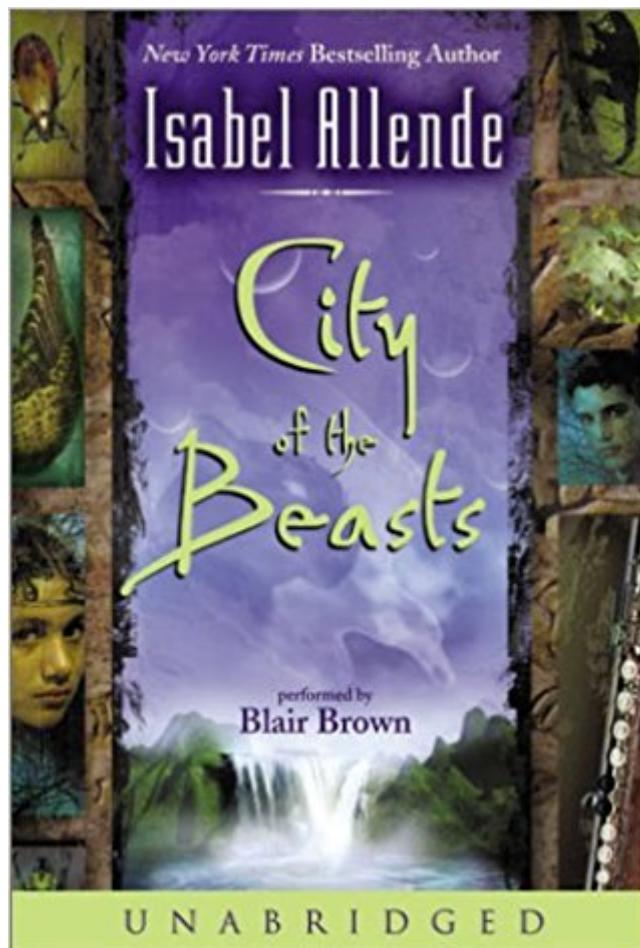


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# City Of The Beasts



## **Synopsis**

Fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold has the chance to take the trip of a lifetime. Parting from his family and ill mother, Alexander joins his fearless grandmother, a magazine reporter for International Geographic, on an expedition to the dangerous, remote world of the . Their mission, along with the others on their team -- including a celebrated anthropologist, a local guide and his young daughter Nadia, and a doctor -- is to document the legendary Yeti of the known as the Beast. Under the dense canopy of the jungle, Alexander is amazed to discover much more than he could have imagined about the hidden worlds of the rain forest. Drawing on the strength of the jaguar, the totemic animal Alexander finds within himself, and the eagle, Nadia's spirit guide, both young people are led by the invisible People of the Mist on a thrilling and unforgettable journey to the ultimate discovery....In a stunning novel of high adventure, internationally celebrated novelist Isabel Allende leads readers through the intricacies of two personal quests, and on an epic voyage -- teeming with magical realism -- into the wonder-filled heart of the .

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 10 and up

Audio Cassette

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## **Customer Reviews**

Adventure seekers will find plenty of thrills in Allende's first novel for young readers. When 15-year-old Alexander Cold is sent to stay with his eccentric, gruff grandmother, Kate, while his mother is being treated for cancer, he is more than a little reluctant to accompany Kate on a writing assignment in South America to search for a legendary nine-foot-tall "Beast." However, once the

