



## **The Unquiet**

*John Connolly*

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Daniel Clay, a once-respected psychiatrist, has been missing for years following revelations about harm done to the children in his care. Believing him dead, his daughter Rebecca has tried to come to terms with her father's legacy, but her fragile peace is about to be shattered. Someone is asking questions about Daniel Clay, someone who does not believe that he is dead: the revenger Merrick, a father and a killer obsessed with discovering the truth about his own daughter's disappearance. Private detective Charlie Parker is hired to make Merrick go away, but Merrick will not be stopped. Soon Parker finds himself trapped between those who want the truth about Daniel Clay to be revealed, and those who want it to remain hidden at all costs. But there are other forces at work here. Someone is funding Merrick's hunt, a ghost from Parker's past. And Merrick's actions have drawn others from the shadows, half-glimpsed figures intent upon their own form of revenge, pale wraiths drifting through the ranks of the unquiet dead. The Hollow Men have come ...

## **The Unquiet Details**

Date : Published May 15th 2007 by Atria Books (first published 2007)

ISBN :

Author : John Connolly

Format : Kindle Edition 544 pages

Genre : Thriller, Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Horror

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## From Reader Review The Unquiet for online ebook

### Phrynne says

Charlie Parker - you are my hero! Plus Angel and Louis of course. This is the sixth in the Charlie Parker series and they are definitely not losing my interest. In fact I think they are getting better and better. There is some disturbing stuff in this one about child pornography which I tried not to dwell on too much. And there are quite a few ghostly beings making themselves known which makes it a book you read in a well lit room preferably in the middle of the day surrounded by a lot of people. Charlie however seems to have nerves of steel and deals with the supernatural the same way he deals with the day to day. In fact to him it is day to day. I have a strong urge to move straight on to Charlie Parker#7 but I think I might take this series slowly in order to appreciate it fully.

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### Linda says

Frank Merrick is a dangerous man, a violent ex-con set on finding out what happened to his missing daughter. He believes the answers lie with psychiatrist Daniel Clay, accused years ago of promoting the sexual abuse of some of the children he treated. Clay has been declared legally dead, but since Merrick thinks Clay's reclusive daughter Rebecca keeping him hidden away. Badly frightened, Rebecca hires detective Charlie Parker to warn Merrick off. But Merrick will not be warned, and Parker proceeds to investigate the stalker's background. The facts and connections he uncovers are very dark indeed. Even more unsettling, Parker senses that he himself is being stalked by shadowy presences he designates "the hollow men."

Author Connolly wraps his detective story in a sort of ghost story, but the haunting is perpetrated not so much by outside spirits as by personifications of Parker's own personal ghosts. To make the novel even creepier, the plot is based upon actual events, organized crimes against children that the state of Maine has never succeeded in obliterating. The Unquiet is pervaded by a somber mood, with an ending that is as disturbing as it is conclusive. This was my introduction to the Parker series, and immediately upon finishing it, I went online to order the first three. Another favorite author filling up my to-be-read shelves.

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### Γι?ργος Δ?μτσιος says

Οι Κο?φιοι ?νθρωποι ε?ναι το ?κτο βιβλ?ο του Τζον Κ?νολι με πρωταγωνιστ? τον ιδιωτικ? ντεντ?κτιβ Τσ?ρλι Π?ρκερ. ?χει κ?ποιες διαφοροποι?σεις σε σχ?ση με τα αμ?σως προηγ?μενα της σειρ?s, τις οπο?ες οι φ?λοι της ε?τε θα τις δουν με πολ? καλ? μ?τι ε?τε θα απογοητευτο?ν. Τις παραθ?τω, λ?γοντας ?τι εγ? αν?κω στην πρ?τη κατηγορ?α.

Η πλοκ? της καινο?ργιας περιπ?τειας του Τσ?ρλι Π?ρκερ εξελ?σσεται εντελ?s αντ?θετα σε σχ?ση με την αντ?στοιχη του προηγ?μενου βιβλ?ου της σειρ?s, (Ο μ?ρος ?γγελος). Αν εκε? μπορο?σαμε να τη χαρακτηρ?σουμε δαιδαλ?δης, με πλοκ?s και υπ?πλοκες που ?δεναν αναμεταξ? τους με περ?πλοκο τρ?πο μ?χρι να οδηγ?σουν σε ?να τελικ? αποτ?λεσμα, εδ? υπ?ρχει απλ?s μια straight/forward ιστορ?α.

