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Fairy Queens: Books 1-4 (Fairy Queens Box Set)



Synopsis

"A captivating series!" ~Jennifer A. Nielsen, NYT bestselling author, *The False Prince* In the *Fairy Queens Saga*, each book features a mortal who makes an ill-fated bargain with the fae to save someone they love. And each time that mortal is drawn a little deeper into an immortal war. By the final books, those mortals find themselves pitted against each other in a race to save a dying world. Of Ice and Snow Never bargain with the fae . . . The fourth, throwaway son of the clan chief, Otec helplessly witnesses his faraway mountain village come under attack by raiders while all the other men are off to war. Cut off from his clan, he must trust a foreign woman stalked by a dark, mysterious magic as they race to save his people. Dodging raiders, Otec soon discovers that what he thought was a mere raid is actually a full-scale invasion. The woman helping him—the one he's developing feelings for—is not only one of the raiders. She's also his best chance of survival. Winter Queen Winner of the Rone Award for Best Fantasy/Science Fiction of 2014 Mortally wounded during a raid, seventeen-year-old Ilyenna is healed by winter fairies who present her with a seductive offer: her soul in exchange for escape from the invaders stealing over the mountains. Refusing to abandon her family, she returns to her village and offers up herself as a hostage to save her father's life. Struggling to survive Darrien's cruelty, Ilyenna finds a measure of solace in her fellow prisoner, Rone's, arms. But it isn't long before she discovers the feud between their clans is merely a distraction from something far worse. Ilyenna must decide whether to resurrect the power the fairies left behind. Doing so will allow her to defeat Darrien and the other invaders, but if she embraces winter, she will lose herself to that destroying powers forever. Of Fire and Ash *A novella* One bargain can change everything. The fairies must never know of Nelay's sight, for the attention of such dark and terrible creatures brings more things dark and terrible. But when Nelay's father is near death, the fairies are the only ones who can save him. All they require is a simple bargain that she'll return the favor one day. Some bargains are lethal. Summer Queen Nelay never wanted to be queen. Poised to become the most powerful priestess in Idara, Nelay doesn't have time to become a pretty bauble for the king. She's too busy saving her people from the invading army sweeping across her kingdom. But in defeat after defeat, Nelay begins to realize a bigger power is at play than that wielded by mere mortals. Only she can stand between the cinders of her once-great nation and the vengeance of a goddess.

Book Information

File Size: 7618 KB

Print Length: 824 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Starling Publishing (May 17, 2016)

Publication Date: May 17, 2016

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01FTJL6G8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #790,035 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #34

in Â Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Anthologies #83 in Â Â Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Anthologies #313 in Â Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Royalty

Customer Reviews

I really love this series! Of Ice and Snow - This one is a novella but it's on the longer side, so there is plenty of detail and plenty of plot to be had. Not to mention some really amazing action scenes to get the blood pumping. It was great to get some backstory on just how the fairies worked humans into the plot for a new Winter Queen, though their role in this while resounding is relatively small. This is a direct prequel to Winter Queen. Winter Queen - In Winter Queen Argyle builds us a world of clans, subtle fantasy, and old-world richness. I love the simple yet slightly complex way things are handled in this world. I also loved that while the fairies are vital to the story they take a background kind of role for most of the book. I don't mind that such an important part of the book takes on very few scenes because Ilyenna is a human and her journey is a difficult one, more importantly while she has some help from otherworldly allies she takes on the burden herself and deals with it the best that she can. Of Fire and Ash - Of Fire and Ash is a novella in the Fairy Queens series, coming between Winter Queen and Summer Queen. One of my favorite things about Amber's books are the images she paints for the

scenery. I loved being able to visualize the dry land with its prickly scrub brush, and dangerous animals. Nelay is only 9 years old in this novella and is already in awe of how strong she is. She carries a sling and a spear, and can use both. She is capable of hunting for herself and traversing the land alone. It really sets a precedent for what she will be like in Summer Queen. Summer Queen - Summer Queen picks up two decades after the end of Winter Queen, and several years after Of Fire and Ash; centering around Nelay, a priestess of the Summer Goddess. I would say it is much better to read both Winter Queen and Of Fire and Ash before SQ. The actual story is beautiful. much like the cover. It's a story of strength, and it shows that strength can be many things to the same person. The strength to defy rules, to love, to turn away, to help, to say goodbye, to say yes, to sacrifice willingly, to keep fighting in the face of death, etc. etc. However even with the story being so character focused we still get the beautiful world-building we've come to love and expect from Argyle. In short, this book was beautiful and I finished it in one sitting.

OF ICE AND SNOW: I'm a huge fan of Amber's Fairy Queen series - it's dark and gritty, but also full of beautiful world-building, memorable (and sometimes terrifying) characters, and even a few glimpses of hope and light through the horrors of war. I also really love novellas that reveal the background of more minor characters, so I knew I had to read this story as soon as I heard the Amber was writing it. In this novella, we're given a little bit more insight into Ilyenna's parents before the start of Winter Queen. We get to see how they meet, and how they deal with all kinds of awful circumstances that are out of their control. Otec is a middle child - he's not old enough to go with his brothers and father to meet the coming army, and he definitely will never be clanchief. Except destiny has a different plan for him, and his entire world is flipped upside down when the Shyle is attacked. But even in the midst of trying to save his family and his people, Otec manages to find love. The romance is definitely a big part of the story, but Amber still somehow manages to weave an exciting story that has so many different facets that the romance doesn't overwhelm the rest of the plot. Matka is dangerous and cunning all on her own, and guards her heart just as much, if not more, as Otec guards his. I loved watching their friendship develop and transform into something more, through perceived betrayals, interfering fairies, and the loss of loved ones. If you haven't read the rest of the Fairy Queen series, this story will still stand on its own. You don't need to know much else before diving right into this book, and it might be a good place to start. If you have read the Fairy Queen books though, you definitely want to read this novella! There are so many references and connections to things in both Winter Queen and Summer Queen, and it was a lot of fun to be

able to recognize those. It makes the entire series stronger and gives the world and the characters so much more depth. If you love fantasy, especially books like the Graceling series, you definitely want to read these books! 5/5.

