



Queen of Hearts

By Colleen Oakes

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Winner of the 2014 Next Generation Indie Book Award for Young Adult Fiction.

As Princess of Wonderland Palace and the future Queen of Hearts, Dinah's days are an endless monotony of tea, tarts, and a stream of vicious humiliations at the hands of her father, the King of Hearts. The only highlight of her days is visiting Wardley, her childhood best friend, the future Knave of Hearts--and the love of her life. When an enchanting stranger arrives at the Palace, Dinah watches as everything she's ever wanted threatens to crumble. As her coronation date approaches, a series of suspicious and bloody events suggests that something sinister stirs in the whimsical halls of Wonderland. It's up to Dinah to unravel the mysteries that lurk both inside and under the Palace before she loses her own head to a clever and faceless foe. Part epic fantasy, part twisted fairy tale, this dazzling saga will have readers shivering as Dinah's furious nature sweeps Wonderland up in the maelstrom of her wrath. Familiar characters such as Cheshire, the White Rabbit, and the Mad Hatter make their appearance, enchanting readers with this new, dark take on *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. But be warned...not every fairytale has a happy ending. This is the story of a princess who became a villain.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Readers get a peek into the story behind the darkly twisted world of Wonderland before Alice arrived. Fifteen-year-old Princess Dinah, heir to the throne of Wonderland, tries to navigate her way to power around the ruthlessly brutal King; her half-sister, Vittore; her much adored "mad" brother Charles, who is the direct heir, but not able to take on the responsibilities of the throne; and an interesting hierarchy of characters who are either in support of or in opposition to her becoming the "Queen of Hearts" once she turns 18. In *The Crown*, readers catch a glimpse of the causes of the future Queen's anger-management issues and mistrust of people. Surrounded by few friends and numerous enemies—with the shape-shifter and king's advisor Cheshire being the most dangerous of all—Dinah lives in constant fear and is forced to hide her true feelings for mere survival. In *The Wonder*, Dinah is in exile, hiding from the king's assassins, and purported to be a traitor and murderer. Oakes expertly expands the children's classic into a complex and compelling series of plot twists that uncover the future Queen of Hearts's true origins. The author fleshes out some of the quirks in Carroll's work and adds more depth to the source material's secondary characters. Familiarity with the original isn't necessary, but will add richness to this tale. VERDICT Complete with a mad tea party in the woods, this cinematic series has just the right amount of fantasy and epic suspense to keep even the strongest of hearts on the edge of their seats.—Sabrina Carnesi, Crittenden Middle School, Newport News, VA

Review

"Oakes has created her own world here. Her Wonderland is darker, more cutthroat and somehow more real."
- Amanda Reid, Forever Young Adult

"A wonderfully entertaining twist on an old classic." - Kirkus Reviews

Colleen Oakes has written Wonderland like it's never been written before. If you loved Gregory Maguire's *Wicked*, you will not be able to put down *The Queen of Hearts*. ----Editorial Director, SheKnows.com

Dinah is a headstrong, spirited princess grappling with a lot of the same issues that even us non-princesses in the real world face--anxiety, confusion, jealousy, anger, and the growing burden of responsibilities that often feel too heavy to bear. The fact that I cared so much about this complex young woman on the cusp of adulthood and cannot wait for the next book is just a testament to the amazing talent of this breakout author. ----Jessica Hickam, author of *The Revealed*

This beautifully written series presents the captivating backstory of the Queen of Hearts from Lewis Carroll's beloved *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and is sure to intrigue both fantasy fans and young adult readers alike. --Emily Kiebel, author of *Serenade*

From the Back Cover

ONLY QUEENS WITH HEARTS CAN BLEED.

This is not the story of the Wonderland we know. Alice has not fallen down a rabbit hole. This is a Wonderland where beneath each smile lies a secret, each tart comes with a demand, and only prisoners tell the truth.

Dinah is the princess who will one day reign over Wonderland. She has not yet seen the dark depths of her

kingdom; she longs only for her father's approval and a future with the boy she loves. But when a betrayal breaks her heart and threatens her throne, she is launched into Wonderland's dangerous political game. Dinah must stay one step ahead of her cunning enemies or she'll lose not just the crown but her head.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeff Puckett:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They can be reading whatever they take because their hobby is reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this Queen of Hearts.

Jimmy Dietz:

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Alfred Gates:

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