

Cinderella is Dead

Kalynn Bayron

Reviewed by: Ashley Yamashita, 15

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This book follows the life of Sophia Grimmes, a young girl living in the wretched city of Lille. In Lille, women are counted as property and are hand-picked by men at the annual ball, held at the Palace by King Manfred, in honor of the late Queen Cinderella. As the story unfolds, Sophia learns that her love, Erin, doesn't love her back, leaving Sophia hopeless about saving them from the king's evil hands. Instead of finding a husband at the ball, Sophia decides to run away after arriving, causing Manfred's guards to chase her throughout the king's lands. While on the run, Sophia discovers horrible news regarding one of her friends. Stumbling around with grief, Sophia takes shelter at Cinderella's grave. There, she meets Constance, a feisty red-head who is a descendant of Cinderella's step-sister Gabriella. Together the two of them seek out the fairy godmother in hopes to stop King Manfred from causing more harm to the women of Lille.

Cinderella is Dead has a perfect main character who sacrifices everything to bring justice to all women. Sophia is such an admirable character since she's not only strong but also not afraid to admit and fight through the fear. This book shows Sophia as a member of the LGBTQA+ community, conveying that Sophia is not only fighting for her rights as a woman, but also her rights as an LGBTQA+. Her strength and bravery throughout the book are remarkable, making her the perfect role model for anyone. Constance is also an amazing character, showcasing her determination and honesty as her strongest characteristics. Both of them create the ultimate power couple, giving the people of Lille empowerment to fight for their rights as women and as LGBTQA+ members.

This book is suitable for ages thirteen and over since there are some scenes of domestic abuse and minor gore. I would recommend this book to anyone, making it the perfect book for a gift or as a self-read. It also covers important topics such as women's rights, LGBTQA+ rights, and having the freedom of voicing your opinions and views. Honesty and bravery were the key points of this book, showing what good people's opinions have on this world and our society. Without different political opinions, our world can become just as corrupt as Lille under King Manfred.

Recommended Titles:

Ash Princess by Laura Sebastian

The Land of Stories by Chris Colfer

So This is Love by Elizabeth Lim