

## **Three Dark Crowns**

**Kendare Blake**

**Reviewed by: Ashley Yamashita, 15**

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“Three Dark Queens” follows three sisters who are all fighting to reign Fennbirn. Arsinoe (the naturalist), Katharine (the poisoner), and Mirabella (the elemental) are the queens born at the Black Cottage who are forced to be raised separately and kill each other. The surviving queen will be crowned Queen of Fennbirn, ruling all three major regions: Wolf Spring, Rolanth, and Pryn. Arsinoe was one of the weaker queens who hasn’t developed her magic yet. Jules, her best friend, is known to be the strongest naturalist in 60 years with a cougar as a familiar. Arsinoe can’t bloom a single flower, while Jules can bloom an entire garden. Together, they help rule the land of Wolf Spring. Katharine is the youngest of the three and, like Arsinoe, is known to be weak. As a poisoner queen, she’s expected to be immune to most poisons and be able to poison others with the deadliest of poisons. Unfortunately, Katherine is fragile, and can’t seem to be immune to poisons. Mirabella is the oldest and strongest of the queens. Her elemental powers awakened at a young age. She’s able to summon the strongest of storms and waves. Yet, Mirabella has a big heart and, unlike her sisters and the queens before her, she can remember their childhood clearly. This story follows the sisters’ struggles to overcome their weaknesses and fight for the crown of Fennbirn.

The plot behind this book is captivating, making it extremely hard to put this book down for a minute. The character development between the queens is amazing, watching as they each overcome their weaknesses and fight for themselves and their people. Pietyr and Billy are by far my favorite characters. The loyalty and devotion they have for their queens are outstanding., especially Billy. Throughout the book, I was always interested to know what’s coming next. The different plot twists and betrayals made this book so much more enjoyable to read.

This book could be read by teens thirteen and up since there are some intimate scenes between some of the older characters. Overall, this book could be gifted to someone else or bought for someone’s pleasure. It’s a great story to read with strong female characters who aren’t afraid to feel vulnerable and fight for their loved ones. I love how Blake was able to balance the queen’s love lives and their royal affairs into the story. It made the queens seem more human than supernatural beings, making them more relatable to readers. Even powerful queens in a fictional world aren’t perfect!

### **Recommended Titles:**

Scythe by Neil Shusterman

Anna Dressed in Blood by Kendare Blake

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard