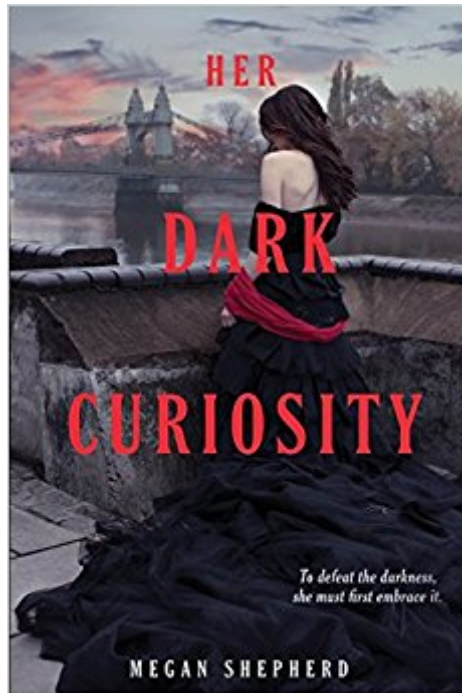




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# Her Dark Curiosity (Madman's Daughter)



## Synopsis

Inspired by *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, this tantalizing sequel to Megan Shepherd's gothic suspense novel *The Madman's Daughter* explores the hidden natures of those we love and how far we'll go to save them from themselves. Perfect for fans of Libba Bray. Back in London after her trip to Dr. Moreau's horrific island, Juliet is rebuilding the life she once knew and trying to forget her father's legacy. But soon it's clear that someone—or something—hasn't forgotten her, as people close to Juliet start falling victim to a murderer who leaves a macabre calling card of three clawlike slashes. Has one of her father's creations also escaped the island? As Juliet strives to stop a killer while searching for a serum to cure her own worsening illness, she finds herself once more in a world of scandal and danger. Her heart torn in two, her past bubbling to the surface, and her life threatened by an obsessive killer—Juliet will be lucky to escape alive.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

**The Madman's Daughter Series Quiz - What classic novel should you be living in?** By Megan Shepherd One of the best parts about writing the *Madman's Daughter* series was rereading a variety of classics to see which I wanted to use as inspiration for Juliet Moreau's story. The three I based my trilogy on all had to have a common element—dark science—so I chose *The Island of Doctor Moreau* by H. G. Wells, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, and *Frankenstein* by Mary

Shelley. While I was flipping back through all these great classics, I started to wonder which one would best fit my personality and be good fits for my friends' personalities.

- Which musician do you enjoy the most?
  - Florence + the Machine
  - Taylor Swift
  - Louis Armstrong
  - Rage Against the Machine
  - None. I prefer the sounds of nature.
- What is your ideal climate?
  - the wind-swept sea
  - a beautiful, sunny spring day
  - summertime in the big city
  - a dark and stormy night
  - a tropical private beach
- What is your dream occupation?
  - poet
  - wedding planner
  - investment banker
  - doctor
  - park ranger
- What type of romantic are you?
  - I think there's a single soul mate for me.
  - I fall in love easily.
  - I tend to love unrequited from afar.
  - I'm too dedicated to my work to look for love.
  - I'm a loner, though I'd like to meet someone.
- Your favorite food is:
  - Who cares about food if I can't be with the one I love?
  - birthday cake
  - Does champagne count as food?
  - a perfectly cooked rare steak
  - raw oysters
- Your ideal pet would be:
  - a wild stallion
  - kittens!
  - a rare tropical fish
  - a snake
  - a dog

**RESULTS:**

**Mostly A:** . . . *Wuthering Heights* All you want in the world is to curl up with a cup of tea on a rainy night and write your heart out in a journal. You're highly emotional, a hopeless romantic, prone to outbursts of anger, joy, and sometimes madness. You've been known to stare out at sea and sigh at nothing in particular.

**Mostly B:** . . . *Pride and Prejudice* You're a smart, upbeat person with close friends and lots of hopeless crushes. You can usually be found with your nose in a book, unless you've been dragged to a party where you have more fun than you expected. Life is full of misunderstandings and adventures.

**Mostly C:** . . . *The Great Gatsby* There's nothing wrong with loving the good life. You like money, cars, parties, and money. You dream big, give generously, and don't let anything stop you, which means your friends and admirers might be taking advantage of you. Still, you look really good on the dance floor.

**Mostly D:** . . . *Frankenstein* You have a dark personality that's withdrawn from other people and dedicated to work and science. You might frighten small children. Or you might discover the cure for death. Either way, you're probably pretty handy with a Band-Aid and a good friend to hang out with around Halloween.

