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Queen Mab



Synopsis

McDougall Previews Award for Best Fantasy Book of the YearWINNER - 1st Place Fantasy Book, Reader Views Reviewers Choice AwardsWhat if everything that happened in Romeo & Juliet was this woman's fault?When Faunus, the god of daydreams, breaks the heart of Queen Mab, his scorn unleashes the fury of a cruel fairy queen. The personal war between these two Roman demigods is so violent and deep, even the most powerful mortal families in Verona, the Capulets and Montagues, become entangled. But that's before Mab meets a gentleman named Mercutio. Soon, this bitter queen will do anything, even if it means destroying the world, to change the story. But will she act in time or only drive it towards its tragic end? USA TODAY Bestselling author Kate Danley brings the origins of Queen Mab back to her original roots and weaves a dark fairytale around the mythology of the fairy bringer of dreams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of the many books I've discovered thanks to OHFB, I was intrigued by the idea that the events

of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* were orchestrated by something otherworldly. The author was able to create another dimension to the world that Shakespeare created in his work. Therefore, the reader was provided another view of the tragedy which occurred. Though the two works shared the same setting and much of the same cast, this book expounded on the history and lessons put forth in Shakespeare's novel. The mixture of opposites, including love, loss, trust and betrayal, gave the various political maneuverings a deeper level of impact during the course of the book. Much of the novel centered around Queen Mab and the consequences of her actions. She wasn't the only demi-god that meddled with the lives of the people who went about their normal lives in Verona. Faunus, the pipe-playing demi-god with cloven feet, sought to win Mab's realm by coercing her into a wager. Each would choose a champion from either the House Capulet or House Montague. This champion determined which of the houses would fall and by proxy, which demi-god would win. Familiar characters from the original work danced through the novel to their intended ends. Romeo and Juliet, Mercutio and Tybalt - all of them followed the trajectory of the original, but the author of this book gave all the characters an emotional depth. With the primary focus on someone other than the couple, it allowed the secondary characters to come alive in a way that differed from the original. It took a little while for me to become hooked by the story, but within a few chapters, I kept wanting to read more than the time I allotted myself. Because Queen Mab was a demi-god and ruled the world of dreams, she affected the lives of the people for centuries. Once the first betrayal revealed the players, the game was afoot. Wheels of time began turning at a quicker pace when Romeo met Juliet during the masked ball thrown by her father. The multi-layered designs that both Mab and Faunus put into play rushed the downfall of both houses and ushered in the rebirth of said houses with a deeper emotional connection. For me, the book's pace became steady the moment that Faunus stole something from Mab and lasted until the very last word. Overall, I found this book quite entertaining and an interesting way to look at a work that I first read in middle school. It presented the tragic love story in such a way that the reader experienced the full gamut of emotions. From anger, lust and betrayal to love, acceptance and empathy - all these made an appearance at some point in the book. By using a feud between two demi-gods, the author explored more of the cause and effect of decisions made in haste. I enjoyed the transformation of Mab as she learned the lessons through experiencing some of these same emotions herself. It made the story more intimate in a way that I enjoyed. If you're looking for a fresh take on a beloved classic or need a dose of political intrigue among supernatural beings, then this is the book you should be reading!

Students of *ROMEO AND JULIET* are familiar with Queen Mab from the famous speech of

Mercutio. Indeed, scholars have long suspected that Shakespeare had to "kill off" Mercutio, because up to that point in the drama he appears far more interesting than Romeo -- and to at least some extent this is because of the "Queen Mab" passage. Kate Danley's vision is most imaginative. She sets the Montague-Capulet feud amidst a struggle behind the scenes between Mab and Faunus, a satyr. The tale takes some interesting twists, yet along the way Mercutio is inevitably killed by Tybalt, who is in turn slain by Romeo, and once again the best-laid plans of Friar Laurence prove insufficient for the challenges at hand. Or are they? Where is the dream, and can this immortal tragedy nevertheless resolve with a happy ending? I enjoyed Danley's re-creation of the story, and I am happy to recommend it. The narrative holds the reader's interest, and the treatment is certainly original. I might append a few reservations, notably with the language and focus, but these would merely echo commentary already posted by others. Moreover, they did not significantly diminish my enjoyment of the unfolding drama. All told, this is an enjoyable read!

It took me a few chapters to get into the story. I was expecting a fairy queen similar to the one in another series. But low and behold this Queen Mab was quite different and was wrapped up in the lives of Romeo and Juliet as well as their families and friend. She was the Queen of Dreams offering both happy and unpleasant dreams to those she visited each night. Within this story she tried to make happiness happen between the two lovers, but gods and enemies tried to foil her efforts. A wonderful wonderful story and ending and I highly recommend it to everyone ! - Kathy Barber Doyle
- 10/21/2016

Excellent author, fantastic idea, brilliant execution. She weaves Shakespeare's stories perfectly with her own, making something amazing. Love the way she took small aspects of the original and followed those threads to a story that both compliments and enhances the Bard's tale. Great read.

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