Βλ?πουμε (σχεδ?ν) τα π?ντα μ?νο μ?σα απ? τα μ?τια του Π?ρκερ. Εξερευνε? μια κατ?σταση, προκ?πτει μια ?λλη, την εξερευνε? κι αυτ?, και η γραμμικ? πορε?α συνεχ?ζεται. Προσωπικ? μου ?ρεσε που π?γε ?τσι, νομ?ζω ?τι ?ταν και αυτ? που κολλο?σε καλ?τερα στις αν?γκες της ιστορ?ας.

Η καλπ?ζουσα βουτι? προς το υπερφυσικ? των προηγο?μενων δ?ο βιβλ?ων απουσι?ζει επ?σης. Υπ?ρχουν κι εδ? δι?φορα “πραγματ?κια”, αλλ? η ιστορ?α, κατ? τη γν?μη μου π?ντα, μπορο?σε να λυθε? και χωρ?ς αυτ?. Σε μ?να ?λο αυτ? λειτο?ργησε πολ? καλ?. Το κ?ριο θ?μα που πραγματε?εται το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι σκληρ? και πολ? σοβαρ?, και προσωπικ? με αγγ?ζει και πολ?, οπ?τε ?ταν θετικ? που ?λα αυτ? ?πρεπε να λυθο?ν χωρ?ς υπερφυσικ?ς παρεμβ?σεις. ?ταν μια σκληρ? αστυνομικ? ιστορ?α και ευτυχ?ς κ?λησε ακριβ?ς ?τσι.

\*Μικρ? σπ?ιλερ εδ?\*. Οι δ?ο κολλητο? του Π?ρκερ, οι απ?στευτοι Λο?ις και ?ιντζελ, στο πρ?το μισ? του βιβλ?ου απουσι?ζουν. Τους λατρε?ω και τους δ?ο, αφο? ε?ναι οι απ?λυτοι “καλοκακο?” αντι?ρωες... κι ?μως. Για ?ναν παρ?ξενο λ?γο δεν μου ?λειψαν. Αντιθ?τως, μου ?ρεσε π?ρα πολ? ο “σ?λο Π?ρκερ”. (Οι αδερφο? Φο?λτσι που ε?ναι στο πλευρ? του στο πρ?το μισ?, δεν ε?ναι το ?διο, αφο? δεν ε?ναι οι σταθερο? teammates του, αλλ? ?να –επ?σης τρομερ? διασκεδαστικ?– δ?δυμο που πρωτοεμφαν?στηκε μ?λις ?να βιβλ?ο πριν).

\*Μικρ? σπ?ιλερ κι εδ?\*. Η Ρ?ιτσελ κ?νει ελ?χιστες εμφαν?σεις στο βιβλ?ο, αφο? η σχ?ση της με τον Π?ρκερ ε?ναι (λ?γω παλι?τερων γεγον?των) σε πολ? κακ? στ?διο. Παραδ?χομαι ?τι δεν μου ?λειψε ο?τε κι αυτ? κι ?τι η απουσ?α της δ?νει την ευκαιρ?α στον Π?ρκερ να ξεδιπλωθε? διαφορετικ?.

Το μ?νο κλασικ? “ζ?τημα” του Κονολι ε?ναι οι εκτενε?ς περιγραφ?ς σε δι?φορα σημει?α που δεν απαιτο?νται. Να πω ?τι, ε?τε τον συν?θισα εντελ?ς ε?τε στο βιβλ?ο αυτ? η κατ?χρηση ?ταν μικρ?τερη. Π?ντως δεν με εν?χλησε!

