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Sure considered who one of the authors is I might have seen a lot worse writing, but perhaps that's rather because of the influence of the second author rather than the first. Because you see, while the writing leaves much to be desired, and I still constantly asked myself who writes like that, and in some cases what this and it is even supposed to mean, most of it had its brittleness in context (see spoiler) [ , like when we are told that the cave in the glacier was too sick, old and wounded, but nevertheless there is not a single description of a bed or anything (spoiler) ] , rather than being weird in itself, because the phrase just makes no common sense. And while the writing is bad in my eyes and the cover also leaves much to be desired (see spoiler) [(it looks pretty boring, doesn't really say anything. The blonde guy is obviously at the center and especially the brunette, possibly brown-skinned girl looks not only timid, child-like and hunched but it looks as if her right (from my perspective) eye is backwards in a different direction than her left) (hide spoiler)] what is snippet biggest mistake is its biggest stupidity in plot and writing. And I wish it would start with the prologue, but nope, the first text I got in excerpts was some pretentious commentary from the authors telling me, an actual reader of imagination, what all of us readers of imagination expect when we open a fantasy novel or watch a movie. (see spoiler) [ They literally write: When they open a fantasy novel or go to see a fantasy movie, they expect to find a chosen hero whose high and lonely destiny is to defeat the villain, regardless of the personal sacrifice of themselves. We wanted to tell a story about a protagonist who had all the markers of a hero: tragedy and secrets of his past, magical power. No, we don't expect that, it's simply what writers like these two think we expect when we read fantasy. There several good books that do not follow this tope. (hide spoiler)] But let's take this one step at a time and start with the characters that are here:AlastairGreat name for a wizard; no cliché sounds at all, right? In the prologue we see him as a man who cares about his wife and son, who is willing to overcome major obstacles (see spoiler) [ , like climbing up a glacier, (hiding spoiler)] to see them safely. All fine and well, but we also see him as a wizard of incredible stupidity and incompetence, which the book seems to sell as competence. The way magic is used respectively is not used, as well as what is described as what he notices (plus what a normal person would notice is not even described here), and how he often acts, showing him as someone whom I would not trust with a packet of fresh eggs. (see spoiler) [When he climbs up that glacier he forms the handgrip and foothold instead of a latter or a moving platform. Surely the first one wouldn't have been more energy consuming than all of these are right? And if this wasn't enough, apparently getting close to the glacier he flew on an air elemental and then abandoned it because enemy control of elementals was unpredictable and strong, then why could he fly with it before? How far is the reach of the Enemy? Why not take the risk, since apparently time is of paramount importance, and fly to the entrance of the cave and just in case have something to save you when you fall? I mean to fly on that thing and climb up a glacier he probably would need this right? Anyone with half a brain would. And talking about having only half a brain: who in such a situation just falls his/her googles (for protection from snow and wind) on the ground instead of filling them in a pocket? I would do it on reflex so ingrained it would be in my brain. What will this guy do if he has to flee quickly into the storm outside? Which may well happen. And further more, if he only has dregs of his power (I assume magic) left, why does he use it to stabilize himself? If he's that weak wouldn't it be smarter to keep magic and recover along the way? But hey a guy knowing that he goes into a cave and doesn't provide lighting for himself is just that stupid, even if he doesn't seem to need them, since even deep inside the cave the ice still provides enough lighting to see so many details (including a lot of faces he knows... are there so little magicians in this world?). And no, nothing suggests that it's magical light. And if this stupidity and brittleness wasn't enough, the guy seems to have no paternal instincts, when he just lets the blanket his infant son was wrapped in autumn to the side and later wrapping him tightly in the blanket, which is a stupid idea for two reasons:1) A simple blanket close to the body is not a good protection against the freezing cold.2) The son has, of course, he even notices it, a twisted leg due to the fight in the cave, then again wrapping the blanket tightly around him, especially without any dimming or because the leg is just common torture for the child. Why he thanks his wife for protecting their son as he addresses addresses corpses, although the scene suggests that his brother-in-law (who is names Declan) did it, is me an