

***The False Prince (The Ascendance Trilogy #1)***

**Jennifer A. Nielsen**

**Reviewed by: Marissa Klippenstein, 21**

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

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Civil war is brewing in a unhappy kingdom. To unify the people, Connor, a nobleman of court, devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and use him as a puppet prince. To him, there is no other option. Four orphans are recruited to complete the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. Sage suspects Connor's motives, yet his life balances on the edge of a sword. He must be chosen to be the prince, or he will die...

I have to say right away that the plot twist ending is worth reading the entire book. Not that the beginning of the book is bad, but it is a bit slow. It wasn't as interesting as I thought it was going to be at first; however, when it gets to the end, and everything is revealed, the whole story makes sense. I also loved the mystery behind it! The whole book is a mystery, even if you don't know it is. Besides the slow beginning, the only other thing I didn't enjoy was the main character sometimes. Since this is a middle grade book, it is an especially young protagonist. He was annoying to follow around sometimes. Other than this, I will definitely be picking up the next book!

I would recommend this book for ages 12+ for mild fantasy violence. This book would be a great gift to anybody interested in fantasy, royalty, and plot twists.

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