WINTER QUEEN: This book was everything I hoped for, and more. There was adventure, mystery, heartache, romance, twists and turns, magic, and just everything a good story should have (in my opinion). I absolutely love Argyle's writing style, and her world building is phenomenal in this book. As I was reading, I felt like I was actually in Ilyenna's world, and that I could see the fairies the way she sees them. Which I also thought was excellently done, I'm so glad they were disguised and could only be found if you knew where to look. I think it adds to the magic of them, and to the magic associated with Winter and Summer. I also really loved the characters in this book. Although Darrien is a total jerk and deserves every bad thing that happens to him, he's actually a really interesting character. I wish we had seen more of his brother, because I pictured them to be dynamic opposites and I'm really interested to see how that would have played out. I enjoyed reading about Ilyenna's transformation from being so unsure of herself to becoming a strong, powerful, independent woman, and I'm so glad she never lost sight of her honesty and trustworthiness. And then, of course, there's Rone. I liked his character, but I wish we had seen him more in depth. I feel like I don't really know him as much as I would have liked. Although it took me a few chapters to get into this book, the story really gets going after that and I didn't want to put the book down until the very end. There's just so much happening, and so many layers (like a parfait!) that I had to pull a late night in order to appease my curiosity. And that really didn't help too much, since now I want to know what's next for Ilyenna and Rone. And the Shyle. I could seriously gush about this book all day, but I really think you should go read it for yourself. Especially if you're interested in fantasy novels with strong heroines. Or females that end up being strong heroines. Or if you just really like Amber Argyle's other books, because this is definitely the best one yet. 5/5, and I can't wait for the sequel!

OF FIRE AND ASH: I first stumbled across Amber Argyle a few years ago, when her book *Witch Song* was free on . I have eagerly devoured every single thing she has written that I could get my hands on since, and I'm always left wanting more! So you can imagine my excitement when I found out Amber was writing a short prequel novelette for the upcoming second book in her *Fairy Queens* series, *Summer Queen*. *Of Fire and Ash* was pretty short - around 68 pages - but it was still jam-packed with all of the things that I love about Amber's books. There's a significant amount of world building without shoving it down your throat and there's a huge amount of background on Nelay, the main character in *Summer Queen*. I'm really glad that I got to learn more about how Nelay's journey toward becoming the powerful priestess that she is in *Summer Queen* began. I loved getting to know Nelay as a child, because I think that will help me (and other

readers) understand her as the woman she becomes. This novelette also sheds quite a bit of light on the fairies and what happens when they learn you can see them. Or what happens when you ask for their help. Everything comes at a price, and sometimes the price might be too steep... although it might be too late. After reading *Winter Queen*, I had so many questions about the fairies, and *Of Fire and Ash* definitely answered a couple of the more minor ones. What Amber does best though, is give just enough of a story that I'm left wanting the next installment ASAP! I have to know what happens to Nelay next, and what will happen when the fairies call in their favor for saving her father. I want to know what she's like after she grows up, and I want to know if she's able to save her people. *Of Fire and Ash* was enough to get me back into this incredible world, and I cannot wait to read *Summer Queen*! A 5/5 for sure!

SUMMER QUEEN: I absolutely loved *Winter Queen* when I first read it, and it's still one of my favorite fantasy books ever. Amber knows how to craft an incredible world with wonderful characters who continue to live on well past the ending of the books. So when I was given the opportunity to read an advanced copy of *Summer Queen*, I immediately jumped on the chance! I couldn't wait to get back into this world and meet characters on the opposite side of the spectrum from those featured in *Winter Queen*. And I was not disappointed! Nelay is not like any other priestess I've encountered in any of the books I've read. She's strong and independent and can hold her own in a fight, but she's also loving and willing to do anything to protect the people she cares about. She's also got a mischievous side to her, which I thought makes her hilarious. Nelay is also incredibly cunning, and she's always trying to figure out how to play things to her advantage. She's not afraid to back down from a fight she knows she cannot win, which I felt made her a dangerous enemy to have. I loved Illyenna in *Winter Queen*, but I honestly think that I love Nelay even more! And then there's Rycus. Oh, Rycus. He's kind of off-putting at first, but then the more time we spend with him, the more I fell in love with him. He's absolutely fantastic for Nelay, and I think one of my favorite things in this book was watching their relationship develop. Except for those times when Amber does this thing where she gives me a mini heart attack and separates them and makes it seem like they're not meant to be together. I was so back and forth and I just could never figure out what surprises were in store! Like all of Amber's other books, *Summer Queen* has gorgeous world-building. In *Winter Queen*, we learn about the lands of the Clansmen. In *Summer Queen*, the world is expanded and we learn more about the cities and the people who live in them, as well as the Tribesmen who live in the deserts. I can't wait to learn even more about this world and its people in the next book! The plot also moves along smoothly and quickly, and I never felt like anything was dragging along (even though this book is fairly long). I would 100% recommend *Summer Queen* to anyone who has read *Winter Queen*, and the whole *Fairy Queens* series to fans

of YA Fantasy. Especially if you enjoyed Rae Carson's Girl of Fire and Thorns series, and other books like it. I cannot wait to get my hands on the next installment (waiting is so hard!!) 5/5!!!

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