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The Princess Companion: A Retelling Of The Princess And The Pea (The Four Kingdoms Book 1)



Synopsis

Danger and romance await a woodcutter's daughter in a royal palace. One dark and stormy night, lost and alone, Alyssa finds herself knocking on the door of a castle. After a lifetime spent in the deep forest, Alyssa has no idea what to expect on the other side. What she finds is two unruly young princesses and one very handsome prince. When Alyssa accepts the job of Princess Companion she knows her life will change. What she doesn't know is that the royal family is about to be swept up in unexpected danger and intrigue, and that she just might be the only thing standing between her kingdom and destruction. This retelling of the classic fairy tale, *The Princess and the Pea*, reimagines the risks and rewards that come when one royal family goes searching for a true princess. If you enjoy clean romance, adventure and intrigue, then try the books in *The Four Kingdoms* series now! Each book can be read as a standalone story. However, for greatest enjoyment, they should be read in order.

The Four Kingdoms Reading Order:

- The Princess Companion: A Retelling of The Princess and the Pea* (Book One)
- The Princess Fugitive: A Reimagining of Little Red Riding Hood* (Book Two)
- Happily Every After: A Four Kingdoms Novella*
- The Princess Pact: A Twist on Rumpelstiltskin* (Book Three)

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Customer Reviews

I appreciate books in which care is taken to make even minor characters believable. Even the young girls the main character is responsible for had distinct personalities and show character growth. Alyssa was likeable, if perhaps a bit too perfect. She was resourceful, intelligent, and kind. The prince could have used a bit more depth, but he was likeable enough. I was disappointed that he didn't stand up for himself and Alyssa even at the end of the story. There were a few minor things I felt could have been included. For example, there was no description of the fairy godmother, or explanation regarding why a girl who appeared to have grown up under fairly comfortable circumstances needed to leave home to work. Also, at times I felt as if the author expected the reader to remember characters that had barely been mentioned previously. The tie-in to another fairy tale was very well-done, and the problems of the married couple in the story added a lot to the book. The book isn't perfect, but it is well written and interesting. I didn't find myself losing interest and would be happy to read more stories by this author.

This story started a little slow for me but soon took off. It has danger, intrigue, palaces, a touch of fairy godmother magic, a handsome prince, several princesses and some endearing friends and servants. The bad guys nearly get away with their dastardly plan but an inadvertent twist and clever wood cutter's daughter foil their plan and save the kingdom. It's a fun read and well worth your time to escape for a few hours. Enjoy!

I quite enjoyed the twist on the classic fairytale, and I quite enjoyed the relationship development between Alyssa and Max. I thought the idea of having Alyssa become the Princess Companion was brilliant. However, I think there were quite a few things that felt a little forced. For example, the reason the queen was unhappy was reasonable, but it just didn't seem believable since there's no real build up to it. Also, it seems like Alyssa knows way too much about court for being a woodcutter's daughter, even with her fascination with fairytales. In summary, it's a great story but it could have used a bit more work on development.

Working as a Kindle Scout brings frequent rewards. Sometimes, it comes in the form of free Kindle books when the choices I nominate are selected for publication. Sometimes my only reward is an

introduction to a writer I would not normally encounter. I could increase my chances of getting a free book from each nomination by only selecting HOT choices, but these are books that already have the advantage of being listed as HOT. Instead, I read the descriptions and look at the sample text for each book that sounds like a promising read, and then nominate those. In the case of the Cellier re-telling of "The Princess and the Pea," *I* won even though the book was not selected for publication. I bought it to read anyway, and was amply rewarded with a masterful political thriller-cum-romantic comedy based on the children's story. Alyssa is no princess, she is the daughter of a woodcutter with four rough-and-tumble brothers. By luck she stumbles into a position with the royal family, as companion to the twin daughters of a queen with stepsisters and a charming king. Through a misunderstanding, she is ushered into the guest suite planned for testing the princesses who will be coming to meet the heir, Prince Maximilian. Of course, she feels the pea, but she is too polite to mention it! From there, the story proceeds like all good romantic comedies with plenty of misunderstanding and missed opportunities. An added element of political intrigue with assassins, spies, and sinister strategies for alliance makes the novel much more interesting to an adult reader. I am pleased that this is planned as the start of a series. The series title, "Four Kingdoms," promises at least two more stories as the history of these kingdoms unfold. I will know to add them to my library, thanks to my introduction through Kindle Scout!

I honestly wasn't sure what to expect when I began this book as I figured I probably wasn't the target demographic. It won me over very quickly and once I was into the meat of the story I literally couldn't put it down. Cellier's first foray into writing feels like it comes from a much more established author. The characters are well developed and Alyssa is an interesting and multilayered protagonist. The story starts small and fairly well contained, beginning in the royal family's winter palace but soon grows when they return to court in the capitol of their kingdom. We are introduced to a world large and complex, rooted in traditional fantasy but with a supernatural fairytale undertone that gives it a unique flavour. A very clever and well-written first book. Look forward to seeing what comes next from Cellier!

I love this book and needless to say, I enjoy it immensely. It is a charming story of a smart and brave girl who finds her place among the royals, the nobles and the servants. The author created admirable and endearing characters. The book not only features grand balls and exquisite princesses but also treason, espionage and deception. It keeps the reader hooked from beginning to end.

I started liking the book from the dedication. Melanie definitely loves words and it shows in her work. Since I am a word lover too, the dedication was an incentive to see if her love for words translated into beautiful writing and it certainly did. Although I am old enough to be Melanie's granny, I have never stopped loving fairy tales and her rendition of the Princess and the Pea was masterful. The story was -up to a point- predictable but it was also quite interesting with unexpected of twists and turns that made it a page turner. The characters were not flat and the heroine was more than satisfactory. Melanie, I wish you a long and fruitful career and a fulfilling life with room enough to give us your beautiful words in more stories.

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