



## Night of Cake & Puppets

*Laini Taylor, Jim Di Bartolo (Illustrator)*

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**In this stand-alone companion to the *New York Times* bestselling *Daughter of Smoke & Bone* series comes the story of Mik and Zuzana's fantastical first date—as a gorgeously illustrated gift edition with bonus content included.**

Petite though she may be, Zuzana is not known for timidity. Her best friend, Karou, calls her "rabid fairy," her "voodoo eyes" are said to freeze blood, and even her older brother fears her wrath. But when it comes to the simple matter of talking to Mik, or "Violin Boy," her courage deserts her. Now, enough is enough. Zuzana is determined to make the first move, and she has a fistful of magic and a plan. It's a wonderfully elaborate treasure hunt of a plan that will take Mik all over Prague on a cold winter's night before leading him to the treasure: herself! Violin Boy is not going to know what hit him.

*New York Times* bestselling author Laini Taylor brings to life a night only hinted at in the *Daughter of Smoke & Bone* trilogy—the magical first date of fan-favorites Zuzana and Mik. Originally published as an ebook, this new print edition will include breathtaking black and white illustrations, plus bonus content in a gorgeous package perfect for new and current fans of the series.

## Night of Cake & Puppets Details

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Author : Laini Taylor , Jim Di Bartolo (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Night of Cake & Puppets for online ebook

### Aj the Ravenous Reader says

I may be stricken with the **forever in awe syndrome** for this author goddess called Laini Taylor.

I didn't expect to like this novella as much as I did the main trilogy but if it's possible, I may have even liked this a bit more or perhaps just in a totally different category. While every book in the Daughter of Smoke and Bone series always has this bittersweet tone from beginning to end, this is purely sweet and adorable and thus the title is truly very fitting. (Jonnie, are you reading this? There's cake!)

Here, we learn of the story of the night Zuzana finally decided to let Mik know her feelings for him through an elaborate treasure hunt involving puppets and magic and the treasure is of course, the lovely rabid fairy (in the figurative sense) aka Zuzana. At the near end of the hunt, a surprise involving a super special cake (the dark, chocolate kind) and more await Zuzana.

Told in alternating POVs of Mik and Zuzana, this wonderful, fantastic short read will make you laugh, swoon and fall in love and I learn that when in love, even the most formidable girl will blush and will feel the need to use <3 in her text messages.

No wonder, I always use <3. Teehee! <3 <3 <3

Oh and there are a lot of blushing especially from Mik. Lol!

Thanks for bringing this to my attention, Evelyn! <3

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### Cait • A Page with a View says

THIS WAS SO COMPLETELY ADORABLE. It was all of the best elements of the first Daughter of Smoke & Bone book and totally needs to be its own book!

It's just a short novella that tells the story of Zuzana and Mik meeting for the first time, but it's so stinking cute. She leaves him a treasure map that leads him on a night trip through Prague during a snowstorm. Karou gave her some scuppies to animate a puppet and do some other cool magical things. It's all puppets and magic and creepy gothic architecture with a fairy tale quality.

The story itself is fun, but oh my goodness the writing is SO good. It's told in alternating POVs and both characters are so completely vibrant and *real*. And they each had a distinct, strong personality. I was laughing out loud at several parts -- like how was I more invested in this short novella than I am in most 600-page books?! Laini Taylor is amazing and I really wish this could be a full book.

UPDATE: this is going to be a physical book this fall! Thank you to the publisher for sending me an ARC.

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### **Romie says**

That simply was the cutest thing ever. I think that's something we can all agree on.

I love Mik and Zuzana in the original trilogy so I was more than happy when I learned this story was a thing and that it was being published in physical form. I just knew I needed it.

It's the one story you need to read when you want something cute, adorable, fluffy, you name it. I needed more Mik and Zuzana in my life, I really wanted to know how they came to be an actual couple and they're goals. Honestly.

If Laini Taylor wants to write more books about them, I'm okay with that. Please.

4.5

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### **??Erica?? says**

**OMMGGGGGGG IM HAVING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HEART ATTACK**

**THAT WAS SO WONDERFUL I COULD CRYYYYYY**

**AGHHGHGHGHHHHHHH**

Laini Taylor is such a brilliant and magical force of creativity. I want her to be constantly telling me bedtime stories and narrating my life and being my friend. GAH. HER WRITING IS SO PERFECT. I wish she would write a whole book from these characters' perspectives. It was just so WOW.

Whoever you are, you should totally read this. **It will warm your soul.**

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### **Stacee says**

This is perfection.

Zuzana and Mik were some of my favorite parts of the original series and getting to see how the date happened was everything I could have wanted. The artwork was a fantastic addition and I can't wait to see the added pieces that weren't in the arc.

Now I reaaaally want to reread DoSaB.

