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### Nevermoor #1: The Trials of Morrigan Crow

Rebecca Lambert

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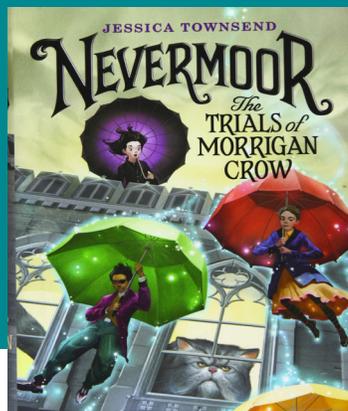
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## Book Review

# Nevermoor #1: The Trials of Morrigan Crow

### Author

Jessica Townsend

### Reviewer

Rebecca Lambert

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### Rating

Outstanding

### Level

Primary, Intermediate,  
Young Adult

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### Pages

465

### Year

2017

### ISBN

9780316439954

### Publisher

Little, Brown Books for  
Young Readers

Morrigan Crow is cursed to die on her eleventh birthday. Normally, on one's eleventh birthday, patrons can present their bids to have a specific child as an apprentice or as a student. The day arrives, and two mysterious men present their bids for Morrigan: Mr. Jones to claim her as an apprentice for Ezra Squall, and Jupiter North to claim her as a candidate for the Wondrous Society. Jupiter comes to her home and offers to save her from her untimely death. Morrigan chooses Jupiter, and she gets whisked away to the free realm of Nevermoor. While there, she undergoes a series of trials to join the Wondrous Society. She also has to deal with the consequences of entering Nevermoor illegally, and she and Jupiter have to constantly avoid the law. In the end, she discovers that Mr. Jones is actually Ezra Squall, the evil Wundersmith, in disguise. He created her curse, and he tells Morrigan that she, too, is a wundersmith. She manages to escape the Wundersmith, and she officially joins the Wondrous Society.

This book is outstanding and can be enjoyed by kids and adults. It has well-developed and interesting characters, an immersive setting, and powerful morals. Morrigan is a relatable protagonist, especially to anyone who has felt different. She grows up with a family who despises her for being cursed, so her main goal as a character is to have friends that are like family. The other characters are brimming with personality. Nevermoor is simply magical, and different enough from other fantasy worlds to feel fresh and new. This book teaches that people can care for you unconditionally, even when you feel like you don't deserve it. It also teaches that friends can truly become like a second family. In the trials, Morrigan learns that it's more important to be clever, strategic, and brave than it is to be talented. The book's atmosphere truly fills the reader with "wunder."