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English 10

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Romance Comparison

A strong female character is necessary for a good romance. Both Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* and Cassandra Clare's *City of Bones* feature strong females who will not give up.

Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* is a classic American romance of the 20th Century. Played against the background of turbulent American history, Scarlett O'Hara's passion sets the standard for all other romances. As the novel opens at the beginning of the Civil War, Scarlett is 16, and desperately in love with Ashley Wilkes, son of neighboring plantation owner John Wilkes. At the Wilkes family picnic, she meets Ashley in the deserted library, and confesses her love for him. To her dismay, Ashley announces his engagement to his cousin Melanie, and leaves a stunned Scarlett alone. Alone, that is, except for the presence of Rhett Butler, who had been concealed in the room. Rhett, who laughs at Scarlett's broken heart (117-123). Scarlett continues to long for Ashley throughout the war and its aftermath, even after she is married to Rhett Butler (823-825). It isn't until Melanie is dying, and asks Scarlett to look after Ashley that Scarlett realizes that she has loved Rhett along (1002-1004).

Clary Fray lives in our contemporary world in Cassandra Clare's *City of Bones*, set in New York City. Clary lives with her mother, an artist. While at a club, Clary witnesses a murder – except the body disappears (11-15). Shaken, Clary discovers another world within her own, the world of the Shadowhunters. Drawn to the Shadowhunter Jace, she begins to understand that she herself may have a role to play in hunting evil creatures.

While not in a historical setting, Clary has elements in common with Scarlett. Both are determined; Clary follows the Shadowhunters to prevent a murder (6), and Scarlett shoots a Yankee soldier who is intent on robbing what little she has left (433). Both women are strong female characters that make the romance work.

Works Cited

Clare, Cassandra. *City of Bones*. New York: M.K. McElderry, 2007. Print. Mortal Instruments.

Mitchell, Margaret. *Gone with the Wind*. 60th Anniversary ed. New York: Warner, 1993. Print.