

SIX OF CROWS BY LEIGH BARDUGO



“A gambler, a convict, a wayward son, a lost Grisha, a Suli girl who had become a killer, a boy from the Barrel who had become something worse.”

Six of Crows is a spin off from the Shadow and Bone trilogy that follows six distinct characters with one common goal that results in essentially; a dysfunctional family of morally grey criminals. Each with alternating narrative chapters, and with their own unique set of skills, quirks, and baggage. Six of Crows opens in Ketterdam—a port city of opportunity and the brutal street lord with a knack for thieving, Kaz Brekker. The rest of the crew is filled out by extraordinary characters, who excel at everything from sharpshooting to demolition to controlling the human body.

Kaz is approached with a dangerous, but lucrative proposition: break into the impenetrable Ice Court and retrieve the package. A heist so challenging that he doubts his ability to accomplish it however his ambition and the promise of money outweigh the possibility that this mission may be their last.

This particular series catapults you into a fast-paced flow of action, revenge and redemption from the first chapter, rendering it compulsively readable, although it does rely on character development just as much as plot to move the story forward. Each character is multidimensional and develops in meaningful and substantial ways over the course of the two books despite the fantastical setting and their questionable morality.

Bardugo wields a technique that allows for a unique way in which she deals with trauma and diversity. While a number of the characters have had some sort of traumatic circumstance in their past, these experiences and aftermath neither define nor dismiss them. Instead, contribute to a small, yet vital, part of their identities. The transitions between chapters and points of view provided a well-defined insight into the minds of the protagonists.

This series is definitely suited for those who enjoy the prospect of a compelling fantasy setting, a thrilling heist and characters that are resplendent in their individuality and characterisation.