

A Court of Thorns and Roses

Sarah J. Maas

Reviewed by: Rina Guo, 17

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

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Feyre (19) is the huntress and sole provider for her impoverished family in the human world. Out of hunger and hatred, she takes a chance and kills a beautiful, undisturbed wolf in the forest near her cottage. But soon, she realizes her kill will cost her a terrible price. A few days later, a masked faerie king storms into her dwelling to take Feyre's life as atonement for her murder of an innocent, disguised faerie. Suddenly, Feyre is thrust into the faerie lands of Prythian, a place of magic, splendor and richness. Unbeknownst to her though, a terrible curse has oppressed the creatures of Prythian for decades, and Feyre may be their last hope for saving them.

This book is for young adults around age 15-20. There is some mature suggestive content and violent aggression to be aware of.

This was a really fantastic book. It was really well designed and well developed. The story was a more on the longer side, but the entire mass of it was packed with amazing imagery and action. The storyline can almost be figuratively split into two phases, with the first and the last half of the book being starkly different in context and knowledge. This was a unique organization and structure where for a good majority of the story, the readers and the protagonist are left largely in the dark, but over time, the innocence and façade is shed apart piece by piece to reveal a deeper insight of the greater, larger problem underlying everything. Amidst this complex transition, Feyre, our protagonist, shifts greatly in her attitude and values, as she grows from her having a strong hatred of faeries, to feeling a strong love for them later. Her willingness to stand up and save her beloved, despite her many mortal weaknesses, is admirable and inspiring, and she proves to be a smart and persevering hero.

This was a wonderful novel filled with an intense mix of action, fantasy and romance. It left me a little dazed and breathless after finishing the long journey of reading this, and I'm excited to see what the next book of the series has to offer. I used to read a lot of fantasy books when I was younger, and this was one of the first fantasy novels in the Young Adult genre that I've read in a very long time. It brought back a lot of the nostalgia and love I had for these kind of books when I was younger. For many of the long-term and hard-core fantasy readers out there, this is definitely a must-read.

Recommended Titles:

A Court of Mist and Fury by Sarah J. Maas

The Cruel Prince by Holly Black

East by Edith Pattou

From Blood and Ash by Jennifer L. Armentrout

Ever the Hunted by Erin Summerill

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard