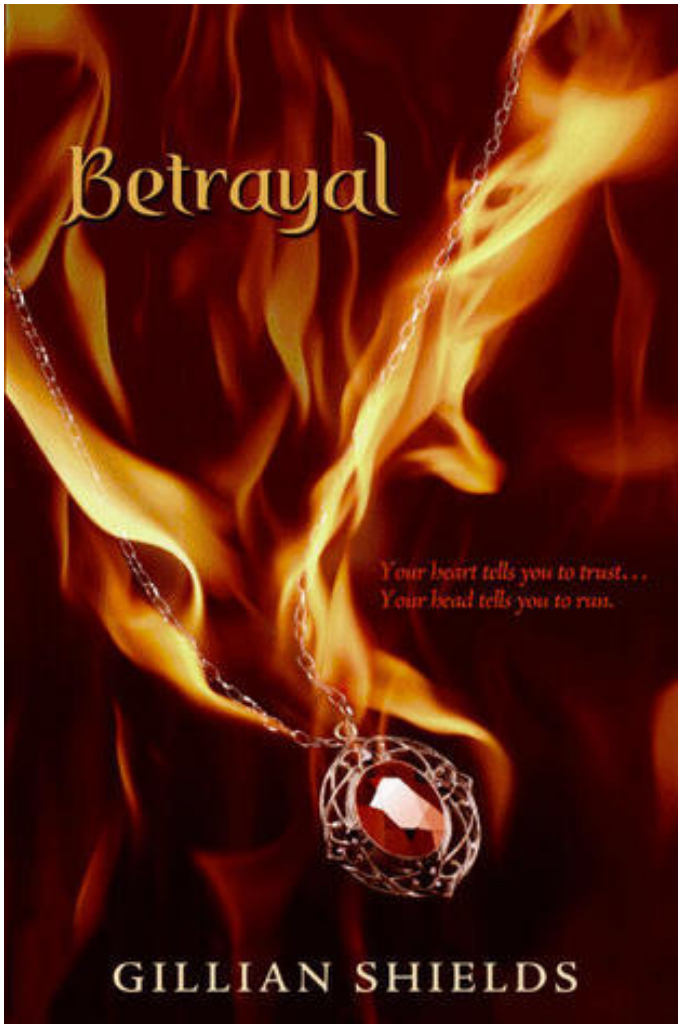

Gillian Shields

Betrayal (Immortal #2)



Title: Betrayal (Immortal #2)

Author: Gillian Shields

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Description

There are the small betrayals: the unkind word, the petty lies. And there are the betrayals that break hearts, destroy worlds, and turn the strong sweet light of day into bitter dust.

When Evie Johnson started at Wyldcliffe Abbey School for Young Ladies, her life changed in ways she couldn't possibly have envisioned: the discovery of her link with Lady Agnes, her special bond with Helen and Sarah, and their sisterhood in the astonishing secrets of the Mystic Way. Above all, Evie's love for Sebastian has turned her world upside down.

Now Evie returns to Wyldcliffe for another term and more danger. Surrounded by enemies, she lives every day in fear that Sebastian will fall into the darkness of servitude to the Unconquered Lords. The Wyldcliffe coven is plotting to destroy Evie and use Sebastian to secure their own immortality. Evie and her sisters must master the power of the Talisman before it is too late. But could it be Sebastian himself who will ultimately betray Evie?

In this companion to Gillian Shields's dazzling *Immortal*, magic and sweeping romance cross the bounds of time to deliver heart-stopping emotion and suspense.

Insightful reviews

Krissy: For me personally, I felt that *Betrayal* was a bit harder to start than *Immortal* was. It took me a very long time to actually get past the first hundred or so pages in this book, but I'm glad I finished it.

What really stood out to me was Evie in this book. I felt that she actually grew as a character, but yet the other characters seemed a bit weaker in development to me, but that could just be me. I think the plot wasn't as rich as I felt the first one was. There was more predictability in *Betrayal* in almost all aspects, where *Immortal* left me room for thinking and questing things more. However, I felt that the end was equally shocking and a good ending tends to make a book appear better in my opinion. I'm looking forward to where Evie's character will head now and am hoping not in the way I figure it is going to be (I'm trying to avoid spoilers, hence the vagueness. If *Eternal* avoids going down the path so-often traveled, I think that my opinion of this book will definitely grow and so will the number of recommendations.

This book is definitely not for everyone because it can read slow or like your typical YA fantasy romance, but if you're willing or at least a bit interested, I suggest you give it a go. It may surprise you!

