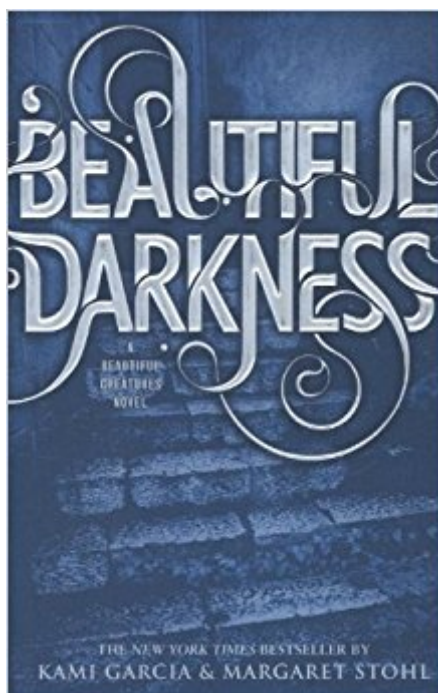


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# Beautiful Darkness (Beautiful Creatures)



## Synopsis

Ethan Wate used to think of Gatlin, the small Southern town he had always called home, as a place where nothing ever changed. Then he met mysterious newcomer Lena Duchannes, who revealed a secret world that had been hidden in plain sight all along. A Gatlin that harbored ancient secrets beneath its moss-covered oaks and cracked sidewalks. A Gatlin where a curse has marked Lena's family of powerful Supernaturals for generations. A Gatlin where impossible, magical, life-altering events happen. Sometimes life-ending. Together they can face anything Gatlin throws at them, but after suffering a tragic loss, Lena starts to pull away, keeping secrets that test their relationship. And now that Ethan's eyes have been opened to the darker side of Gatlin, there's no going back. Haunted by strange visions only he can see, Ethan is pulled deeper into his town's tangled history and finds himself caught up in the dangerous network of underground passageways endlessly crisscrossing the South, where nothing is as it seems.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 660 (What's this?)

Series: Beautiful Creatures (Book 2)

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 19, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316077046

ISBN-13: 978-0316077040

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 1,523 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,579 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Contemporary #236 in Books > Teens > Romance > Paranormal #266 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Paranormal & Urban

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Upâ "This engrossing must-have sequel to Beautiful Creatures (Little, Brown, 2009) immediately returns to Gatlin, SC, and the seemingly impossible relationship between Caster girl Lena Duchannes, as yet un-Claimed for Light or Dark, and Ethan Wate, her beloved Mortal.

Grieving the recent loss of Uncle Macon and worried that her 17th Moon and family curse will destroy everyone else she loves, Lena pulls away from Ethan and runs off to the Great Barrier with Siren cousin Ridley and mysterious John Breed. But is she headed for nirvana or danger? Plagued by strange visions and accompanied by his loyal friend Link and Keeper-in-Training Liv, Ethan travels the Caster Tunnels running beneath the world determined to save Lena. Along the way he faces shocking revelations about his family and gets help from several unexpected sourcesâdevelopments that will further enamor readers. Familiar and favorite characters behave just as remembered, and sometimes even better. New additions, especially clever Liv, enhance the series and its plot, which is a cycle of hope, despair, and possibility. Like her Book of Moons, it gives and takes with equal measure in a great storytelling balance. Mortal and Caster settings aboveground and below reinforce the novel's Southern and gothic tone. Past and present are navigated successfully, offering new information while creating more questions. With allusions to a bigger game afoot and a classic good vs. evil climax that leaves several loose ends (unique, dangerous, and entertaining), this volume will leave readers clamoring for the next installment.âDanielle Serra, Cliffside Park Public Library, NJ (c) Copyright 2011. Â Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The anticipated sequel to *Beautiful Creatures* (2009) picks up where the first book left off. After revealing some of the twists in their tangled relationship, Ethan and his otherworldly Caster girlfriend, Lena, must further delve into her fate. Will she be claimed by the Light or the Darkness? And what can Ethan do to help save her as her journey intensifies? The southern gothic atmosphere, several new characters, and the surprising fate of one old favorite will keep readers going until the next book, which promises new surprises as â18 moonsâ approaches. Grades 9-12. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

*Beautiful Darkness* was a great sequel!!!! I fell in love with this book just like *Beautiful Creatures*. Of course, it left off on a cliffhanger, but at least I only have to wait until October to read *Beautiful Chaos*. *Beautiful Darkness* is another book that took me on a roller coaster ride. I could not figure out how it was going to end. Ethan Wate realizes he is not so normal after all. He is still human, but a Wayward. He is put with a Caster, and he helps that Caster find his or her way. They don't know which Caster he is suppose to be with yet. Ethan also has to fight to save his girlfriend Lena. She is so different in this story. I couldn't figure out what was going on with her. Ethan couldn't either. He

didn't even know if they were still together. Lena ends up taking off with John Breed and Ridley while Ethan, Liv, Link embark on a dangerous journey through the Caster worlds which have dangerous creatures while looking for her. Two new characters are also introduced which they were possible love interests. Liv is an assistant at the Gatlin Library. She is a Keeper in training. She knows so much more about the Caster world than she lets on. Liv is the type of person who can't sit on the sidelines so she went with Ethan on the journey. This was the path that she had to follow, because she was the one who finished the incantation that released Macon. So that means she is no longer a Keeper in training. John Breed and Lena were spending a lot of time together before they ran off. I haven't got him figured out yet. I don't know if he is good or bad. He seemed to have really cared for Lena. There were a lot of surprises in this book. I was surprised when Macon came back, especially with the Caster green eyes. He is light now. And I couldn't believe he was Jane's love. I was shocked when Sarafine took Ridley's powers and made her a human. I actually loved Ridley in this book. Link was bit so now he is turning into an Incubus. Lena claimed herself so now she light and dark. She has one yellow eye and one green. Ethan's mom have been helping him out through the whole series. She was leaving him sighs and giving clues with the moon songs. I can't wait to see what happens in Beautiful Chaos. Like I said, this book leaves off with a major cliffhanger. Beautiful Darkness was a very enjoyable novel. I loved it as much as Beautiful Creatures. There are so many unpredictable twists, that I was left on the edge of my seat the entire time. The Caster Chronicles is an amazing series!!!! I recommend this series to everyone!!!!

After roughly a year and a half, I though it was time to visit Gatlin, South Carolina again. I dove into the second book in the Beautiful Creatures series. Lena Duchannes has just come back from the horrific fire under the sixteenth moon, that claimed the life of her beloved Uncle Macon. Her guilt over being the cause of his death pushes her over the edge and she has run away with a strange and powerful Caster. Ethan, fresh from having his life saved in said horrific fire, is stung by Lena's seeming rejection of him. And Link, Ethan's best buddy stands by his friend and continues to be the comedic foil as they embark on a quest to save Lena from herself. It is what it has been, over the top teenage angst. However, this book gives more depth to the the adult and senior citizen set of the strange little town. People are not always what they appear to be. And the other worldly Casters and their very strange family tree branch off in new directions. The book dragged at times, but over all it was a decent sophomore effort. And the kids have just finished their sophomore year. At the end of the book, they are anticipating their junior year. So will begin Book three I presume.

When I began *Beautiful Darkness*, I was just starting to fall into a reading rut. I had a difficult time getting into the first fifty to hundred pages. But as the story unfolded and started to pick up some pace, it lured me out of the rut, which helped me enjoy the book far more than I had originally anticipated! Unlike the first installment, *Beautiful Creatures*, this book had a few elements that did make it feel of lesser quality. None of those things are really so extraordinary that it would ruin my *Caster Chronicles* experience, however. These aspects did make me question as to whether or not the authors may have been hasty with the creation of it. But before I get into the icky stuff, let's check out the portions of the book that I loved!

The dominant theme from beginning to end is simple yet beautifully complex: grief. Now, before I explain the importance of such a foundation, I should warn you that there will be non-plot-ruining-story-hints ahead. I won't spoil anything, but what I will discuss might imply what is to come, just in case if you haven't read the first book (or any book in the series, really). With my disclaimer disclaimed, let's move onwards. Our female protagonist experiences one of the most profound and excruciating emotions that anyone could ever undergo, which is the grief that comes along when you lose someone, or even something, very near and dear to your heart. Whether it's a loss that stems from death, or just two people going separate ways, there are stages that we experience along the path of mourning. This path was illustrated quite adeptly in *Beautiful Darkness* and ends up being the focal point of unfolding events. Anger. Guilt. Sadness. Disoriented within your own life. Trying to answer the horrid question of "why." These are all of the facets that people endure when dealing with loss, plus many more. Our authors captured that brilliantly as Lena finds herself feeling wholeheartedly confused with splashes of self-loathing and rage. Her sadness infused with her abject affections for Ethan, create a catalyst of fear and loneliness that is agonizingly relatable for anyone who has ever felt the knife of loss. Spiraling down a very dark path, she tries to match her actions to the storm brewing inside of her, which is far from pretty. Garcia and Stohl do an exquisite job of showing the reader what it's like to fall into a pit like that. The lengths that humans go to just to stop hurting, even if it's only for a fraction of a second. I have lost people who meant the world to me, I'm still trying to recover from one of them. It's not an easy task, at all. The deeper I dove into *Beautiful Darkness*, the more realistic the characters became for me. I could picture myself in Lena's position, making the same choices, running from the same mental and emotional demons. Not a lot of writers can capture the essence of that kind of pain. I'm glad that Garcia and Stohl did. Character growth in this book wasn't extreme. While the obstacles that the cast members end up facing do change them in numerous ways, I felt that this change (for some, not all) was decidedly limited. I find this to

be a good thing because there are still two installments left within the series. While I want to see these people transition and shape up into something grand based off their experiences (whether it's evil or good), I don't want to see it happen too quickly. The balance of growth felt just right. It may even have been a bit underplayed, but I'll take that in lieu of overdoing it any day. Now, let's take a look at the components that I did not particularly enjoy.

I'm going to start with the dialogue. Drawn out and terribly clichéd would be a fantastic way to describe the thoughts that came to mind while reading some of the interactions. I find it really peculiar because it only seemed to occur when particular people were talking, such as Link and Ridley, or a couple of villainous persons (of whom I can't name without spoiling, sorry). There was no originality in the way they bickered back and forth. To be perfectly blunt, it felt like an atrociously dimwitted teenage film. Beautiful Creatures didn't have this issue, so I don't understand why it popped up in Beautiful Darkness. I'm severely hoping not to encounter this in the last two volumes, or my interest will wane rather quickly. Unnecessary appearances also seemed to be a running familiar in the novel. There is one villain from the previous book that makes an appearance in this one, but their arrival was abrupt and their departure disappointingly anti-climactic. I was expecting so much more and got so little that I don't even understand why they were brought back to begin with. This happens quite a lot with the character named Link as well. He plays a part in the story, but it felt so lacking and gratuitous. Chiming in with a phrase here or there, mostly for comic-relief (at least that was the effect given), that I wished they would have left him out as well. The finale of the book made me understand why he was given screen time, but again, I think it could either have been written much better or just not included. The continuation of the story from book one was pretty decent. The dangling loose ends from Beautiful Creatures is adequately addressed in Beautiful Darkness, yet with the quality of the overall writing taking such a dip, I feel hesitant to read the last two books of the series. The characters are growing on me. I want to watch them blossom (or break), but there is a newfound fear of it happening with poorer taste. Nonetheless, book two of The Caster Chronicles stays very true to its name and remains really dark from beginning to end. The pace is slow at the start, but when it picks up you can find yourself getting carried away with all of the craziness that occurs. It was a very good reading experience, even with the hiccups; three and a half lollipops outta five.

This book I felt was horrible. It was VERY slow compared to the first one and Lena was hardly in the book. It just dragged and dragged and dragged till about 300 pages in when it finally picked up and felt like a story again. I hope that the next book will be better but I feel like the author is throwing

filler books our way in order to make more money. I was not pleased with this story line at all. Very slow and boring.

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