**Mostly E:** . . . *Robinson Crusoe* No man is an island . . . but a man can be trapped on an island. You're a natural loner, but that doesn't mean you don't like other people. You just can't get off the island. You love fishing, sunbathing, and building shelters out of palm trees.

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Gr 8 Up • Megan Shepherd's deliciously dark and exciting sequel to *The Madman's Daughter*

(HarperCollins, 2013) continues with Juliet's return to London after her escape from her father's island. Life is somewhat easier for Juliet now that she is back—•a former colleague of her father's has taken her under his wing so that she does not want for anything, she has a job developing grafted rose bushes, and her friend Lucy has welcomed her with open arms. But not all is well. The serum her father, the infamous Dr. Moreau, developed to keep her symptoms at bay is no longer working and she cannot seem to perfect a new and stronger dose; she misses Montgomery, her old friend and new lover; and one of her father's monsters, Edward Prince, now known as Dr. Jekyll, has also returned to London. To make it worse, a serial killer, dubbed the Wolf of Whitechapel, is murdering people who have wronged her, and a Scotland Yard inspector keeps questioning her about her father. Somehow, Juliet holds the key but can she survive long enough to save the ones she loves and unmask the conspirators who are behind the terror? Shepherd masterfully blends yet another classic horror story into a new setting, and the continuing echoes of H. G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau* combined with Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* result in a book that resonates with evil and suspense. While the novel can be read independently of the first title, as enough of the backstory is given to make what is happening clear, readers will have a more satisfying experience if familiar with the previous installment. The psychological questions that Prince/Jekyll raises as to evil, desire, and nature vs. nurture add a depth of richness not often seen in young adult literature. —•Janet Hilbun, University of North Texas --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

*Her Dark Curiosity* is the second book in *The Madman's Daughter* trilogy by Megan Shepherd. Megan has crafted an extremely amazing sequel that easily surpasses her debut novel, and sets the stage to what should be an epic conclusion to this fantastic series. Everything about this book is well done, from the astoundingly beautiful cover to the engrossing writing, the well-written characters and the carefully thought out and developed plot that will keep you entertained the whole way through. This won't be a long review, I say that because I don't want to give away any spoilers and in discussing this book I'm afraid I'll do just that, there's just so much I want to write about that happened in this story, but I want people to read this book themselves and discover everything without any warnings beforehand, and trust me, it's all good! The book opens after the conclusion of the last one, Juliet is back in London, secretly trying to find a cure for her condition now that her drugs aren't working that well anymore, there have been murders occurring by a serial killer nicknamed the "Wolf Of Whitechapel", these murders are all linked and once Juliet figures out just what that is, she then discovers just who it is, it seems someone/something has

followed her from the island to London, and the one thing they're after is Juliet! I can't praise this book enough, it's just fabulous and the fact that it's loosely based on the 'Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde' story adds another layer to the tale. For those of you who like books featuring: action/adventure and suspense all put together in a historical setting then this is the series for you. I'm highly anticipating the third and final book in this series, I'm desperate to know how this will all end.

I had read *Her Dark Curiosity* back in January of 2014 when it first came out, and at that time I did not love it. After eleven months passed, I picked this book back up to read in preparation for *A Cold Legacy*, which comes out late January, and I am so glad that I did. Without a doubt, *The Madman's Daughter* is my favorite, but I really do love *Her Dark Curiosity* now that I've read it again. Second books are always hard for me to read because they are usually the darkest point in a trilogy; the tone becomes darker, the characters begin showing more and more of their flawed, human nature and sometimes that is difficult to see as a reader. Such was the case with Juliet and her surrounding characters. Everyone has their dark secrets and they are desperately trying to hide them behind fake smiles and 19th century chivalry, but there is a certain darkness that became more apparent with each passing page. It was hard at times to read, but it added a lot to the story in the sense that I was beginning to wonder who would make it out with their humanity (and maybe a little of their innocence) intact. The whole time I was reading *Her Dark Curiosity* I was questioning how Megan Shepherd could fix everything that was going wrong and how she would redeem the main characters in this story. I still don't know how she can do that after finishing this book, and I am anxious about the crap that's going to go down in *A Cold Legacy*. Juliet was a very different girl from the one I read about in *The Madman's Daughter* and it made me so sad to see how the island and the experiences on it changed her. I couldn't imagine how awful it would have been to go through what she did, and so these changes in perspective were believable as well as understandable. The longer I read, though, the harder it was to watch what Juliet was doing, and I wanted to scream at the pages, "DON'T DO THAT!" It was difficult to see her family creep up on her and I don't know how Megan will resolve it all! I think that the biggest thing I want to see happen in *A*

