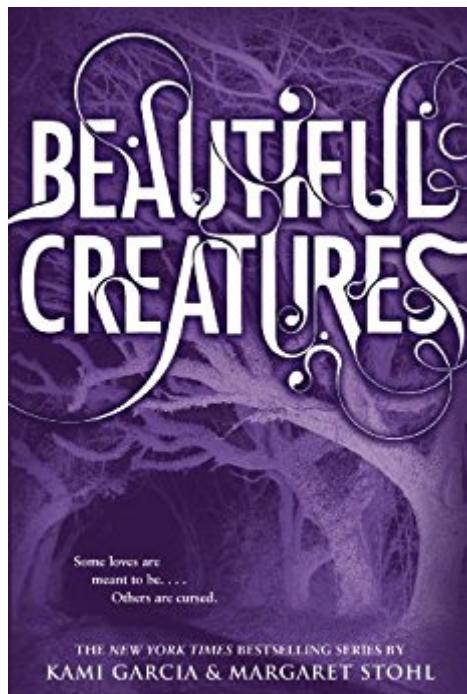


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# Beautiful Creatures



## **Synopsis**

The first book in a lush gothic fantasy series for younger readers of Charlaine Harris and fans of Cassandra Clare. Lena Duchannes is unlike anyone the small Southern town of Gatlin has ever seen, and she's struggling to conceal her power, and a curse that has haunted her family for generations. But even within the overgrown gardens, murky swamps and crumbling graveyards of the forgotten South, a secret cannot stay hidden forever. Ethan Wate, who has been counting the months until he can escape from Gatlin, is haunted by dreams of a beautiful girl he has never met. When Lena moves into the town's oldest and most infamous plantation, Ethan is inexplicably drawn to her and determined to uncover the connection between them. In a town with no surprises, one secret could change everything.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I was in for the first half, but right around the time of the Winter Formal I started feeling like I was reading a woman's diary of all her high school regrets. The second half moved SLOW, and I pushed to finish (just so that I could say I finished), but I can't say that the ending left me satisfied.

Something else that threw me... the book is from a male teen's perspective, but toward the end I was hit with an italicized passage that read from the female teen's perspective. That was a bit odd. Anyhoo, I didn't care for it enough to move on with the series, but I'm sure plenty of Teens and Tweens will.

Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl is set in the American South where Confederacy is still very important to its residents. Ethan lives in Gatlin, a small southern town where nothing changes. He hates it. He has been having dreams of saving a girl. Ethan cannot see her face and he doesn't know who she is. He wakes up with dirt under his fingernails and on his sheets. He has also started hearing a voice and the song, "Sixteen Moons", plays randomly on his MP3 player and the radio, even though he's never heard of the song before. A new girl, Lena, moves into Gatlin and lives with her uncle who is known as the local recluse. Lena and Ethan get much more than they bargained for when they become friends. Both of their families are keeping secrets from Ethan and Lena and when they find a locket that gives them shared visions of the past, they start keeping secrets of their own. Their ancestors are entwined somehow and that might be the key to saving Lena from her possibly dark future. I enjoyed the southern setting and the intense differences of the characters - 5 stars for this fun and suspenseful supernatural read!

I can't believe all the differences between the book and the movie. I mean, I know books always have more details and back stories than their movies, but come on...the most important things that happen in the movie, aren't in the movie, and vice versa! It really is ridiculous how different they are. I'm so disappointed. I don't think I'll ever watch the movie again, and I own it. The real kicker, though, is if they had just stuck with the books plot, the movie wouldn't have had any bad ratings. Now I know why it was a flop, and why there wasn't a sequel. The book was great. Very disappointed with how much different, ridiculously so, the book and movie are! And why did they merge characters, leave out important characters, and change the ending? I'm so confused at what the authors were thinking, when the movies script was made!

I liked this book. It was interesting, the paranormal aspects were fairly unique, and I love a story with a long family history like this one has. But I just liked it. It never grabbed me by the throat and demanded that I keep reading. I think, mostly, this was because the pacing was off. There was too much time during the story when I was relaxed and not worried about whether the characters were going to get out of trouble. Sure, there were intense moments when I was glued to the pages, but

then things slowed down too much and I was lulled into a strange sense of security. This made it too easy to set the book down. The characters weren't as developed as I wanted them to be, either. Ethan's voice felt too feminine to me. Actually, when I first started reading, I thought the story was from Lena's perspective, just based on the voice. Then, after I adjusted to Ethan's voice, he didn't feel real to me. His entire character felt cliche, like the teenage girl's ideal boyfriend, not what boys are actually like (I think another reviewer said this, and I couldn't agree more). Then there was the setting. It didn't \*feel\* like the south. To me, the story could have taken place in any rural situation. We didn't get a sense of southern culture, which is so unique and could have had an amazing impact on the story. A really good example of southern setting, by the way, is *Shadowed Summer* by Saundra Mitchell. Great book. But I digress...*Beautiful Creatures* is a good story. I think it could have been great if it had been shorter, which would have increased the tension and kept the reader glued to the pages through the whole story. Or, at least, if it had a bit more depth to it with the characters and setting. Overall, the only thing that really set it apart was the paranormal aspect, which was really interesting and unique. Unfortunately, it's not enough. Total side note: I find it interesting, and a little sad, that so many people here are voting against the reviews that don't give high stars, even when the review is fair and well-written. After all, different opinions are what make the world an interesting place. Expecting everyone to agree with you just turns us all into lemmings. :)

I can't believe I just read all 563 pages in less than 2 days!! I could not put this book down. A good read for fans of the *Twilight* series and other magical/mystical storylines. I am excited to see what the other 3 books have to offer, but alas, I need to do some housework and care for my family, so I am waiting at least a few days before I purchase and start those stories.

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