Τ?λος, δ?νω πολλ? επιπλ?ον συν και για το θ?μα που θ?γεται. Η κακοπο?ηση παιδι?ν ε?ναι κ?τι που πιστε?ω ?τι αγγ?ζει οποιονδ?ποτε γον?α, αφο? ?θελ? του σκ?φτεται ?τι κ?τι τ?τοιο θα μπορο?σε να συμβε? και στα δικ? του παιδι?. Ε?ναι προφαν?ς κ?τι που μ?νο ως μαχαίρι? στην καρδι? περιγρ?φεται.

Δεν ξ?ρω λοιπ?ν αν ε?ναι ιεροσυλ?α, (για τους φανατικο?ς των προηγουμ?νων δ?ο βιβλ?ων ε?ναι) αλλ? οι “κο?φιοι ?νθρωποι” ε?ναι για μ?να ?να απ? τα αγαπημ?να της σειρ?ς, εξαιτ?ας των ?σων προαν?φερα και κυρ?ως λ?γω της γραμμικ?ς του πλοκ?ς.

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## K.D. Absolutely says

**Charlie “Bird” Parker** is an ex-New York police officer. Now working as a private detective, he is also hunting the killer of his wife and daughter. A mother named **Rebecca Clay** hires him to shoo away **Frank Merrick** a.k.a. “Revenger” who is stalking and tormenting Rebecca and her daughter. Merrick wants to know the true whereabouts of Rebecca’s father **Daniel Clay** who mysteriously disappeared five years ago. Daniel Clay used to work as a psychiatrist specializing in abused children. Parker is torn between the people who want to know the truth and those who want it to remain as mystery forever. Parker does not know that Merrick is being used by a sinister old lawyer. The said lawyer wants to settle old scores with Parker. Parker goes to a place called Gilead, a mysterious place in Northern Maine where a sect has been accused of child abuse years before.

*The Unquiet* refers to the people who abused the children in Gilead. With that as a theme, this book is bleak, full of despair and loneliness. To give you a sample, the book opens with this statement: "“*This world is full of broken things: broken hearts and broken promises, broken people.*” It is a crime novel, yes, but has the right amount of supernatural overtone that at some point, people compare to the works of Stephen King. This markedly differentiates him from his competitors in suspense thriller genre like Robert Ludlum, Jeffrey Archer, Vince Flynn or even Dan Brown. For this reason, this book will not be my first and last John Connolly. I enjoy some amount of supernatural or paranormal ingredients when it comes to crime novels.

The only downside is that this is my first John Connolly and I struggled with his recurring characters aside from detective Charlie Parker. **Louis** and **Angel** are Parker’s close friends and allies in combat. They are an unlikely couple whose quibbles and good humor are sometimes the source of comic relief. Louis is a huge black man who used to be a hired killer while Angel is a small white man and ex-burglar. I also felt that the character of **Dave “the Guesser” Glovsky** should have been given more meat as it is very interesting. According to Wiki, he was an actual person with a concession stand at Old Orchard Beach in Maine. He was a part of state’s cultural heritage.

The book maybe dark and sad but it is definitely interesting, prose is taut and clear and there is a bit of light (hope) at the end of the tunnel of loneliness and despair.

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## **aPriL does feral sometimes says**

'The Unquiet', book 6 in the private detective Charlie Parker series, is a sad novel. It has an ending, but it isn't very happy. Not only is Parker shocked by how the stalking case he tries to fix for his new client spins out into an unexpected crime of child abuse, he suffers a more personal loss which he can't afford. Then, after learning a little more than he wants about the supernatural forces following him, he is left with a sour truth "This world is full of broken things..."

The dark entities won't let him alone, tormenting him with dark mysteries that seem to rise up within himself. But he can't seem to stop asking them questions.

The Charlie Parker series is more of a bleak, primarily paranormal, horror genre, with mysteries mixed in. If you start this dark series, gentle reader, begin with book 1, *Every Dead Thing*, otherwise most of the following books will be confusing and full of too much partial information than what is needed to completely understand what is going on. This book is the first one with a detective plot which moves forward in a straight line, so if you are too curious to read through the five previous books, this one can be read first if the intention is to give a reader an idea of Parker's world, but I think it isn't the best thing to do.

