

The Girl of Fire and Thorns

Rae Carson

Reviewed by: Anika 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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For most of her life, Elisa has lived in the shadow of her sister. As the younger and fatter princess, Elisa has always been overlooked. Her only unique feature being the godstone in her navel, proof of being the chosen one. Being chosen by god for greatness has led to her marriage with King Alejandro. Alejandro's kingdom faces rising tensions and war with the Invierno. He needs Elisa to help him, despite his choice to keep their marriage secret. Elisa will face many things in her quest to fulfill the prophecy, dangerous enemies, love, death, and so much more. The kingdoms depend on Elisa to rise to occasion and prove herself like never before.

With its dramatic twists and turns, *The Girl of Fire and Thorns* was an action packed read. I enjoyed watching Elisa's transformation, from an insecure princess to a bold leader. Elisa, while she may despise her appearance and weight, is capable of confidence. She had many ideas to offer that drove the story forward. I learned much of the power of religion in terms of both good and bad actions from Elisa. Elisa's desert world and customs were fun to explore, along with many of the deep, meaningful relationships the characters had.

Despite that, there are some things to watch out for. *The Girl of Fire and Thorns* does include some violent and sexual elements, but they are not very graphic. Elisa is also a very devout individual; some readers may not necessarily enjoy that religious aspect of the book. For these reasons, I suggest this book for anyone 12 years or older. This book would make a great gift for fans of fantasy and fairytales.

Recommended Titles:

Dumplin' by Julie Murphy

Divergent by Veronica Roth

The Maze Runner by James Dashner

The Crown of Embers by Rae Carson (Sequel to *The Girl of Fire and Thorns*)