



Freddie's Shadow Cards

Jessica Brody

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The School of Secrets series of chapter books continues the story of Mal and her friends, plus new Villain kids and Auradon kids introduced in the popular Wicked World short form videos. Enjoy these all-new tales of mystery, magic and adventure from the world of the hit movie *Descendants*!

Freddie's Shadow Cards Details

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Author : Jessica Brody

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From Reader Review Freddie's Shadow Cards for online ebook

Tiffany Spencer says

Freddie's Shadow Cards

PLOT: Freddie is a girl on a mission and with a plan. In order to chase her dream of being a famous jazz singer, Freddie decides the push she needs to make it is to enroll at Auradon Prep which is now accepting VK's (villain kids). Only there's just one problem (isn't there always). The Belladonna's (cool name), Auradon's choir doesn't want her. So when her bestie CJ's surprise gift comes and it's her Dad's past gift of her shadow cards, the present is right on time. Freddie takes advantage of the card's unlocked magic to help herself get one step closer to her dream. But all magic as we know comes with a price, and that price begins to cause bad things to fall upon the people Freddie's been trying to help. A trip back to the Bayou seems to be the key to reversing the card's magic. Or is it?

MY THOUGHTS: I actually knew about Wicked World and had watched some of the episodes previous to reading this. I think I knew about it first when Descendants came out. I may have seen a few of those. What I didn't know was that it was further extended until recently when browsing my firestick. That's when I came about Freddie, and I was thinking wait a minute. That voice sounds familiar. And if you've watched ANT FARM and BLACK LIGHTNING you'll recognize who her actress is. I like Freddie as a character. She's African American. And I think that even though this was probably unintentional her refusal into the Auradon's is symbolic because of how we as African American's as talented as individuals as we are aren't always accepted into the same channels to nourish our talents. Just like Freddie, we have to sometimes knock doors down in "unique" ways to get to the same places that are just easily given and taken for granted by some who are privileged and use this "privileges" as their right to keep "others" out. Freddie used what she had to get where she wanted to be. Even though she used dark methods, they eventually got her where she wanted to be. Though I don't quite understand why Freddie *needed* the Belladonnas' to get her noticed. Sounds like she had the kind of voice that would have EASILY gotten her a recording contract. She could have gone the way of uploading videos of her singing to Auradon's version of YouTube. Her channel would have BLOWN up the more it was viewed. And I bet she would have caught the attention of SOMEONE! She knows Ben. Ben is the son of the King. The King probably has connections all over. Do you see where I'm going with this? Nor did I see why she liked Jordan so much at first. Jordan didn't seem at all like she wanted Freddie as a friend. Well, at least initially. But overall, it's good to see that dark means might help you get your foot in the door, but all along sometimes the answers really are inside you and make your way to the top you just have to use your head!!! I just hope that now that Freddie's in the Belladonna's she doesn't compromise who she is and stays a VK true and through. I don't like my VK's soft!

RATING: 7

Zachary Flye (Zach's YA Reviews) says

Review:

Protagonist: Coming off the end of CJ's Treasure Chase, Freddie wants to make a name for herself in Auradon as a jazz singer, and the best way to do that is apparently to join an acapella group? Yeah, I understand the experience would be good for her and help get her name out there, but it felt a bit of a stretch. Anyway, after a less than stellar auditions experience, Freddie would do just about anything to get her shot

on the acapella team. Enter her shadow cards. These are cards her father gave her on her tenth birthday that she's just recently rediscovered. Could this be just what she needs? Freddie's adventures with her shadow cards lead her on a voyage of self-discovery that will show her where she belongs. I really liked Freddie's character development in this story. She isn't as evil and villainous as CJ was at the start of her adventure, but she's a long way from a hero and her journey in this story really helps to liven things up because this story doesn't leave Auradon Prep for very long.