If you enjoy paranormal horror *and* mystery *and/or* dark graphic comic novels, then I recommend this series. However, those who like mysteries only may find this series TOO dark with dead things walking, dripping foul rotting bits behind them.

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## **Ivan Ivanov says**

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## **Kimberly says**

One of the most straight-forward of the Charlie Parker novels I have read, and quite possibly the most bleak, as well. As always, Connolly weaves a tale that is able to completely immerse you from the very beginning, and hold your attention until the final page. Angel and Louis (Connolly's usual comic-relief duo) are present in this novel, but to a much lesser degree than in some of its predecessors.

The storyline doesn't contain as many divergent paths as earlier novels in the series, but was no less intriguing for that. Connolly, as usual, knows just the right buttons to press to assure your complete attention. Another incredible read in the Charlie Parker series.

Highly recommended!

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## **Brandon says**

In March of 2009, I started reading Charlie's journey through the criminal underworld with "Every Dead Thing". While having a little supernatural stuff thrown in there, his character reminded me of a "Batman-ish" vigilante. You had the classic story line of a traumatic event happening to an undeserving person which leads into spending their life trying to make amends for what happened. I loved it – I was hooked right away. The first book was full of such anger, he hated the world and wanted justice for the murder of his wife and child.

With Connolly's "The Unquiet", we're six books in and two removed from one of the best Parker novels yet, "The White Road". In this installment, we find Parker dealing with the separation from the mother of his second child. He picks up a job protecting the daughter of a long since missing child psychologist, Daniel Clay. Daniel's daughter, Rebecca, is being troubled by a man who believes Daniel is still alive. The man in question, Merrick, desperately wants to find the location of Daniel about some unfinished business. Daniel Clay's disappearance is linked to a scandal involving a case of alleged child abuse leading to death which had subsequently ruined his career. However, nothing was actually confirmed on whether Mr. Clay had anything to do with the events in question, just that his disappearance seems to indicate his involvement.

Parker's life is just a huge mess. He can't seem to make a decision between what he believes is his moral obligation to seek out and help those troubled in life and accepting his role as a father and family man. The novel spends a good chunk of time on the personal life; heavily sinking into Parker's dilemma. It's like he's just sulking around, hoping things will clear themselves up. He seems to have no desire to make any sort of final decision.

Despite my feelings on Parker, his associates Louis and Angel remain excellent. Louis has some of the best lines I've read in this series. From his rant on hockey to his explanation of his political views; I just loved him.

I'm a huge fan of Connolly's wit and sarcastic humor but with a brooding Parker, the novel seems to just fall

a little short of what I'm used to. Maybe that's what Connolly was going for but it's not something I'm a fan of – at least not this far into the Parker saga. I think the novel also suffered from its length. Finishing at just over 500 pages, I felt it could have been a little tighter. A lot seemed like filler to me.

Despite my overall feelings toward the book, it had a superb ending. Connolly wraps things up well and treats the reader to an epilogue which progresses to the next book nicely. I have to admit, I was intrigued by something hinted at in the final pages – enough to make me pick up the next book right away. Actually, the final 100 pages or so really saved this. If not for some key events occurring before the conclusion, this could've been completely forgettable and feel like a less than perfect entry in the Parker series.

Cross Posted @ Every Read Thing

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## **Jaksen says**

Great, creepy read, with elements of mystery/crime fiction. Not really horror, though; Connolly creates his own genre. Creepish-mystery.

It's best to read the Charlie Parker series in order, IMO. Each book can be read alone, but a lot of the nuances, depth, and complexity are lost if done so. There are reoccurring characters, most of whom get their own back stories, eventually. But like people do irl, these characters develop, change, and take twists and turns which are both predictable to their character, and yet again, (like in irl), are not.

(Okay how many times have you heard the family of a murder suspect say on camera, omg, my John-Bill-Petunia would NEVER do that? Or, I've known him forty years; he'd never do-say-believe that! Yes, we humans are both creatures of predictability - and surprise.)

