



Winterspell

By Claire Legrand

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Darkly romantic and entirely enchanting, this reimagining of *The Nutcracker* from Claire Legrand brims with magic, love, and intrigue—and “includes a Victorian mob princess/warrior heroine, an alternate New York City, steampunk faeries and an epic multigenerational battle” (*Kirkus Reviews*).

After her mother is brutally murdered, seventeen-year-old Clara Stole is determined to find out what happened to her. Her father, a powerful man with little integrity, is a notorious New York City gang lord in the syndicate-turned-empire called Concordia. And he isn't much help.

But there is something even darker than Concordia's corruption brewing under the surface of the city, something full of vengeance and magic, like the stories Clara's godfather used to tell her when she was a little girl. Then her father is abducted and her little sister's life is threatened, and Clara accidentally frees Nicholas from a statue that has been his prison for years. Nicholas is the rightful prince of Cane, a wintry kingdom that exists beyond the city Clara has known her whole life.

When Nicholas and Clara journey together to Cane to retrieve her father, Clara encounters Anise, the queen of the faeries, who has ousted the royal family in favor of her own totalitarian, anti-human regime. Clara finds that this new world is not as foreign as she feared, but time is running out for her family, and there is only so much magic can do...

New York Times bestselling author Marissa Meyer (*Cinder*) says “this is not your grandmother's *Nutcracker* tale.”

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Legrand's YA debut is set in two worlds in 1899: New York City and the magical world of Cane, a country of humans, mages, and faeries. Seventeen-year-old Clara Stole's mother, Hope, dies a gruesome death, leaving Clara and her family grief-stricken and at a loss. The teen is determined to uncover who was responsible for her mother's murder. Clara uncovers photos of her mother's body with markings on it matching those on the statue in her godfather's shop. Does he know who killed Hope? There was a curse placed on the statue that Godfather breaks, and the statue becomes human. Godfather and Clara fight the magical creatures that come for Nicholas, the former statue, but they take Clara's father instead. She and Nicholas enter a magical door into Cane and the quest to find him begins. In the process of finding her father, Clara gains courage and learns who she is and what she is capable of. Readers will appreciate the in-depth character development and the action-packed pace in this stand-alone novel. The connection between the two world isn't very cohesive, but teens won't mind. In this unique retelling of *The Nutcracker*, the author weaves the original story and characters together seamlessly with a rich setting and spins a romantic and dark new tale.—Jesten Ray, Seattle Public Library, WA

Review

What a mesmerizing whirlwind of a story! I was simultaneously horrified and enchanted by the land of Cane, with all its passion and mysteries, magic and mechanics. Claire Legrand's writing has the grace of a ballet, but this is definitely not your grandmother's *Nutcracker* tale.--Marissa Meyer, New York Times bestselling author of *Cinder*

About the Author

Claire Legrand used to be a musician until she realized she couldn't stop thinking about the stories in her head. Now Ms. Legrand is a full-time writer living in New Jersey. She has written two middle grade novels—*The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls*, one of the New York Public Library's 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing in 2012, and *The Year of Shadows*—as well as the young adult novel *Winterspell*. Visit her at Claire-Legrand.com and on Twitter @ClaireLegrand.

Users Review

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