

**Title:** *These Violent Delights*  
**Author:** Chloe Gong  
**Genre:** Historical Fiction, Fantasy

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Elizabeth B., 11th Grade

**Reviewed on:** January 23, 2022

*These Violent Delights*, takes place in Shanghai in 1926, during the rise of Communism in China. Juliette Cai, the eighteen-year-old heir to the Scarlet Gang, has just returned to Shanghai after spending the past four years abroad in New York City. Roma Montagov, Juliette's enemy and first love, is the heir to the White Flowers, the Scarlet Gang's rival. The Scarlet Gang and White Flowers have been fighting for control over Shanghai for generations, causing chaos in the city since they are above the law. As a mysterious madness starts spreading around the city, the blood feud between the Scarlet Gang and the White Flowers reaches an all time high. Rumors start to spread, implying that there is a "monster" and "insects" behind the madness that is taking the lives of the city's residents. Because of the rumors behind the madness, tensions rose and both groups suspected each other as being the culprit. The madness however did not show itself until citizens were seen ripping out their own throats. After Alisa, Roma's younger sister, and several members of both the Scarlet Gang and White Flowers become affected by the madness, Roma and Juliette decide the only way to stop the madness is by putting their hatred for each other aside and work together. Through their collaboration, Roma and Juliette search for clues as to what could be behind the madness and solutions to the madness around Shanghai. Benedikt, Roma's cousin, Marshall, Roma's best friend, and Kathleen, Juliette's cousin, all contribute to Roma and Juliette's mission while also keeping the secret that the two of them are working together. However, despite both Juliette and Roma trying to keep their guard up, old feelings and secrets emerge, making Roma and Juliette's relationship even more complicated.

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

As the book progressed, the intensity of the plot increased, keeping me engaged and interested. After reading a chapter, I would want to keep reading to see what would happen next.

*Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The book started off slow with what seemed to be unnecessary detail, but the pace sped up as the plot progressed.

*What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for?*

The imagery in this book at times was graphic and violent, so it might be too intense for younger readers. I would not recommend this book for anyone who is under 14 and/or in 9th grade.

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to?*

My favorite genres are mystery, historical fiction and romance, and *These Violent Delights* incorporated all three. I loved the enemies-to-lovers romance between Roma and Juliette, the history associated with the rise of Communism in Shanghai and the mystery behind who was the monster as well as controlling the madness. So if you are a fan of any of those genres, or all three, I would definitely recommend this book.

*What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book?*

The chapters are between 10 and 20 pages each, so if you do not like long chapters, you might not like *These Violent Delights*.

I would rate this book *5 out of 5 stars* because of the vivid, descriptive imagery and fast paced plot. Both aspects helped keep me engaged and interested. I love how Chloe Gong modeled her book after Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and included aspects of romance despite the book's main genre being historical fiction. After the cliffhanger ending, I can't wait to read the sequel!