enigo. Maybe the authors meant he addresses both, but then the writing is really bad. (hide spoiler)] But don't worry in the first chapter, he apparently hates magic (it's worse than stealing for him) and is no wizard anymore, for some reason. But even if it turns out it wasn't him, I don't care! Because this second version isn't any smarter either, and keep in mind its 11-12 years later. Plus his opinion of people is completely snobbish (see spoiler) [as he simply states that people aren't too smart either after his son caused a panic with some mice (we're going to get to that idiocy, promise) (hide spoiler)]. His antipathy toward magic makes me really wonder why he lets his son take part in the wizard test to begin with instead of somehow shielding him from it. Nope he rather tells his son dark stories (plus actually gives him info on magic (see spoiler)): Magicians draw on the elements – earth, air, water, fire, and even the void that is the source of the most powerful and terrible magic of all, chaos magic. (hide spoiler)] about how magicians would take his son. Also, since he wears a tweet jacket himself in the heat of today and people expect a British accent and that he looks like Sherlock Holmes in the old BBC show, I wonder if he's not a rip-off of Giles from Buffy.Callum HuntOur special boy, who from one second to the next is suddenly called Call without explanation, of the book apparently (see spoiler).[ , so special in fact that as an infant, he was still alive in the glacier cave among the frozen rigid organs (a woven blanket would not be enough protection) and his small body itself had no problem being squeezed down by the floating arm of his uncle's corpse (hide spoiler)]. And of course, just in line with the pretentious comment from the authors Callum is dark and sarcastic you see. (see spoiler) [He is famous for driving out deputy teachers with sarcastic remarks, he also specializes in annoying principals, hall monitors, and lunch ladies. Tutors who always started out wanting to help him (the poor boy's mother was dead, after all) wound up hoping he'd never darken the door to their offices again. There was nothing more embarrassing than not being able to make a snappy comeback to an angry 12-year-old. Of course advisers wouldn't be able to deal with him. (hide spoiler)] So he is snappy, sarcastic, does others hate him, has black hair (maybe the front boy on the front was not him), an eternal scowl and suspicious gray eyes ... Hm, where have I heard that before? He's also so special that he lurks outside the windows of the comic book store, arcade and video game store instead of inside, and even the mayor knows him. And I think some things he did are supposed to show that he has a good heart. (see spoiler) [Like he had rescued a naked mole rat destined to be fed to a boa constrictor in pet store things are way too expensive to use as snake feed unless they are close to death), well it's apparently fine to have boa starve. Plus he also released all the white mice that would have been next on the snake's dinner menu. (hide spoiler)]. But even then the authors represent someone either incredibly stupid, arrogant or both, even for a 12-year-old. (see spoiler) [After all, what other kind of person would think As if a few bruises were the most horrible thing that could happen to anyone. Like his legs were going to get worse. You see technically it could; especially when after years of therapy and surgery he still went with a sliding limp, just as he was trying to get his foothold on a boat that rolled from side to side. Wow, that therapy must have sucked. (hide spoiler)] He even comes into school matches regularly and to make us sympathetic to him, we are told that he was used to getting picked on; other children thought his legs made him an easy target. Normally he was able to convince them that he wasn't. Why he then would still get picked on I have no idea except his behavior pissing people off all the time, so apparently it's his own fault... again, it sounds so familiar, doesn't it? But don't worry, he always seems to come out fine (see spoiler)[, for example, he only had a split lip from once despite being punched in the face, possibly more than once (hide spoiler)]. Not that this keeps him from being sarcastic in any way. (see spoiler) [His response shortly before blacking out was Sorry for being awesome, losers (hide spoiler)] So even when it's better to shut up he keeps insulting people... seriously, that just seems to familiar not it? And in the end he is so special that his accidental use of magic (see spoiler)[, creating a crack that runs from swings all the way to the shed wall, dividing the small building in half, (hiding spoiler)] is something he finds the most awesome thing that had ever happened, but a few lines of his father cause him nightmares about being trapped underground and running away from a monster made of smoke , whose eyes swirled with a thousand different evil colors, which might only be a lame attempt to omen. And I think I finally got what's so familiar about this character. Are you ready? It's the same male protagonist Cassandra Clare wrote over and over again up to this