

Prisoners in the Palace

Michaela MacColl

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Seventeen-year-old Elizabeth Hastings is suddenly orphaned when her parents die of a carriage accident. Her parents leave her all their belongings and also many unpaid debts, forcing Elizabeth to find a job or lose all of her possessions. Liza manages to become a lady-in-waiting to the Princess Victoria and is suddenly thrown into a world of royal chaos. The Duchess, Victoria's mother, and Sir John are attempting to seize all of the Princess's power so when she does inherit the crown, all the power would like with them rather than Victoria. Princess Victoria realizes this is happening, but her sheltered life leaves her defenseless against her guardians. Liza takes it upon herself to save the Princess, but at the same time, she must defend herself from Sir John's seduction techniques. Liza and Victoria join forces with a street boy and a young newspaper man to overthrow the Duchess and Sir John's quest for the crown.

Prisoners in the Palace is a captivating adventure novel for girls fourteen and older. For anyone interested in royal family history, this book is a perfect choice. MacColl does a brilliant job incorporating many different characteristics into her story like adventure, mystery, romance, and a wonderful plotline. All the events build up on each other, becoming more and more suspenseful with each page and the all characters have very realistic personalities. I'm not one to talk to characters in books, but for this story, I often found myself getting so into the story that I started telling the characters what they should've done instead. There wasn't anything I disliked about this book, and I would definitely recommend *Prisoners in the Palace* for anyone who's interested in royal lives and a hint of romance.