

Hourglass

Claudia Gray

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The adventure continues for Bianca and Lucas as they struggle to keep Bianca's heritage a secret within the vampire hunting organization, Black Cross. When the secret accidentally slips out, though, the couple is forced to run and hide from both Black Cross and crazy vampires searching for Bianca. Though they managed to settle down in the busy streets of New York, not everything is as easy as it seems. Not only do Bianca and Lucas fight to make monetary ends meet, but they also struggle with Bianca's failing health. It is during these crucial hours that she recalls her parents' lack of assurance towards her future being and the ominous wraiths' warnings last year. But this revelation might not be enough to guarantee the couple's future happiness.

Hourglass, like its two prequels, is a fantasy novel involving romance and lots of suspense. After finishing *Stargazer*, the second in the series, I highly anticipated reading *Hourglass* to finally reach the end of all the insane, but thrilling, experiences the teens and vampires had to go through. Unfortunately, *Hourglass* turned out to be quite a disappointment. I had high expectations for this series, all of which were shot down by this book. Bianca and Lucas virtually stay the same throughout the course of the story, as if they're perfect characters who don't need to amend themselves to better their lives or themselves. The stars of the story are actually Gray's supporting characters: the gorgeous vampire Balthazar, the off-beat but fun Vic, and the hilarious vampire one-liner Ranulf. These three characters come off as much more dynamic and relatable than both Bianca and Lucas.

What I had hoped to be a peaceful, sweet ending or even another cliffhanger turned out to be one that disappointed me. The way Gray left the book off made me feel like I could summarize what would happen in the sequel, *Afterlife*. Although it is quite unlike me to finish a series, especially after reading three of its four books, I may actually skip out on the last book. I would rather not drag through another couple hundred pages of Bianca and Lucas being perfect for each other, despite everything that's happened. It's just unrealistic. Though I would have suggested the first two books of the series, *Evernight* and *Stargazer*, to my friends, *Hourglass* doesn't quite make the cut.