

## **The Beholder**

**Anna Bright**

**Reviewed by: Ashley Yamashita, 15**

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

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After Selah's mother died, her people have been ruled by her weak father and her cruel, pregnant, stepmother. When Selah got rejected by her hometown crush, her stepmother forced her to travel the world to meet her suitors, in an attempt to gain more power with her baby and the missing heir to the throne. Now, Selah must find a suitor in time to save her dying father from the evil grasp of her stepmother and rule with the help of a strong husband. She travels on the "Beholder", a giant ship controlled by Captain Lang and his crew. This story follows Selah's journey in finding the right husband fit to rule beside her, saving her father, and finding courage in herself.

This story has a strong female protagonist, who could inspire young girls to be just as courageous and brave as Selah was. Torden's character was so perfect, matching Selah and bringing the best in her. You could honestly feel the chemistry the two characters had throughout the book. I feel like Bear and Aleksei will always have a little place in my heart after finding out about how vulnerable they were and what went through their heads. I only wish that they had a better ending. The plot around Captain Lang and his crew could be explained earlier on since I feel like the information around them came out of nowhere. I also felt that Lang secretly enjoyed Selah's company, and I hope that later on in the second book he will find the courage to tell her.

I would recommend this book to teens twelve and older, especially young female teens. I feel like Selah could be a good role-model to show young women how strong and brave someone can be, despite one's fears. Throughout the story, Selah was scared of the future and for her father, but she pushed on and continued to fight for those she loved. This book could be gifted since it's an action-packed story, focused on an empowering female character. "The Beholder" could inspire others to embrace their fears and rise above them.

### **Recommended Titles:**

Ash Princess by Laura Sebastian

The Traitor's Kiss by Erin Beauty

Flawed by Cecelia Ahern