\*\*Huge thanks to The Novl for providing the arc free of charge\*\*

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### **Faye\* says**

This was such a sweet story! I'm rating this as what it is: a sweet little story within the *Daughter of Smoke and Bones* universe (and definitely not a standalone of its own!) and as that it was perfect. Even though Zuzana and Mik are one of those super cute couples, I was surprised at how much I loved them throughout the series, and that I did not find them annoying at all, which definitely speaks for Laini Taylor's writing. Speaking of writing, it was beautiful and humorous and it just makes me look forward to "Strange the Dreamer" even more.

*"All evening, ever since carpe diabolus, my rational self has been lying on its back making lazy snow angels while hopeful self sits on its chest humming and I let myself play this game of magic."*

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### **Arah-Lynda says**

It was bound to happen at some point. I have never before acquired one of these ½ books or companion books if you prefer. So why now? We are talking Laini Taylor here, goddess of words, high priestess of literary magic. And I needed a fix. It has been a long time since I finished The Daughter of Smoke & Bone trilogy and I had a deep hankering for more of this woman's magic pen.

So enter Night of Cake & Puppets, which is really just a little novella about the night that Zuzana and Mik got together. Here it is and it is delightful.

No need to worry about fallen angels or marauding chimaera. No Karou and Akiva around to steal the spotlight.

Better still, an elaborate, little treasure hunt of sorts is afoot; one that is set in winter and winds through the picturesque streets of Prague. Our violin boy, Mik, starts out with a clue left to him in secret by Zuz, who is determined to finally have a conversation with the musician she cannot seem to stop thinking about. If he interprets and follows her clue correctly he will surely find another. A little bit of magic may even unfold as Zuz has a small handful of scuppies left.

Mik is doing great and Zuz is preparing herself for the end game when she suddenly realizes that the tables have been turned and now she is the one following questionable directions.

There are puppets, sometimes they even embrace and there is most assuredly cake.

Who knows there may even be a kiss or two before Mik and Zuz part company for the night. You will just have to read it and enjoy a sip or two of Laini's delectable words for yourself. Even if they are, oh so sadly, served in an all too small teacup.

Sigh.....I still want more.

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### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

OMG! I loved this little book so much! And I want y'all to see the beautiful cover when you take off the dust jacket and the inside front pages. There are also beautiful illustrations through-out the book but I haven't added them.

This is a sweet story of Zuzana and Mic ♥ Karou is in it as well.

I loved it so much and like I said before, it's a short little book but it's so freaking awesome! I highly recommend it if you love Daughter of Smoke and Bone!

Happy Reading!

Mel ♥

MY BLOG: [Melissa Martin's Reading List](#)

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### **Christy says**

Laini Taylor's writing is incredible. Beautiful and magical. And so is this novella.

Fans of her *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* series know Karou's best friend Zuze. I loved her in the first two book so I was excited to read her novella. Zuze was great, but Mik's pov made this novella for me!

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With the third book in the series coming out soon, I am glad I read this now. I am even more excited to jump back into this fantastical world! For those who haven't read this series, I'm not even a huge fantasy reader and it's a favorite of mine, so pick it up!

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### **Lyn says**

I was on the verge of dying in agony when I was notified that the publication of the final book: "*Daughter of Smoke and Bone : Dreams of Gods and Monsters*" was moved to next year. Yes, next freaking year! -(Can

~~you believe that? Because I can't even!)~~

So I just found myself wandering outside for nowhere and just wanted to climb into my bed and cuddle the sh\*t out of my blanket and basically sleep for a week so I never have to face this *news* again!

**NO THANK YOU!**

**BUT** not until Laini Taylor announced on her blog that she is going to release a companion novella of her trilogy, **A MIK and ZUZE's love story!**

So I was like ..

*Oh ! Taylor .. you're such an angel!*

Thank you so much! Thank you for this gift!

*Thank you.*

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**P says**

“Life doesn't need magic to be magical.”

How sweet it is ! Zuzana and Mik are my favorite characters from Daughter and Smoke & Bone. Zuzana took a big part of the story and I wanted to see her being happy. And I finally got thier short story and catched up their love lives since the main series didn't mention them much.

Zuzana has a plan for Mik. If he truly wants her, he has to find her. This concept was kinda weird for me at first. But this was Laini Taylor ! And her book can't be simple. So this book is full of rainbows and candies and sweetness. As I mentioned before, Laini Taylor didn't just write her books, she crafted it, she built it like a piece of art and made me feel every element and word she put in them thoroughly. It successfully reach the deepest part of my heart and warm it up.

“It’s like losing gravity and falling into space – the moment of pitching headlong when the endlessness of space asserts itself and there is no more down, only an eternity of up, and you realize you can fall forever and never run out of stars.”

Literally touching. Perfect. I couldn't have asked for more.

