

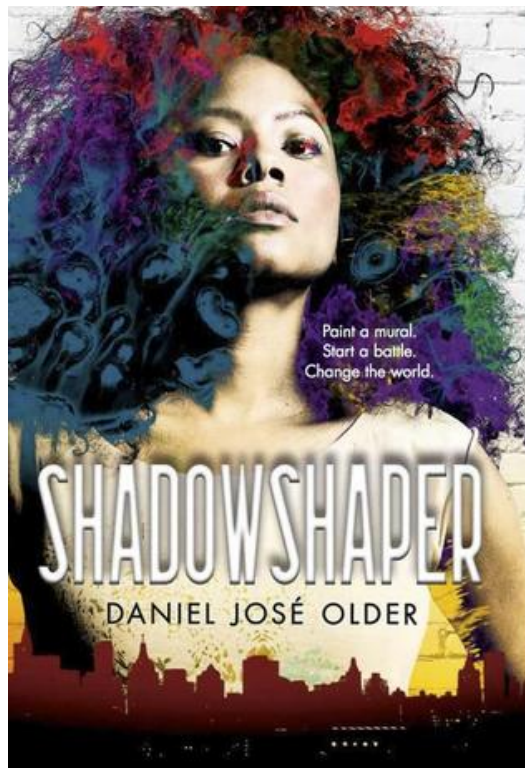


## Top Ten (Tuesday) Favorite Villains

Originally posted: <http://thefakesteph.com/top-ten-tuesday-favorite-villains/>

Top Ten Tuesday is a weekly meme hosted by [The Artsy Reader Girl](#) that combines lists and books. This week's topic is... Favorite Villains.

A villain can make or break a story for me, so I'm really excited to share my favorite! These are in no particular order.



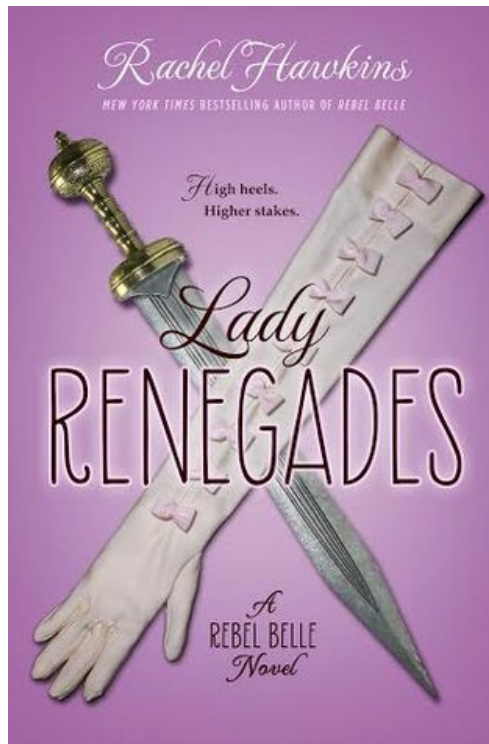
Shadowshaper by Daniel Jose Older is amazing, but the villain here was so real. This book is very much about cultural appropriation and the villain fit in perfectly with the themes of the book.



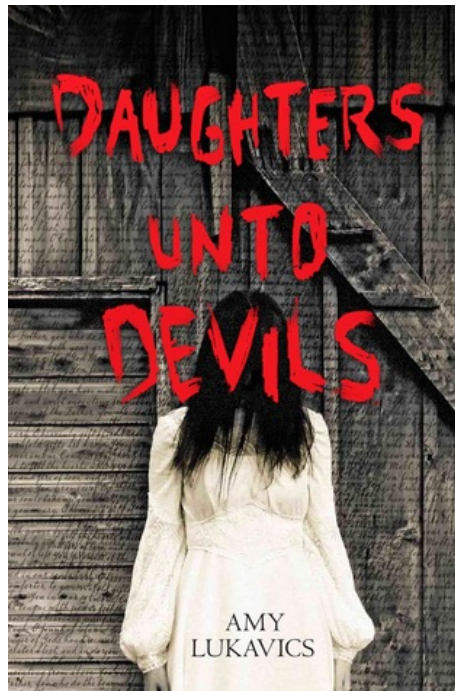
Jennifer Lynn Barne's Natural series has a creepy villain... organization really... that created a serious threat. I wasn't sure if the protagonist would be able to defeat them. This villain really chilled me.