Connolly keeps a nice balance here. Not once have I ever felt, umm, he wouldn't DO that. However, occasionally, in some of the more long-winded, heartfelt speeches, I hear the voice of Charlie Parker emanating from a minor character. It happens, I guess, with a lot of writers. Hard to keep all those personalities inside yourself from not merging sometimes. (Yes, I meant to write 'merging'.)

The story's about Charlie being hired to stop a stalker. Simple idea. Done a zillion times by a zillion writers. But from that simple premise springs all sorts of things: murder, horrible secrets, an abusive cult from the past, weird and horrible beings that appear on the fringe of one's vision, one killer, two killers, three killers, more. The trouble this guy can get into! It's amazing. Plus Charlie has so many layers to his past and ghosts which might - or might not - be haunting him. It's amazing what Mr. Connolly can pull out of his writer's hat.

One issue, he did introduce a character with a past that I hadn't heard of - and I am reading the books in sequence. There is a sense that Parker has dealt with this guy before, but wth - who is he? I realized I missed a novella in the series and I plan to read that, too, and have it on hold at the local library. It's a small gap, but I'll fill it in.

So, a great book to read while Hurricane Jose was creeping up the coast, and yes, I know, among the many monster hurricanes out there which have lately come and gone, including one still following Jose, I'm lucky that's all I have to deal with. Still, a good book to read while the rain and the wind are humming outside.

Five creepy stars.

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## Μαρία Γεωργοπούλου says

Ακόμα να καταπληκτικό βιβλίο με ήρωα τον αγαπημένο ντετέκτιβ Τσάρλι Πάρκερ! Αυτή τη φορά το θέμα είναι πράγμα πολύ δύσκολο, καθώς αφορά την παιδική κακοποίηση. Τα πιο απεχθή εγκλήματα δηλαδή. Θα είναι ειλικρινές και θα πω, πως μάλλον συγκεκριμένη σκηνή με ήκανε να αφήσω το βιβλίο και να χρειαστεί λίγο λεπτό για να ηρεμώ και να συνεχίσω. Ο ντετέκτιβ μέσα από μάλλον σχηματική υπόθεση, θα δει για ακόμα μία φορά ότι οι άνθρωποι είναι ικανοί για εξαιρετικά μεγάλα κακά.

Στο συγκεκριμένο βιβλίο παρατηρούμε πως το υπερφυσικό στοιχείο υπάρχει μεν, αλλά είναι σε δεύτερο επίπεδο σε σχέση με την υπόθεση. Αυτή στην προκειμένη περίπτωση λειτουργεί κάπως για δύο λόγους. Πρώτον, γιατί με αυτόν τον τρόπο ο συγγραφέας τονίζει το γεγονός πως τα εγκλήματα που έχουν σχέση με την παιδική κακοποίηση τα κάνουν άνθρωποι και αν με κάποιον τρόπο δείχνει ότι το κάνουν επειδή έχουν επηρεαστεί από κάτι μεταφυσικό θα ήταν λες να το δικαιολογεί. Και, δεύτερον, γιατί ο Τσάρλι Πάρκερ χρειάζεται χρόνο για να επεξεργαστεί όλα αυτά τα μεταφυσικά που συμβαίνουν, οπότε λογικά είναι να υπάρχει σε μικρότερη δόση αυτή τη φορά.

Οι αγαπημένοι μου Λοιζ και Ίντζελ, εμφανίζονται λιγότερο, αλλά σε όλες τις σκηνές βρήκαν έναν απολαυστικό!

Εξαιρετικό πλοκή, ωραίες ανατροπές και, για ακόμα μία φορά, περιγραφή για σεμινάριο!

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## Debs says

Sixth Charlie Parker novel. Back in New England dealing with religious fanatics, child molesters and other evil men. There are always two stories going on in these books; the main investigation and the a side character, usually evil, hunting or following Parker or his compatriots. The threads mix and weave together in interesting and unpredictable ways. Connolly tells quite a yarn. One of Connolly's great strengths as a writer has to do with the way he furthers the narrative; I mentioned earlier that his books are mostly told in first person narrative. This is true, but often he will choose to move the story along through the use of tertiary characters. They may only appear for five pages or so, but Connolly devotes time to making each and every one a fully rounded individual; he gives them their own lives and troubles that usually have nothing to do with the story at hand. It's a very effective world-building technique and it makes the books a joy to read.