World Building: Honestly, the world building in this story wasn't the best. Don't get me wrong, I did really enjoy all of the facets of this world that we did get to see. However, I had thought/hoped this series would entail adventuring across the United States of Auradon and seeing the various kingdom states that make up the land. This story is, however, far more character driven. Freddie is, of course, the main driving force, but she does have some burgeoning friendships. These friendships were a fun treat to see develop over the course of the book. Most of the time with this world characters seem to either be friends or not, and the road to a real friendship is either skipped over or fast tracked as to not get in the way of the plot. However, in this story, Freddie's unlikely friendships are a fantastic subplot that helps drive the main story along at a fun and dare I say addicting pace. We do get to see the world outside Auradon Prep, and even get to do some old fashioned adventuring, however, it doesn't last all that long and while these characters do meet a new AK along the way, the need for that character wasn't all that strong, to begin with and the out of place character sort of detracted from the story just a small bit.

Predictability: Honestly, I have to say this story was fairly unpredictable. However, that's mostly because this wasn't the story I expected and while I could see some small vague story points coming, the specifics really caught me off guard. I really did enjoy all of the little surprises this story had in store. There's a theme of magic coming with a price in this story and how that plays out was really the most surprising part of the story to me, and how that entire thing is resolved, while not exactly surprising, was a great element to the story and I was awed by how much I enjoyed that bit of resolution.

Ending: As for the ending, I was hoping this story would end in a way that wasn't too idealistic since I've seen that can be a trope for books aimed at a younger audience. The ending starts out very well, as the resolution isn't something that would be achieved easily, and there is some real work that needs to be put into things to even hope for a happy ending. That being said though, even though there's some effort needed to get to where Freddie is in the end, things still felt a bit too easily resolved and things ended just a bit too idealistically.

Rating:

While I did enjoy this short adventure, it wasn't as exciting as the previous one, and even though Freddie's character development was extremely compelling, things just turned out a bit too idealistically. That being said I'm still looking forward to reading more in this hard to piece together canon.

Haley says

I love the decendants books I've read all of them and I loved this one too!

Susan says

Will Freddie be able to undo the damage the shadow cards caused? Find out in this installment of Disney Descendants School of Secrets.

Victoria says

It is a great book to read

Alexia says

Freddie is one of my favorite characters in the Descendants Wicked World shorts. I really enjoyed this book! In the first two chapters of Freddie's Shadow Cards, we learn what Freddie's life was like before coming to Auradon Prep and how she dreams of being a jazz singer rather than just a Villain Kid. We Also learn that Freddie is having trouble fitting in at Au radon Prep and is missing her friend CJ back home. When Freddie sees that that the school's singing group, The Auradonnas is holding auditions it seems like things are turning around. However, not all the members want Freddie in the group because she is a Villain Kid. Upset and angry Freddie decides to use her Shadow Cards to get her way. At first things go fine but when the Shadow cards demand payment, Things start going wrongs and its up to Freddie to fix it. I really like the lessons Freddie learns through in the story. She learns that if you want something you need to work hard for it not take the easy way out. She also learns about friendship. If you Love Descendants like I do, pick up this book.

Hannah Dixon says

I liked it. I was a great and easy read. I love Freddie's character. I think she might be my favorite character so far.

Francesca says

Freddie and Friends

Yes, I did read the second book in the series, they're just too cute. Yes, I am in my late 40s, and reading Disney books. Freddie is another VK in an AK world. And of course she tries to do a VK thing to fix things for AKs and VKs.

She then finds out... No, I won't ruin it for you. It's a really cute book.

Katie says

This second book in the School of Secrets series was better than the first. I'm not sure if I just liked Freddie better or if I preferred the plot more, but I enjoyed it more. I also really liked the shadow magic in the book. That was really cool. This is great for anyone who enjoys Descendants and wants a little more than just what we get from the movies.

Thanks Katie for sending this to me!

Evil_Hunter says

I'll buy this book. Want to know more about Freddie and her family history. But I'm afraid that such a wonderful character will spoil, turning it into a reformed child of the villain. Freddie is unique. She doesn't need to become pious doll.