<https://goo.gl/qPcwcI>

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### **Lola says**

This surprising, illustrated edition of the short story featuring Zuzana and her love interest as they gather their courage to admit their attraction to one another is a love letter and a gift to fans of the DAUGHTER OF SMOKE & BONE series.

It's a better gift than the one Twilight fans got with the gender-reversal Life and Death: Twilight Reimagined “experience” that's for sure. Living Zuzana and Mik's first date through poetic writing and illustrations—by a great illustrator at that—is perfection.

I read this in a single sitting. Thanks to the he said/she said narration, this first date is cuter than ever. How often have you wished to know your sweetheart's impressions of your first date together? Lucky us, omniscient readers, we see all and we know all!

Zuzana and Mik are adorable. Granted, it is a fairytale, meaning that it may feel realistic, but this unique date is unique because it was designed by Laini Taylor—magic is included! The feelings, however, are extraordinarily real.

It is perfection. Zuzana definitely deserved her own book, however short it may be—make it longer, I want more! She is a great friend to Karou (very loyal) and a strong character. It's too bad my advance copy was missing lots of what I imagine to be enchanting artwork. But I'd be silly to complain about having had the chance to read this edition early.

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### **Lona says**

If it wasn't currently storming outside, I would go out on to my roof and shout to the world how much I love this book♥?♥?♥?♥?

I am now demanding that all books be as magical and as lovely and as wonderfully-innocent-but-still-insanely-swoon-worthy as this!

Also, I have always believed that books have ruined any chance at my finding love due the insane expectations it has given me, but this book is the final nail in the proverbial coffin (pretty sure that is where my cold, dark heart is hidden?????) But seriously, mik and zuzana's love is so whimsical and beautiful that I

just want to bottle it up and hug it!

Everyone read it ASAP!!

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### **karen says**

okay, so this is just a perfect, sweet love story. and i don't usually go in for perfect, sweet love stories, but i loved these characters in the first two smoke & bone books, and here they are allowed to experience their first meeting and first kiss without any pesky tensions like supernatural war or death mucking it all up for them.

and it is so charming.

two sweet quirky kids finding love and magic in a snowstorm in prague. and there is cake! and it is written by laini taylor with all of her gliding lyricism and humor; what could be better than that? she writes the love story i want to live and it never once felt treacly to me, and i am hypersensitive to barfy treacle.

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and dana - i know you don't like these characters, 'cuz they are all whimsy and bubbles, but if you just read this and pretend they are two dudes, i think you will really like it. try it!! TRY IT!!!! DANA TRY IT!!!

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### **Hannah Greendale says**

Click here to watch a video review of this book on my channel, *From Beginning to Bookend*.

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The electric thrill of young love and first kisses captured through a lens that spies a rabid fairy, a poison cafe, and enchanted marionettes.

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### **C.G. Drews says**

**This news just in: THIS BOOK IS FREAKING GORGEOUS.** So I brought the hardcover and like omgaaa it's the most darn attractively beautifully put together book I've ever had the pleasure of devouring WITH MY EYES. I love Zuzana and this book was super cute and super fluffy. Which is weird considering most of Laini Taylor's books end in *WAR. MONSTERS. GODS. DEATH.* All things I love and appreciate.

**But holy heck did I mention this book is BEAUTIFUL. Okay so what's inside is:**

- when you take off the dust jacket the hardback is like blue and pink with illustrations of Zuzana and Mix on each side
- it's FULL of drawings
- at the end there's a snippet of a scene from Daughter of Smoke and Bone but like made into a comic

strip!!!!!! I want the whole book now!!!

- There are pages of gorgeously drawn snowflakes
- AND A FEW CUTE MAPS
- and the chapter headers are just ahhhhh!!!!

I'm like 500% of the opinion that ALL books should be filled with art. I'm such a visual creature I can't even.

**OK so the actual story??** I guess we should discuss it. I GUESS. I mean it's very smol so there's not much to discuss. I do think the actual story was probably about 3-stars. It's just Zuzana hasn't got the courage to talk to her crush so she leaves him a treasure map to her and speckles it with magic and puppets **and this is legit the cutest thing ever** but also...they're really besotted with each other and HAVE NEVER SPOKEN. I have questions. I am a heartless frog from the darklands and sometimes I don't understand people ok. But whatever. I still appreciated the level of cute.

And Zuzana is the perfect rabid fairy too.

(Although I felt the writing lacked the delicious gorgeously hewn prose that usually comes in a Laini novel?!?? Or maybe I'm just still hungover from Strange the Dreamer? Who can know.)

**AND THERE'S CAKE.** The cake is like CHOCOLATEY. (Obviously, Zuzana confessed she might not make it work out with Mik if he didn't like chocolate cake and I'm like..."woman, I love your priorities and the world doesn't deserve your pureness.") But this is like my first ever book I've owned with "cake" in the title so excuse me while I'm ridiculously pleased.