Small Review: Summary:

Picking up where the first book ended, Evie and her friends attempt to find a way to free

Sebastian from the pact he made over a century ago. As Evie struggles to learn the secrets of the Mystic Way, Sebastian rapidly degenerates and begins to descend into darkness. Complicating things for Evie is the evil sisterhood hoping to gain power through their bond with Sebastian. Evie knows she must win this race against time, or lose Sebastian forever.

Rating: 3 1/2 stars

Review:

In some ways this sequel is a definite improvement over the first book, *Immortal*. I had written in my review for *Immortal* that I had trouble connecting with Evie. Those problems were mostly gone in the second book. While Evie does not manage to fully attach herself to my heart, she has developed into a character I enjoy reading about. I was rooting for her as she tried to save Sebastian, and I felt for her when she ran across problems and uncomfortable situations.

Unfortunately, as Evie strengthened as a character, Sebastian and Evie's friends weakened. Agnes, perhaps my favorite character from the first book, wasn't even in this second book. Helen and Sarah, two characters I liked very much in the first book, were both far less developed in *Betrayal*. They read a lot more like interchangeable lackeys than the strong and likable girls they were in the first book. I was disappointed with this, as I really did like both of them in *Immortal*.

Sebastian was an even bigger disappointment for me. In the first book he was charming, but also kind of scary. He had a reckless madness about himself and he always seemed to be balancing on a tightrope of morality, poised to tip off at any moment. He was the perfect Byronic character and truly embodied Gothic fiction. This dangerousness was exciting and made him an interesting character to read about. In *Betrayal*, Sebastian is a specter of himself. He's lost his edge. Part of my disappointment stems from my own expectations, which perhaps isn't entirely fair to the author. I'll explain.

To me, the setup to *Betrayal* seemed to hint at, well, betrayal (I guess that's a little more than a hint). The cover is filled with fire, the title is betrayal of all things, and the tag line reads, "Your heart tells you to trust, your head tells you to run." The plot has Sebastian sliding into madness, temptation, and the dark side. I was totally expecting and hoping for an impassioned madman who would be truly dangerous to Evie. I was looking forward to reading about them sparring and trying to outwit one another. I wanted to see the dark side of Sebastian and the strength of Evie as she faced off against him and battled for his soul. Basically, I wanted Sebastian to go bad (think Angel when he turns into Angelus and delights in messing with Buffy's head. Yeah, I'm a gigantic Buffy dork).

Instead I got a neutered Sebastian. Crippled, crying, and entirely too good. His slips into cruelty are fleeting and they're treated more like how you would look at a beloved elderly person who suffers from dementia and sometimes lashes out at you. Yeah, it hurts, but you can't and don't blame them. You pity them, and that's exactly what Sebastian was: Pitiful. He wasn't even

charming or attractive like he was in the first book. I was totally disappointed, but again, that is probably in large part due to my own hopes and expectations and not the author's writing.

The plot also suffered in comparison to the first book. A lot more happened in *Immortal*, plus the mysteries and slow exploration of the secrets of the past were a lot more exciting. In *Betrayal*, the mysteries and villains were predictable and easily overcome, so this book lacked much of the tension of the first. I did still enjoy this plot, just not as much as the first book.

My other complaint is with the writing. In both this book and the first, Shields evokes a heavy, florid style designed to take the reader to the wild and emotional moors of Gothic fiction. I love this style, and Shields does a good job at transporting the reader (she's even better in the second book). This is the case, at least, until one of her characters says something completely modern like "Yeah" or "Dad" (as opposed to "Yes" or "Father"). Whenever this happens, I find myself jarred out of the atmosphere she had so elegantly created. This seems especially unnatural because the characters will mix a very modern style of speaking with a very 1800s style of speech and so it sounds pretty unbelievable.

Still, despite all that, there's something about this series I like a lot. It's hard for me to put my finger on why, but despite all the flaws, I still find myself craving the series. I'm caught up in the Gothic whirlwind of danger, secrets, magic, and romance. I want to go back to Wyldcliffe and roam its halls with Evie, dodging and spying on the evil teachers. I want to listen in as Evie unlocks the mysteries of the Talisman and the Mystic Way. Even with all my complaints, I'm excitedly awaiting the third book in the series, set for publication in August of 2011.

Savannah (Books With Bite): I read the first book a llllooonnnngggg time ago, way before I was a blogger. I liked it and when Waldenbooks (AKA Borders) went out of business, I end up picking up this book. I hoped that since the first book fell a little flat for me, the sequel will pick up.