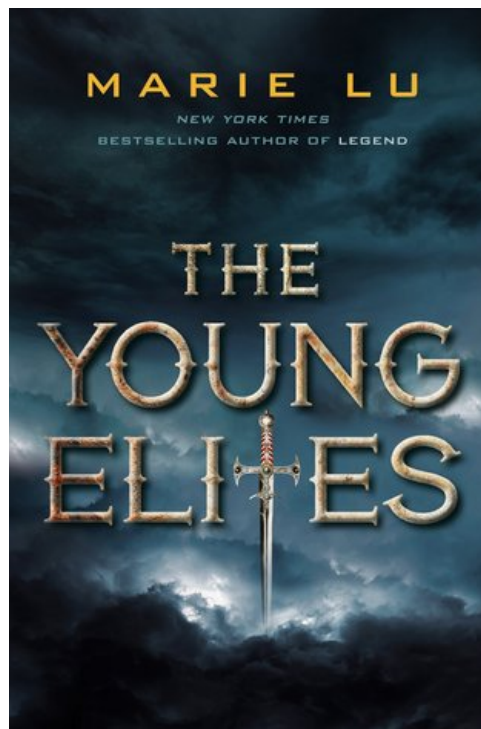
Really, the villain here is the wealthy who oppress society for personal gain, and I'm so here for it.



What I loved in Lady Renegades is that the villain is someone we love. It's heartbreaking and complicated, and I loved every minute!



Pure creeping horror. I don't do horror very often, but I do it for Amy Lukavics. The villains here had me sleeping with the lights on!

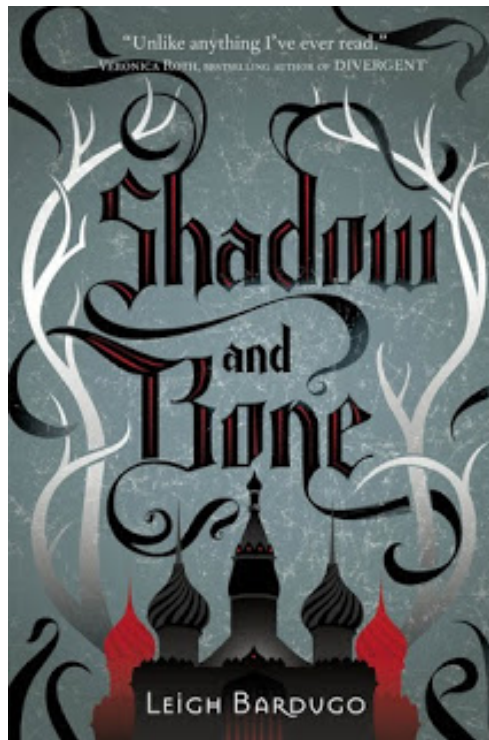


The Young Elites forces you to question who the villain is and if there are any good characters. I like the moral ambiguity and thought-provoking story.

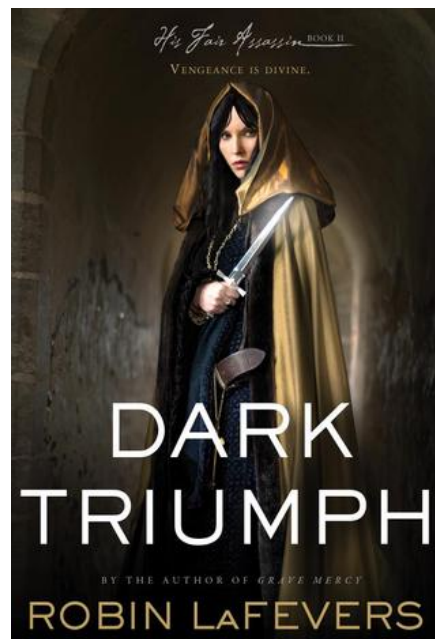


I love my villains smart, and Lyga delivered. Nothing makes me hate a book more than when it turns out the villain is crazy and the protagonist exploits that to win the day. Crazy people aren't evil. And bad people might just be bad. Lyga's villain is devious and horrific and probably the smartest person in the whole book. (I'm talking about the series villain, not the book villain.)

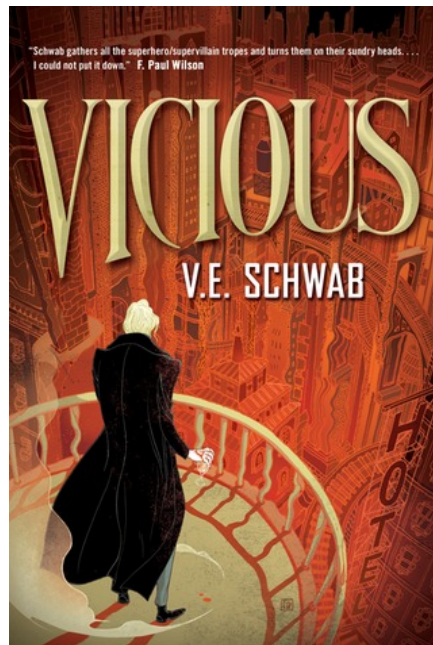




Bardugo blew me away with *The Darkling*. He is charming and powerful and attractive, but as the series continues, he becomes unforgivable. You learn about him and understand him and he's real, but Bardugo never uses his past to excuse the horrible things he does. He is probably my all-time favorite villain.



The villain in *Dark Triumph* is the protagonist's father. She must deal with someone who is pure evil, but also contend with the abuse she suffered growing up with him.



I can't have a list of villains without VE Schwab's Vicious. The book intentionally plays with the ideas of heroes and villains, and it is interesting that the villain here is universally acknowledged within the story as a hero.