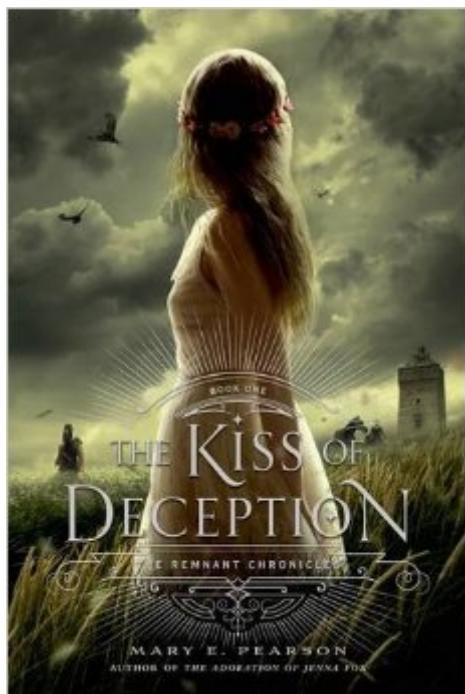


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The Kiss Of Deception (The Remnant Chronicles)



Synopsis

The first book of the New York Times bestselling Remnant Chronicles. *“Fantastical.”* • USA Today She flees on her wedding day. She steals ancient documents from the Chancellor’s secret collection. She is pursued by bounty hunters sent by her own father. She is Princess Lia, seventeen, First Daughter of the House of Morrighan. The Kingdom of Morrighan is steeped in tradition and the stories of a bygone world, but some traditions Lia can’t abide. Like having to marry someone she’s never met to secure a political alliance. Fed up and ready for a new life, Lia escapes to a distant village on the morning of her wedding. She settles in among the common folk, intrigued when two mysterious and handsome strangers arrive • and unaware that one is the jilted prince and the other an assassin sent to kill her. Deceptions swirl and Lia finds herself on the brink of unlocking perilous secrets • secrets that may unravel her world • even as she feels herself falling in love. The Kiss of Deception is the first book in Mary E. Pearson’s New York Times bestselling young adult fantasy series Remnant Chronicles. The adventure continues in the New York Times bestseller, The Heart of Betrayal, and comes to an epic conclusion in The Beauty of Darkness. Praise for The Kiss of Deception: *“A deeply satisfying, intricately plotted fantasy where no one • no one • is quite what they seem. . . . A thoroughly engrossing read • I couldn’t put it down!”* • Robin LaFevers, New York Times • “bestselling author of Grave Mercy and Dark Triumph” *“A sumptuous fantasy.”* • Chicago Tribune *“This is the kind of story I love • a heart-pounding tale of magic and murder, betrayal and romance set in a richly imagined fantasy landscape.”* • Cindy Williams Chima, New York Times • “bestselling author of the Seven Realms and the Heir Chronicles” *“Extraordinary . . . masterfully crafted.”* • Publishers Weekly, starred review *“The Kiss of Deception has it all—beautiful writing, heart-pounding suspense, a fiery princess, and an epic romance that’ll make you swoon. This is definitely one of my favorite reads of the year!”* • Alyson Noël, #1 New York Times • “bestselling author of The Immortals” *“In The Kiss of Deception, a new realm is masterfully created, featuring court intrigue, feuding nations, breathtaking landscapes, and the gift of sight. Fans of the Game of Thrones series will enjoy the magic and fantasy in this timeless dystopian world.”* • VOYA *“Gripping, urgent, and highly appealing.”* • School Library Journal *“Pearson (the Jenna Fox Chronicles) is off to an extraordinary start with her fantasy series, the Remnant Chronicles, creating an alluring world and romance that’s ideal for fans of Kristin Cashore and Megan Whalen Turner.”* • Publishers Weekly *“Pearson offers readers a wonderfully full-bodied story: harrowing, romantic, and full of myth and memory, fate and hope. . . . This has the sweep of an epic tale, told with some twists.”* • Booklist, starred review *“A marvelous new fantasy series that is sure to find an audience with devotees of Suzanne Collins’s The Hunger Games and John*

Flanagan's Ranger's Apprentice books (Philomel). Romance, adventure, mysticism--this book has it all and it just may be the next YA blockbuster." •School Library Journal, starred review

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Holy crap, batman. This book, y'all. It's like this crazy hodgepodge of things all smushed together in a neat little ball that totally came at me and knocked me down. It's fantasy, but it's more. It's a romance, but it's more. It's just a lot of good things. Except one thing. The love triangle, but more on that later. Let's return to the gushing. You know whenever a main character just has it? (As if I know what it is. I clearly do not have it.) That's Lia. As I read *The Kiss of Deception*, I was practically decked out in a cheerleading uniform complete with pompoms. Lia is a great protagonist. She's the type that I hope younger girls look up to. Lia worked for this story, and this story worked for Lia. Now, the downside. Even though this book is without a doubt a five star read for me, there's a love triangle. I never like them. Not ever, not even once. I think they're boring, repetitive, and frankly, they just plain piss me off. The one in *The Kiss of Deception* is no exception. I felt like it hindered the story more than it contributed to it. *The Kiss of Deception* transcends the young adult age group. It's a story that can be enjoyed by any one of any age. It's a perfect example of what a high fantasy book should be like. If you've never read a fantasy book but you're curious about the genre, read *The Kiss of Deception*. It's the perfect introduction to an amazing genre.**I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review with no compensation.