Cold Legacy. I think it is for Juliet to believe in herself and to choose a different and better way than her father did. Edward was very interesting in Her Dark Curiosity. I felt bad for the Edward half because he was such a sweet boy and he had never been given a real chance to live a happy life. I thought that it was sad and interesting how he brought out Juliet's darker side; she brought out the good in him (most of the time), but he didn't bring out the best in her. I thought that was interesting considering both of their physical circumstances: Juliet went through some of her father's procedures to save her life much like Edward, only his had been much more drastic. They are very much alike but that is not always a good thing when it comes to relationships. I don't really know if Megan was trying to give a hint as to who was good for who, but to me it didn't seem like the healthiest of relationships. But really, that aside, my heart broke for Edward and there are some major scenes where I teared-up because he was such a broken person. It was truly heartbreaking and I want to know what happens to Edward in the end of this trilogy. Montgomery, Montgomery. I still love this boy even after he abandoned Juliet! It was so not okay what he did, but I just love this character so much! Oy! And his reappearance at the masquerade was FREAKING awesome! Judge me all you want, people, but I still love him. That being said, Montgomery, just like Juliet and Edward, changed a lot in the six months or so that it took him to get to London. It is so heartbreaking to see the changes in him, knowing what changed him, but underneath it all he was still the sweet, strong, and smart Montgomery from The Madman's Daughter. I loved any and every moment of this book that he was present, and I loved how Montgomery helped bring out the better side of Juliet. She feared he wouldn't love her after she told him the truth, but Montgomery was still Montgomery and I love them together. An unexpected character that really shined in Her Dark Curiosity was Juliet's friend, Lucy. In the first book, a reader got a scene or two with her, but in this book she was present for a good amount of time. I grew to love Lucy and I thought that she had such a beautiful heart. By the end of Her Dark Curiosity, Lucy was blooming into a beautiful, strong young woman and I am rooting for a happy ending concerning her. She was a great addition to this trilogy! So much happens in Her Dark Curiosity to the point that it was kinda overwhelming; I had to sit and process it once I had finished reading before I could think about anything else! It was so good, but I don't know how Megan is going to fix everything that went wrong in this book. Uhhhh, and that secret that Montgomery was keeping?! I am so worried as to what it is and I hope

Megan Shepherd doesn't pull a Tahereh Mafi with him in the last book! P.S. My condolences to the Adam fandom. I feel for you guys! Overall, "Her Dark Curiosity" was an amazing book, and I loved it! I am looking forward to reading "A Cold Legacy" to see how Megan Shepherd will wrap up this trilogy.

So much drama was dropped in the last chapter. I loved this book as much as the first. I'm still torn between Montgomery and Edward. They both have good traits and flaws and that makes it hard to pick.

Loved this story...may have enjoyed it better than book 1! I love love love Edward. Such a fun twist on a classic story!

"Call it sentimentality. Call it curiosity. Just don't call it madness." Her Dark Curiosity was the perfect follow up to the Madman's Daughter series. I actually think I liked it a lot better. Few months after Juliet returned from the island, she is now living with Professor who makes sure that she has everything she needs. No longer a maid, she is now considered an established lady who can marry without having any drama in her life. But then people start dying all around her. People that hurt her in the past. And she knows that this is personal. When she sees Edward, one of the creatures that her father created, she knows that they are very similar. And while trying to figure out the cure for each other, the beast has to be in control. With so much political drama and the group of people hunting Edward, the monster within her might not be quiet for long. First of all, I'm so glad that I decided to continue with the series. The first book was a little too slow for me but I realized that it was a perfect set up for the series. The amount of action in this book was perfect and I loved how fantasy met reality. The author shows us how crazy it would be for a woman to be a scientist back in those days and to actually work in the lab and do research had to be kept a secret. Juliet definitely did not disappoint and I really liked her. Even though there was a small love triangle going on, it was not cliché and still interesting. Can't wait for the next book!!!

I read this as a follow up to book 1. It started out strong but mostly meandered all over the place. The plot lacked focus as much as the leading character, really. I realize the character is 16 and discovering herself, but she had resources she didn't seem to trust or utilize until the end of the book. Not sure I'll make it to book 3.

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