very much. Unfortunately, when Felicity comes under scrutiny of a stranger the situation quickly spirals out of control and something shifts inside of her. Unbeknownst to Felicity, she is one of the tainted and she uses her powers in a most spectacular fashion. Now that the cat is out of the bag she has earned a trip to the place where they take all unnaturals.

Felicity has no idea what is going to happen to her but she knows one thing for sure and that is that she may be locked up but that her brother still needs her. So, when she is offered a chance to escape execution she takes it, despite her wariness to trust the individual who is offering her freedom. All she has to do is attend a secret school for the tainted where they are trained to be assassins for the greater good of Queen Victoria. Felicity truly has no desire to attend the school, for her it is all just a means to an end. All she wants to do is find her brother and find out if there is truly a cure for those afflicted with being unnatural. Despite her desires when Felicity is faced with several hard truths the line between what she wants and what she must do become blurred.

There are a lot of tropes used in Game of Secrets and they are so easily recognizable that they cross the border into that of a cliché. That can be a turn off to some readers but would be appreciated by others. So how you will feel about this book falls into either of those camps. I found that I was not the biggest fan once the story moved to the school for assassins because I felt that I thought "well of course you did that" in a sarcastic tone one too many times. I will say though that there were two reveals that were quite pleasing. One of them I had an inkling towards and the other was a surprise. So that was nice. If you like reading historical fiction with a bit of fantasy then you will be pleased with the Victorian era twist in Game of Secrets.

This review is based on a complimentary book I received from Edelweiss+. It is an honest and voluntary review. The complimentary receipt of it in no way affected my review or rating.

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