Let's talk about first impressions--they are IMPORTANT. If, for example, you start reading a new book, and the first glimpses you get of ALL THREE main characters are less than flattering, you might be tempted to toss said book aside in disgust and hope the next one goes better. YES. You might. And honestly, in this situation, I would not blame you. Not even a little bit. So here's the deal--I'm not one of those the-less-romance-the-better types. I'm the opposite, in fact. In most cases, a book completely devoid of romance is a book I will almost certainly find lacking. That being said, I don't like romance tossed in willy nilly, b/c, this book needs romance, so, "Hey! You two over there! Yeah, you! Make googly eyes at each other. I don't care if it doesn't make sense, just do it! Thaaaat's it, muuuuuchhh better." In fantasy, one of the most common ways for romance to play out is the Arranged Marriage scenario. Neither party is happy about it, but something IMPORTANT is at stake, so two self-sacrificing souls agree to wed for the greater good. Then, despite the obvious unfairness of their situation, stuff happens, they fall in love, and they live HEA. And this makes you happy, b/c SELF-SACRIFICE. But what if Princess is a narcissistic little brat who not only runs away from her arranged marriage, but drags one of her good friends along with her? B/c who cares that the only way to ensure the safety of her family and the general population in the face of a barbarian invasion is to keep with tradition and unite her family with Prince's family, b/c NEITHER family has the strength to survive alone? Not Princess. *frowns* And not only does she not care, she laughs ALL THE TIME. Ah-ha-ha-ha laughs. Like Keira Knightley ruining Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*. "Running away equals TREASON to my hard-case father, who had my cousin hanged for desertion and buried him in an unmarked grave along with his mother (hard-case father's SISTER), who threw herself off a cliff in despair." Ah-ha-ha-ha. *flares nostrils* Oh, and Prince only agrees to the marriage b/c his father tells him he can take a mistress. And don't even get me started on *Reluctant Assassin*.

I have never read a novel by Mary E. Pearson before, but after reading this one I want to go out and buy all of her previous works! This book was everything I wanted and more. While it was not perfect, I couldn't have asked for a more unique series to get me out of my reading slump. Princess Lia is a First Daughter. As a First Daughter she is expected to have the gift of sight, though she hasn't showed any signs of such a gift. This gift is especially important because her parents are marrying her off to another kingdom with the promise that her gift of sight will be able to benefit both countries united. However, Lia hates pretending she is something that she truly is not and she's never met the prince she is to be married to, so she runs away right before her wedding with the help of one of her servants and friends. Lia is a very unique character. In the beginning, she's not that easy to get

behind. She seems like any other spoiled princess not wanting to take part in her princess duties so she runs away in rebellion. However, the readers quickly realize that she really is unlike all of the other princesses and she truly does prefer the hard work that a peasant has to do to the politicking that a princess must endure. Because of this it takes time to warm up to Lia, so it's hard to get behind her in the beginning of the story. You just want to shake her at times when she claims to want to blend in, but she doesn't change her name or treat soldiers any differently. Her character growth is literally insane and by the end of the book I had nothing but respect and admiration for this rogue princess. I am rooting for her like no other. The love interest in this book is also someone to root for. When Lia begins life as a serving girl at a bed and breakfast, two haunting strangers come into her life: Rafe and Kaden. One is an assassin sent to kill her by her enemies to ensure that her country will remain at war and the other is the jilted prince she was meant to marry. She doesn't know about either of their true identities, nor are they aware of each other's true agendas, so this makes for a whole lot of confusion and stolen time. The coolest aspect of this concept is that as readers, we are unsure who is who as well. We're eventually told who is the assassin and who is the prince and the book is turned upside down all over again when everything we thought was true may have been wrong...(and this twist is freaking awesome!) This book obviously has the makings of a love triangle since both boys catch feelings for Lia against their better judgments, but Lia very clearly only likes one of them and, boy, am I happy. This ship is going far, let me tell you. I want it to sail the ocean and dock at the very end because this is a ship a girl can easily get behind. The world-building in this book is gorgeous, but it also leaves me questioning the book's genre. No doubt, there are fantasy aspects to this book, but at times I felt like this was a post-apocalyptic fantasy set hundreds of years into the future when our modern world is in such ruin that this new world sprung up. The reason I say this is because I felt like several aspects of this world were remnants of our world today. On top of that fact, the names of some things had me curious. Bridge of Golgata...Bridge of Gold Gate...Golden Gate Bridge, you know? This is something that I'd love to talk to people about when they read this book! My one issue with this book is the fact that I'm slightly confused in regards to the whole sight thing. I'm lead to believe that this just may be me as a reader. However, this girl's mother has the sight and she can see the future, so is that what the sight entails? Why does it appear in some and not others? Why did Lia's mother not even want her to have the sight? Why, when Lia was at the camps, did she learn something new? What are all these different sight things?! Really, that's my only confusion in the book that leads me to a ton of questions and they all have to do with the aspect of Lia that made her believe she was a sham of a princess. I'm sure that we will get answers in later books, but the anxious reader in me wants them

now. In the end, this book was awesome. Really, it blew my mind on several different occasions. While it was not perfect, I see my two main issues getting corrected in book two. This series is not only compelling, but it leaves you literally begging for more. With an awesome heroine, a kickass love interest, and plot twists galore, I can't ever see this one disappointing anyone.

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