Plot: This plot remains the same as the first with a few differences. Evie is back at the border school, picking up what is left of her life. We all know that in a border school no secrets stay hidden. And before you know it, Evie is back into the same mess she was before, this time alone. I think the plot follows what most people will enjoy. It has that border school feel, with drama and lots of mystery. The beginning felt a bit slow since Evie was recapping what happened in the first book but once you hit mid-middle, things starts to pick up.

Love: I found this love to be really...strange. He is supposedly dead but not quite. Not sure if that makes any sense, but he gives her clues and helps Evie gain the tools she needs to fight evil at the school. The story also switches pov of both Evie and Sebastian. I found Sebastions pov kind of pointless. He pretty much said the same things over and over. I do however, like that his love for Evie help me stay strong.

End: The ending has a bittersweet moment in which Evie has to face loss all over again. There are few minor characters that peaked my interest and I'm anxious to see what roles they will play in the next book.

Overall, indeed this book did pick up some. This story does give the reader a bit more meat to chew. We learn more history on the school and why the evil resides there. Betrayal brings more emotions to the readers and more depth to the story. Betrayal is good.

Hoang-lan: their love turn into better at the same time evie, separated from sebastian, attempted to discover a therapy for him. studying the entries of sebastian's diary made me unhappy simply because he used to be death and his final reminiscence of her was once fading, nonetheless he desired to defend her. i do not like josh. he has no enterprise butting into evie and sebastian's relationship. it's going to were higher if he fall for sarah, who sought after his attention. he and evie made a terrible pair. within the end, evie and sebastian figured out that agnes's genuine energy used to be love and she or he sealed her love for sebastian away within the talisman. the one medication for sebastian was once death, yet no less than he and evie have been capable of spend one final day loving. *tears welling up* i really cried while sebastian died. this is often most likely suggest of me, yet i would like evie to stick unswerving to sebastian endlessly rather than relocating directly to josh. even if sebastian instructed evie to maneuver on with life, have youngsters and stuff, i nonetheless wish evie to be unswerving simply because that is the precise definition of perpetually love.

Patricia (Patricia's Particularity): Gillian Shields keeps Evie Johnson's trip via her previous to avoid wasting her destiny at Wyldcliffe Abbey. yet Evie Johnson is not only attempting to store her personal future, she is attempting to avoid wasting the way forward for her new stumbled on sisters, Helen and Sarah, and actual love, Sebastian. In her trip to discover a medication to maintain Sebastian from endlessly turning into a part of the darkness, Evie additionally learns extra approximately her previous and the previous of the Talisman. She additionally learns who's her enemy and who she will trust. Gillian Shields' sequel to Immortal was once a section disappointing in my opinion. I regrettably didn't locate whatever particular approximately this book. i discovered Evie's love for Sebastian overplayed, as I did within the first book. I additionally came across Sebastian's personality to have made an entire 180. at the different hand, there have been various issues that i actually enjoyed. Evie as a personality for example. Evie is way enhanced during this book, making her even more believable. I additionally fairly loved the relationships she shaped with Sarah and Helen (even although every now and then their friendship appeared one sided). I truthfully think that with out her new energy and friendships she don't have been in a position to make the choices she made. although i'd now not have additional this ebook to my favorites, I do wish that Gillian Shields maintains this series, as i do know that there's even more in shop for Evie and her new discovered Sisters.

Liz: "Your actual power...it's love, isn't really it?" A nice stick to as much as Immortal. Surprising, suspenseful and shall I say a section disappointing?? Don't get me wrong, the tale used to be nice packed with all of the crafty information as was once within the first booklet but the end result was once no longer what I had anticipated and left me feeling a bit empty. once more we spend our time with Evie, Helen and Sarah. those "sisters" are enjoyable and encouraging with simply the correct amount of awkward imperfection. Gillian back enriched us with such tremendous info making the college a personality all it's own. It's a spot i may examine forever. I loved the improvement of Josh's personality and i'm curious to work out how Gillian will discover this in e-book 3, Eternal. And then of course, there's Sebastian. "When i'm long gone

my dearest, sing no unhappy songs for me..." My center be still. i like this boy greater than i will say and so probably this is the reason i used to be left a section empty. My purely feedback will be that his personality might have been extra found in this book. even though it will be remiss of me let alone the eloquent letters we have been aware about web page after page. I so loved studying from Sebastian's pov...this used to be my favourite factor approximately this book!"It is with God that i discovered you" "In the some distance wild north I watch and wait,For the woman from the stressed sea.Oh, some distance wild wind, please locate my loveAnd ship her again to me." "Sebastian James Fairfax. My first, my simply love."

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