

**Cassandra Clare** was born to American parents in Teheran, Iran and spent much of her childhood travelling the world with her family, including one trek through the Himalayas as a toddler where she spent a month living in her father's backpack. She lived in France, England and Switzerland. Since her family moved around so much she found familiarity in books and went everywhere with a book under her arm. Her favourites included the work of the Bronte' sisters and Tolkien, as well as the Chronicles of Narnia, Lloyd Alexander's Prydain Chronicles and Susan Cooper's The Dark is Rising series. She spent her high school years in Los Angeles where she used to write stories to amuse her classmates, including an epic novel called The Beautiful Cassandra based on the eponymous Jane Austen short story (and from which she later took her current pen name).

After college, at which she majored in literature, Cassandra lived in Los Angeles and New York where she worked at various entertainment magazines and even some rather suspect tabloids where she reported on Brad and Angelina's world travels and Britney Spears' wardrobe malfunctions. She started working on her first novel, City of Bones, in 2004, inspired by the urban landscape of Manhattan, her favourite city. She turned to writing fantasy fiction full time in 2006 and hopes never to have to write about Paris Hilton again.

Cassandra's first piece of professional writing, a short story called 'The Girl's Guide to Defeating the Dark Lord', appeared in an anthology of humour fantasy. She hates working at home alone because she always gets distracted by reality TV shows and the antics of her two cats, so she usually sets out to write in local coffee shops and restaurants. Cassandra likes to work in the company of her friends who see that she sticks to her deadlines. She loves writing humour and fantasy and hopes to try her hand at horror and science fiction some day.

### **Things you didn't know about Cassandra Clare**

1. I only type with two fingers.
2. I once interviewed the cast of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.
3. I have two cats, Linus and Lucy. Linus is huge and Lucy is tiny, so if you averaged them out, you would have one normal cat.
4. I have a scuba diving certificate but I never dive due to my fear of sharks.
5. I often get distracted listening to audio books on my iPod, then realize I am lost and have no idea where I am.
6. My favourite food is sushi.
7. I hate coffee but I like tea.
8. I was once taken in by an internet scam offering to sell me a penguin.
9. My dream is to have a library in my house, so big that it requires ladders to get to the tallest shelves.
10. As a child I wanted to be a windsurfing instructor and live in Tahiti.