

Name

Mrs. Cranford

ELA III

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The Reader Book of the Month

I used to think that Sefia (the main character) was a weak character, but now I think that she is a strong character that showed strength and determination when faced with adversity such as her father's murder. I still think that Sefia should have displayed strength earlier in the novel, but I'd like to add that she was in a very tough situation being on the run from hidden antagonist. Others think that this was a very good novel deserving of critical acclaim, but I think it was average given all the amazing novels that have come before it. Sefia became stronger over time, developed as a person, and discovered hidden abilities throughout the course of the story. Sefia gains the insight that reading is a very valuable skill in a world where it has become a lost art. One conflict that arises is Sefia's grandmother being kidnapped, leaving her on her own against mysterious threats. This conflict tell the reader that a major storm is brewing in the world of the book. The author makes claims in the book that knowing who you are is a valuable asset in this life, and the passage, "His childhood flashed past her, his adolescence in the Paradise Islands sailing skiffs and spear hunting with his friends... She knew who he was." The author uses a lot of foreshadowing in this book via a book within a book phenomenon. Sefia discovers a book that foreshadows the events in her life that are going to happen. The author uses punctuation and sentence structure effectively when she uses short, powerful sentences to emphasize important parts of the story. The key passages are those right after the *book within a book* sections because

they foreshadow the book. One beautiful passage was, "She could see golden ripples of light pooling around him. They dripped from the corners of his eyes onto his cheeks, leaked through the folds of cloth at his neck." This was a beautiful use of imagery. The beginning of the book is confusing because Sefia is under attack, her father is murdered, and you have no idea who is attacking her, or why they are attacking her. The confusion clears up later in the book when you receive more information. There were no passages, sentences, or words that I found confusing (come on now). I noticed that Sefia was an Asian character which is fitting because the author is Asian. I wonder how the rest of the book series will turn out, oh well because I won't read them. I was reminded of other fantasy/adventure novels when I read this one because they all share the underlying theme of overcoming some sort of adversity. I think that this story is amazing in a vacuum, but it is in a very difficult genre to stand out in. I'm surprised that the author has already released a timeline for her next two books, that's tough to do. I'd like to know what happened before the story began that made the world of the book the dark place it currently is. A lot of things have to go wrong before reading is a lost art. I realized that the *book within a book* told a very similar story to that which was going on in the novel about a quarter of the way through the story. If I were in Sefia's position I would lose my freaking mind. I can't comprehend what it would be like to have all of your family either killed or kidnapped. The central issue is Sefia finding out who is after her and why. On consequence of her being chased by an unknown threat could be her death. If she can find out who is after her then she would have a much better chance to survive. I'm not sure if I want to read any of the other books in this series. Although it seems that this is a very interesting story line, I don't think it's for me. This passage makes me think that the future of the genre is in good hands. This makes me feel that I will be able to read all through

my life for enjoyment. The author is suggesting that reading is hyper valuable and taken for granted.