

Vesper Evans has always resented Basalton's high society and the sorcery that provides them with a luxurious life unimaginable to most. Orphaned as a child and rescued by the editor of *The Basalton Globe*, Vesper is now an ambitious reporter determined to keep her newspaper afloat.

While covering a lavish society gala, Vesper happens upon a shocking scene: the murdered body of a man she had spoken with just minutes before. Several of the powerful magical elite may want the man dead, but the prime suspect is wealthy industrialist Maximilian Kite.

Maximilian soon makes Vesper a tempting offer: Find the culprit and restore his reputation in exchange for a substantial fee. Despite her distaste for Maximilian's world, Vesper agrees—the money would save the *Globe*, and the story would be the scoop of a lifetime. There's only one catch: In order for her to infiltrate society, the two must pose as a courting couple.

Their investigation takes them from the highest echelons of privilege to the seediest backstreets of Basalton. As they unearth the city's secrets and scandals, Vesper finds herself in grave danger—while falling for one of the most infuriating, arrogant, handsome men she has ever met . . .

Sparks fly in this Gilded Age-inspired novel of mystery, magic, and romance by the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Beasts of Prey*.

AYANA GRAY is the *New York Times*–bestselling author of the critically acclaimed *Beasts of Prey* as well as *I, Medusa*, a novel for adults. Originally from Atlanta, she now lives among the rolling hills and tangling rivers of Arkansas.

READ BY RENIKA WILLIAMS-BLUTCHER



Runtime: 10h. 28m. • Unabridged

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31999 Aurora Road, Solon, OH 44139 USA
Designed in Ohio. Made in China.
www.playaway.com

The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.

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ISBN 978-1-250-49143-5



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