point. SarahShe is Callum's mother (see spoiler)[who has died at first already, (hide spoiler)], has a special weapon, with a name that sounds to me like a plant manure we sell in Germany, and no real purpose apparently. (see spoiler) Apart from scratching the message Kill the baby into the ice while they die instead of doing anything to protect her still-living son from the cold, or am I supposed to think that the child never cried while she did this and so she didn't know he was alive? And if the message referred to Callum. All I can say is that during the time she scratched it into the ice, have had time to kill. Kill. wounded and dying or not. (hide spoiler)] KylieA blond girl of Callum's age group who may have magic but comes from a non-magical family. No comment! The enemy of death, which is really his name and the description we get of him... Let's put it this way, if one of the two writers already has a bad reputation for ripping off it's not very smart to have a description of a villain who practically screams Voldemort rip-off. (see spoiler) [Read this: At first it had seemed impossible - a young man, even one of the macaris, planning to conquer death himself. But as the Enemy rose in power, and his army of Kaos-ridden grew, the threat had become inevitably bleak . . . culminating in this merciless slaughter of the most helpless, the most innocent. (hide spoiler)] And of course, it seems come to downright other the brittleness and stupidity of the book: (see spoiler)[1] There's snow everywhere and it's windy and yet the tendrils of his black hair are only damp and are right now getting frozen? If it's so cold that they should have been frozen already.2) He apparently climbs a glarmester vertically up, then how does the wind blow into his face? Since when does the wind blow down a straight glacier wall?3) Is the book suggesting that ice is the worst of the elements to tame?4) Why do wizards hide too old or young to fight, wounded and sick, hiding in a cave inside a cave high in a glacier? Seems like a bad hiding place and hard to get to.5) The cave walls were white ice, pocked with red and brown, where blood had sprayed and melted in stains. Of course its white, it's in a glacier, and what on earth melted there? Blood? Is? And since when does blood turn brown? Aren't these people?6) If the fallen wizard was burned to the point of inconseth, how can Alastair tell sex? Also why was there a leather bracelet still intact and visible?7) They have been at war for a decade and yet there was no sign of missing guards at the cave entrance? Or maybe some safety spells? Seriously, how does magic and is used here?8) If all the lighting is an eerie phosphorous glow and the only light he had to see knows how strong is it to reach so deep into the cave? Ice does not reflect so much.9) Since there are bodies Chaos-ridden are among the dead, should there not be signa of magic use on the walls and all? The book itself says although magicians had been unprepared, they must have put up quite the battle to have killed so many of the enemy forces.10) The authors do not need to tell us twice that Alastair heard a cry, especially not in two consecutive sentences.11) The cave is made of ice, and only some bodies are frozen stiff as statues? How long have they been there?12) There is no mention of medical equipment or beds in the cave.13) Why is earth magic used for healing? Wouldn't water make more sense?14) What does Tears thick in the throat mean?15) How poor are people in this North Carolina town when more cars still bar dings some of Callum's previous at skateboarding? 16) Snakes don't eat as much as is suggested here, plus how small is that boa if it's fed to mice?17) It's impossible to have spectators on a parade run away from mice that escaped from a pet store. You would need hundreds of mice and chase them directly towards the direction of the crowd, and that alone would be quite an achievement and require a lot of preparation since mice don't act that way.18) I guess the woman called Mrs. Kemal is some tokenism, the name is turk, and I wonder how many Turks are there in North Carolina.19) If they can do healing magic Why would they look worse, after all, likelier they are to reject you have any meaning in wizard testing? And isn't there a war still going on, or has it continued? They cannot afford to be too picky.20) A long crack as the one described would warn a lot of people because of the tremors it would create.21) If magicians often go to war, how many are there? Plus, that not only sounds like The Mortal Instruments, but also makes the likelihood of failing any wizard test seem very low. (hide spoiler)] So basically I read 15 pages, in this version 5% of the book, and I already got pretentious comments from the authors, huge stupidity and incompetence, weird descriptions with lots of holes, a magic system that makes no sense, animal (including human) behavior that makes no sense, several things that scream rip-off and copying and a protagonist male character who is a 12 year old asshole I couldn't care less about. So yes, will not read the rest!!!! ... More... More

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