**ANYWAY. Super cute and fluffy and fun!** I don't actually remember much of the DOSAB trilogy (go me...my brain is a holey piece of cheese and I love it for being itself but HOLY HECK, BRAIN, WOULD YOU PLEASE RETAIN SOME INFORMATION) but that didn't stop me from loving being back in Prague. And it was all so AESTHETIC with taking tea in the falling snow and all the creepy puppets and the snatches of wishes and the whispers of magic. It's truly a pretty book. <3

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**Jessica ✶ Silverbow ✶ ✶ Rabid Reads-no-more says**

**9/19/17:** Got my beauteous hardback in the mail last week and forgot to post about it. DEFINITELY worth adding to the rest of the collection.

So in DAUGHTER OF SMOKE & BONE, we know that Zuze is mackin' on Mik, and we know that they're together \*waggles eyebrows\* when Karou gets back from her gallivanting, but we don't know the details . . . *here* are the details . . .

It's told in dual POVs (which I love), and it opens with a (HILARIOUS) flashback into Zuzana and Karou's early friendship. This flashback establishes that Zuzana came by her insanity honestly, and involves an undead fox Cossack that her grandfather caught.

*"Caught it," Karou repeated. "And where do grandfathers catch . . . undead fox Cossacks?"  
"In Russia, of course."*

*"Of course."*

This thing is positively RIFE with one-liners:

*"My height triggers the puppy-kitten reflex--Must touch--and I've found that since you can't electrify yourself like a fence, the next best thing is to have murderer's eyes."*

In reference to her grandfather's nickname for her:

*It's for **mucholapka podivna**, or Venus flytrap, in honor of my 'quiet bloodthirst' and 'patient cunning' in my lifelong war with Tomas.*

*"Even if you're not miniature like me--four foot eleven in a good mood, as little as four foot **eight** when in despair . . . "*

*"for fun and evil"*

*"That's not my heartbeat pounding in my throat. That's confidence."*

Getting the picture? I loved this novella.

I thought I was going to love, LOVE, L-O-V-E it, and now I'm thinking that maybe it seemed to meander in places b/c it's impossible to maintain the level of hilarity that was established at the beginning. It's 79 pages long, and I feel like it could have been cut down to 60-65.

Regardless of length though, it was pure awesomeness. READ IT!

**My other reviews for this series:**

**Daughter of Smoke & Bone (Daughter of Smoke & Bone #1)**

**Days of Blood & Starlight (Daughter of Smoke & Bone #2)**

**Dreams of Gods & Monsters (Daughter of Smoke & Bone #3)**

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**Elise (TheBookishActress) says**

This is a purely sweet romance between Zuzana and Mik. That's honestly it. And I absolutely loved it. It's cute, it's lovable, and it's heartwarming.

While *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* is narrated in third person, *Night of Cake and Puppets* is told in first person. It's a seamless transition for her, somehow. This woman really is incredibly talented.

My favorite part was the humorous narrative voice. Zuzana and Mik each have distinct voices, of course, but each are funny in their own ways.

*Even if you're not miniature like me--four foot eleven in a good mood, as little as four foot **eight** when in despair.*

I also totally loved that Zuzana was the one to instigate their relationship. It's more fitting for her personality, and I loved that Laini Taylor didn't give way to the temptation to write some sexy meeting.

*Me, sweep him off his feet? I know. The laws of the jungle and romance novels would have it the other way around, but I'm not going to wait one more second for that.*

**Laini Taylor's romantic couples are really made for me.** One of my biggest issues with YA romance is the constant “hot alpha male and cute naive girl” trope. As an avid hater of the hot alpha male trope, I am so grateful that **Laini Taylor does not write hot alpha males.** Her main guy characters are usually fairly sweet and nerdy types, which is way, way more attractive to me. Since I can't get caught up in the swoon session over a guy's hotness, her personality-filled guys really work for me. **Her main girl characters also neatly avoid the naive girl trope.** Zuzana isn't some dainty flower. Neither are Karou or Liraz.

Definitely recommended to fans of DOSAB.

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### **Kimi says**

I mean it was cute... cute and insta-lovy and teenagery (not sure if that's a word but bear with me). I need more than that to be invested in a relationship. It was too easy, too cheesy too \*insert word that rhymes\* What I'm trying to say is that I didn't really care. There. I said it.

Ps: My friends are going to murder me in the comments. Send help.

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### **Stacia (the 2010 club) says**

*You realize you can fall forever and never run out of stars.*

**4.5 stars.** Magical. Magical. Magical. Laini Taylor is absolutely magical. Her words are beautiful, her characters are quirky, and I am in love with the atmospheric charm.

I want my own Night of Cake & Puppets.

Are you an adult who loves to read and chat about young adult books? Join us over in the Rated YA-MA group!

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