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Sleeping Beauty (Timeless Fairy Tales Book 8)



Synopsis

Briar Rose, a clever peasant girl, feels only pity for the mysterious Princess Rosalinda – the hidden princess who was cursed to prick her finger on a spindle and fall asleep until true love's kiss awakens her. But her pity turns into horror when Briar learns she is the secret princess, and Isaia, her childhood friend, is really a Magic Knight sworn to protect her. Briar reluctantly embraces her new life as a princess, and is reunited with her mother, father, and her grandfather – the king. But calamity strikes when Carabosso, the evil mage who cursed her as a baby, returns and plunders the countryside. Unfortunately, the king refuses to dispatch the Magic Knights to protect the people, and instead orders the knights to stay in the capital to guard Briar. But Briar is not the demure princess her family desires, and she vows to save her people if her parents and grandfather will not. Will the curse consume Briar, or with help from Isaia can she beat Carabosso at his own game? SLEEPING BEAUTY is a fairy tale retelling and the eighth book of the TIMELESS FAIRY TALES series. The books in this series take place in the same world and can be read all together, or as individual, stand-alone books. If you enjoy compelling characters, sweet romance, and magical jokes, download a sample or buy it today!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

K. M. Shea calls her readers "champions," but I feel more like a privileged visitor than a champion. I have been eagerly awaiting *Sleeping Beauty*, just like *Swan Lake* and so many of her other books, and I have not been disappointed. As far as this story goes, it is lovely, charming, frustrating and I was unable to put it down even at work. If you've enjoyed any of her other works, chances are you'll love this new instalment as well. These Fairy Tale retellings Ms. Shea gives us are amazing. For me, each story tells me that even if you're quirky, serious, a rebel, rule abiding, flirty or reserved... It's okay. You are you, and it's okay to be you. For all your mistakes or saved kingdoms, you are everything you're meant to be. At least that's my take-a-way from this (and all) of her stories. So thank you Ms. Shea. :)

Awww, that was so great! I kind of want to just hug this book, but it's on my Kindle, and that somehow just doesn't seem like it would have the same effect as if the book were paperback. xD I was a little hesitant to buy this book already because I wasn't the biggest fan of the previous work (*Swan Lake*), but K.M. Shea's quality has been pretty high overall, so I decided to risk it. She did not disappoint. *Sleeping Beauty* is so sweet! I could make little stylistic quibbles here and there about the story, but my only real complaint is picking on poor Isaia, and it is actually more my problem than a problem with the book. I didn't realize something about his character until Briar Rose did (practically the very end). (Not naming it only because I didn't see until the end. More sensitive readers will probably pick up on it the first time they see the world from his PoV.) But other than that, I have only good things to say. I loved all the many references to the other books in the series, although I'm pretty sure you won't be lost if you haven't read the other books. And this book also references what I'm hoping will be another mini prequel series like *The Snow Queen* series: the *Queen of Hearts*! ^__^ And Angelique plays a larger role in this book than in any other except perhaps *Wild Swans*. I also loved the family dynamics in this book. We get both parents still alive plus a grandfather! And while the mother or a character like her will likely never star in a Shea book, I actually really adored her. (Maybe because she reminds me of an original character of my own before I turn evil incarnate on that character, as authors tend to have to do or end up with a boring story. xD) Also, I'm a big fan of the king/grandfather. He makes really, really terrible judgment calls

throughout much of the story, but you can still see, when all's said and done, that he's a really good king (when he's not too worried about his granddaughter's future or potential lack thereof). In other rambling, not-very-well-planned-out-by-me news, Briar is a great heroine. She's not perfect, either, and I don't agree with everything she does, but I can see her logic behind her every move and cheer her on anyways. She doesn't try to deny the obvious / sell herself short (cough, Odette, cough), but neither does she think she can handle everything herself. She doesn't slip into her new life as princess with ease, but neither does she scream at everyone that she hates them and can never trust them again for keeping the secret from her for 15+ years. And she has the very good sense to get offended alongside me on Isaia's behalf when people call him her dog. Oh, and I should probably mention the Magic Knights. They're probably the biggest factor responsible for making me really feel that this world is real. I mean, I know it's not, but you know what I mean. They make up a large portion of the world-building in this book and have more than any other tactic Shea has used helped me to see how each country plays just one role in an increasingly interconnected continent with a long history. (Speaking of history, I was surprised to notice a supporting character from the Snow Queen mentioned by name. Other characters in other moments have made a point of mentioning how history has a way of distorting or hiding facts over time, but this one fact was just as clear and accurate as anything about the beloved Snow Queen herself.) Shea has mentioned that this book is one of her longer ones in the series, and I'm grateful for that. I didn't get the impression that anything was rushed, although I do wish Briar and Isaia's relationship prior to her becoming Princess Rosalinda had been fleshed out a little more. We do get a couple scenes of them then, though, so I'm not going to complain too much. There are still a few unanswered questions (like how will everyone react when they find out about Delanna?) that I'm hoping will be answered with short stories. And, of course, there are still questions about the overarching story of the series that probably will not be answered until Angelique's book. But overall, this book is a very well-done, self-contained story that I'm glad I bought.

One thing I really like about K.M. Shea is that she doesn't overburden her heroines with special abilities/skills or make them exceptionally powerful in any way. They're just ordinary young women (sure, some of them happen to be princesses) who are strong, smart, and stubborn enough to save their countries. Briar Rose, self-described as "half farmer's brat and half earned-princess," definitely does not disappoint as the latest of Kitty's capable heroines. She is NOT Rosalinda, the pampered princess, and she definitely isn't going to bend and stretch to fit herself into everyone's mold for her. In short, she was a kick-ass character who definitely won't take no for an answer. And this is why I

feel Isaia suits her, despite what other readers might feel. Isaia doesn't have Briar's snark or self-security, but he's as loyal as a dog (i laughed a lot more than i probably should have at his nickname given by the other Magic Knights). He complements her, not as a fellow revolutionary, but as her guard and her rock to lean on. I understood his insecurities, particularly his hesitance to approach Briar (but that didn't mean i wasn't screaming for him to JUST KISS HER ALREADY for most of the book). The supporting characters (although they definitely didn't feel that way) all stood out in their own way, especially Delanna (who i absolutely LOVED). Admittedly, the pace of the novel doesn't really pick up until Briar wakes up (i was more than happy to discover that the book didn't simply end after she was awoken by true love's kiss) but the rest of the action made up for it in part. For anyone who's read the other novels in this series, you'll be in for a treat with all the cameos and name-dropping of previous protagonists and characters, from the Arcainian Princes to Odette's smugglers (now that was an interesting tie-in) to the legendary Queen of Hearts (which is to Sole as the Snow Queen is to Verglas). You also get a ton of Angelique (and the mysterious Enchanter Evariste!), and the snowball of disasters (aka the conflicts for the fairy tales) continues to build and form an overall picture (and its not pretty). Overall, I really enjoyed this latest installment and now I'm impatiently waiting for the next one.

I have read all of KM Shea's Timeless Fairy Tales and enjoyed them immensely. This one did not disappoint. I did not give it 5 stars because in my opinion, the internal struggle for Isaia went on too long. I understood that he felt he was not worthy of marriage to the Princess, but his lack of faith and trust seemed weak rather than chivalrous. The other point was the missing Master Enchanter. It was briefly touched on but then this line was dropped without further explanation. Even with these two weak points, I enjoyed the characters, the setting was vivid and maintained the characteristics of the world K M Shea created. I definitely recommend these Fairy Tales and would continue to read future works from this author.

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