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## WendyB says

The only thing you need to know about the entire Charlie Parker series is that you need to read it.

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## Carol. says

Intense.

Connolly writes detective-style mysteries with a dash of supernatural elements. The trouble is, neither Parker, nor the reader, is entirely sure what might just be unusual and what might be somewhat otherworldly. Parker, his lead character, has been haunted by the ghosts of his wife and child since they were killed, and once again, Parker is struggling with their ghosts. They're real enough that others can sense them, although his estranged wife, Rachel, points out that in her perception, ghosts are kept alive by people refusing to let go of the past. Parker is still at their house in Maine, taking small jobs like the one for Rebecca, who has a stalker. It turns out that the stalker has a somewhat sympathetic cause, trying to find Rebecca's father, a psychologist who worked with abused children, and who was last seen about the same time as his own daughter. Parker, empathetic both to woman in distress and parents of missing children, finds himself drawn deep into the case.

**"I turned. A man appeared to be standing among the tress. If I looked directly at him I could see only branches and spots of moonlight where I thought he was standing, but he seemed to appear more clearly when I looked at him with my peripheral vision, or if I tried not to focus on him at all. He was there, though. Walter's reaction was evidence of that, and I still recalled the events of the night before: the glimpse I had caught of something at the edge of the forest before it faded away; a child's voice whispering from the shadows; words scrawled on a dusty windowpane."**

I literally had to take breaks from this book. Not because it was horrific, but because it was so intense. While building the plot tension, Connolly creates a vivid world with lush description. There are tiny moments of humor that made me smile, almost gratefully, with the opportunity to provide breathing space. Here's one tiny bit, right before Parker heads into an emotionally fraught interview in a Supermax.

**"His uniform was starched and pressed, and everything that was supposed to gleam did so spectacularly. There was a little more gray in his mustache than before, but I decided not to point that out. Beneath his gruff exterior, I sensed there was a sensitive child just waiting to be hugged. I didn't want to hurt his feeling, singular.**

**'Back again,' he said, in a tone that suggested I was forever bothering him by knocking on the door at all hours of the day and night, demanding that I be let in to play with the other kids.**

**'Can't stay away from men in jails,' I said.**

**'Yeah, we get a lot of that here,' he replied.**

**That Joe Long. What a kidder. If he was any drier, he'd have been Arizona."**

There's also solid social commentary snuck in about Supermax prisons, mental health, and the complicated issues around child abuse. As always, the lovely writing encouraged me to go slow, to linger on each image. I wanted to find out the end, but yet dreaded the final confrontation, the solution that I knew would be terrible and heart-wrenching. Without doubt, I'll go on to the next book, but I might wait a spell before doing so.

Four-and-a-half stars, rounding up for leaving me breathless.

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### **Liz Barnsley says**

Back to my yearly Connolly reread picking up from where I left off earlier in the year.

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### **Luis A. Vidorreta says**

Cuando descubre tarde una serie, como me ha ocurrido con John Connolly y su fantástico Charlie Parker, corre el peligro de leer los libros muy seguidos en lugar de con el intervalo de años con que han sido escritos. En estos casos la lectura puede hacerse pesada e identificar en cada volumen el esquema que le funciona al autor y repite en cada libro. Por no hablar de aquellos elementos que te ponen en situación con lo contado en novelas anteriores pero que te rechinan al haberlos leídos hace unos pocos días (como el previously de las series cuando haces un maratón)

Sin embargo, Connolly teje de forma muy fina. No desvela de golpe los antecedentes, las motivaciones o a el entorno de los personajes. A través de las distintas novelas vamos descubriendo el trasfondo de sus protagonistas en un equilibrio casi perfecto en el que te quedas satisfecho por el final de una historia, y a la vez intrigado por lo que pasará otra vez.

No me canso de Charlie, ni de Angel, ni de Louis. ¡Quiero MÁS! Menos mal que aún me quedan otros 6 libros.

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