expedition down the begins, Alexander's doubts are pushed out of his mind by more immediate concerns, such as keeping an eye on two suspicious members of the party: a native named Karakawe and Mauro Cari as, a wealthy entrepreneur. After Alexander's mysterious encounter with a caged jaguar, another teen, Nadia, explains its importance to him, and begins calling Alexander "Jaguar." This marks the beginning of their somewhat surreal journey: the two teens are kidnapped by the "People of the Mist," a tribe possessing the power of turning invisible, and enter a mountain to discover the mythical city of El Dorado and the enigmatic "Beasts." Reluctant readers may be intimidated by the thickness of this volume, but the plot moves at a rapid pace, laced with surprises and ironic twists. The action and outcome seem preordained, cleverly crafted to deliver the moral, but many readers will find the author's formula successful with its environmentalist theme, a pinch of the grotesque and a larger dose of magic. Ages 10-up. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 7-10-In her first novel for younger readers (HarperCollins, 2002), Isabel Allende creates an authentic South American world, this time in the rain forest, and combines it with mythical realms of the imagination. California teen Alexander Cold embarks with his rather stern and prickly grandmother Kate, a writer, on a trek to locate a legendary Yeti-like Beast of the . An egotistical anthropologist, two photographers, and a guide with a teenage daughter fill out the official party. They are joined by a rich adventurer with villainous intentions and a doctor whose job supposedly is to carry protective vaccines to any native population. The story develops jungle and expedition details as well as cultural and economic conflicts with a mysterious People of the Mist very well. But the travels of the young people alone into the territory of the People as well as that of the giant Beasts are full of mysticism and fantastic happenings. Just when one twist of the plot seems to be reaching a resolution, two or three more arise, creating layer upon layer of incredible events. Narrator Blair Brown creates subtle voices and distinguishing accents for all the characters. Her rendering of unfamiliar native words is excellent, and this feature will be helpful to listeners who might come to a frustrated full stop at seeing the words in print. Her convincing reading is a real asset. A short appropriate musical passage plays at the beginning and ending of each side of the tape. The lengthy, complex plot may limit the audiobook's appeal. The story is noteworthy for its portrayal of the region and its problems, but unusual in its reliance on the supernatural and mystical. It will appeal to teens with an interest in the rain forest and a taste for the fantastic.Jane P. Fenn, Corning-Painted Post West High School, Painted Post NYCopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Maybe something was lost in translation, parts were over simplified and story didn't flow in other parts. Realizing it was written as a 'young adult' novel makes most flaws easier to overlook. It did hold my attention for the most part but not sure I'll pick up the others in the trilogy.

This is the first of Isabel Allende's trilogy... for young people and adults. written in her great literary style it is full of vivid images, great travel information, and delightful characters ranging from an elderly anthropologist to her young teen grandson and young female from the .I suppose somewhere in here might be the heavy religious tones of Narnia or Philip Pullman (if so I missed them). Beasts and its sequels are simply delightful imaginative tales... a bit like Hudson's,Green Mansions, seldom read today. this is nature fantasy, not technology stuff.This would be a good family read choice: suitable for good readers of about a 6th grade reading level or a good parent read aloud book for poorer readers or a "you read a chapter, I read a chapter" bed time reading. It is a great introduction to a good writer with outstanding adults books. Once I read one I needed all three and bought all three for adults sons for Christmas. Great price at buying all three together in paperback.

I love this author and this work is special since it is the first of a trilogy for young readers. Two young people find themselves captives of an indigenous tribe near the River, and become the tribe's bridge to dealing with encroaching business concerns. Their presence in the area is with an expedition seeking a creature similar to the yeti.

Interesting mix of fantasy but also real possibility of what could happen in our modern world. Thought provoking But a great read. Would be good for teenagers.

This is a really great book and reread.

This is a wonderful read for anyone, young or old. I am a middle school teacher and my students were on the edge of their seats with this one.

My daughter had to read this book for school , but in the process of helping her in her summer reading . I ended up picking it up a few times. We have hoped it would be on kindle or audible soon as I think it would be a great story.

This book must be popular with people who enjoy Hollywood blockbusters, because the plot is entirely predictable and the characters are cardboard cutouts. I kept reading it to see what would happen next, but was disappointed that so much of the story sounds like a grade-B horror/adventure flick from the 1950s. The writing is sloppy, too. For example, the lead character is Alex, a 15-year-old high school boy who's been wearing glasses since he was 10. Early in the book, he steps on his glasses and smashes them to smithereens. You'd think this would hinder him somehow, but the author has him go about his business as if nothing was wrong. Later, Alex finds himself inside a dark cave. The author writes, "Alex knew very little about minerals, but he recognized opals, topazes, agates, formations of quartz and alabaster, jade, and tourmaline." Excuse me, he knows a lot about minerals! And he's recognizing these gemstones without the aid of his glasses! Sloppy writing! Stereotypical plot! Cardboard characters! And a cornball ending where the survivors trade lame jokes around the campfire! Buy something else, like the original "Frankenstein" or "Dracula"!

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