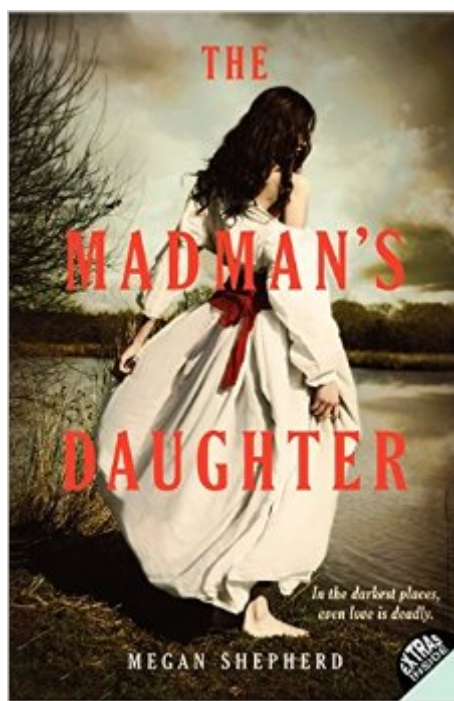


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The Madman's Daughter



Synopsis

For fans of Libba Bray, this first book in a gothic suspense trilogy is inspired by H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* and has been hailed by New York Times bestseller Carrie Ryan as having "beautiful writing, breakneck pacing, a pulse-pounding mystery, and an irresistible romance." Following accusations that her scientist father gruesomely experimented on animals, sixteen-year-old Juliet watched as her family and her genteel life in London crumbled around her—and only recently has she managed to piece her world back together. But when Juliet learns her father is still alive and working on a remote tropical island, she is determined to find out if the old accusations are true. Accompanied by her father's handsome young assistant, Montgomery, and an enigmatic castaway, Edward, Juliet travels to the island, only to discover the depths of her father's insanity. Torn between horror and scientific curiosity, Juliet knows she must end her father's dangerous experiments and escape her jungle prison before it's too late. Yet as the island falls into chaos, she discovers the extent of her father's genius—and madness—in her own blood.

Book Information

Series: Madman's Daughter (Book 1)

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (264 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

A new take on the psychological thriller, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, *The Madman's Daughter* was bursting at the seams with potential. Through the eyes of Dr. Moreau's 16-year-old daughter, Juliet, it provided a new perspective and insight to the nefarious madman and his island of chimeric creations. At least that's what it was supposed to do. Aside from the blatant correlation to Stockholm Syndrome, you'd really have to sit around and analyze and dig deep into the plot to derive any other

type of deeper psychological meaning. And, really, you shouldn't need a shovel to enjoy a book. The book actually has a great start (maybe that's why I was so disappointed that it didn't really amount to anything?). Juliet has not seen her father (or even known if he was alive) for years - not since he fled the country, leaving Juliet and her mother to fend for themselves, when suspicion began to arise about his inhumane experiments. Now Juliet works as part of a janitorial staff at a medical school, cleaning up blood and other fluids left behind from the students' experiments (predictable much?). By chance, Juliet discovers evidence that her father is not only alive, but he might be living at a nearby inn. Following her lead, Juliet does not find her father, but she finds the next best thing: her former childhood friend and servant, Montgomery, who apparently fled with her father and now works as his assistant at his new location on an island off the coast of Australia. Montgomery is only there getting supplies to take back to the island, but Juliet decides there is nothing for her there anymore and she might as well go with him. She boards the ship for the journey. At this point, I'm like, "OMG! WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?"

What a great twist on a classic story. The Madman's Daughter is a spinoff story for The Island of Dr. Moreau by HG Wells. While you can read this book without reading the other, I encourage the reading of both. Especially to see where the inspiration for this book comes from. Some parts follow very closely the story of Wells' book and others quite different. In particular is Megan Shepherd's original character, Juliet. Juliet is the daughter of the infamous Dr. Moreau. She is 16 and orphaned on her own. Her father fled the country after information about his scientific experiments got out and her mother died several years later. From wealth to poverty and ridicule Juliet has not had the easiest life. Yet she is smart and educated. Quite knowledgeable in science, especially for a woman of that time. I must say I liked her inner strength and while she is may be unsure of her own "unlady-like" interests I simply find her ahead of her time. She runs into her childhood friend (and her father's assistant) Montgomery who informs her that her father is alive. Against his better judgement she insists on being taken to him. On their journey to the island they come across a man named Edward. And the three of them, along with Balthazar (Montgomery's assistant) go to the island. There things take a turn for the twisted. And anyone who has read The Island of Dr. Moreau know what I speak of. For those that have not, read it or this for more information. What I will say is that Dr. Moreau is a very dedicated, and obsessed scientist. His experiments come above all else in his life. And that can come with unexpected prices for everyone. Dark, often psychologically twisted with some romance and madness thrown in this adventure.

Juliet Moreau is young, penniless and close to being homeless. It didn't used to be that way. Her father, Doctor Henry Moreau, was a very successful surgeon and they lived very well. Then the accusations came and Juliet's life as she knew it changed. Her father disappeared, rumored dead, and as years pass, her mother dies from consumption. So it's a fluke that Juliet runs into medical students performing an experiment with one of her father's papers. With some investigation, she finds Montgomery James. He was a servant in their household and disappeared when her father did. He explains that he left with her father; they reside on an island. Juliet insists she go back with him. She wants to see her father alive for herself and ask him directly if the accusations were true. On the long journey, a boy is found near death in a small boat. They bring him aboard and Montgomery brings him back to health. His name is Edward. It's here that the love triangle begins to make itself known. Juliet finds herself drawn to both young men, and they her. When they arrive on the island, Juliet is delighted to reacquaint herself with her father, and he insists on pairing her up with Edward and marrying her off. Things aren't right on the island though. The good doctor experiments and creates islanders that are at times horrific and others docile and humane. When a monster makes itself known on the island, bodies piling up left and right, it has many in the compound questioning who it could be. Juliet not only questions that, her father's choices and her own matters of the heart, but she also questions her own morality. Although she believes what her father is doing is wrong, she is also intrigued by it all. I had a very hard time putting this book down.

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