



Ash & Bramble

By Sarah Prineas

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The tale of Cinderella has been retold countless times. But what you know is not the true story. Sarah Prineas's bold fairy-tale retelling is a dark and captivating world where swords are more fitting than slippers, young shoemakers are just as striking as princes, and a heroine is more than ready to rescue herself before the clock strikes midnight.

Pin has no recollection of who she is or how she got to the Godmother's fortress. She only knows that she is a Seamstress, working day in and out to make ball gowns fit for fairy tales. But she longs to forsake her backbreaking servitude and dares to escape with the brave young Shoemaker.

Pin isn't free for long before she's captured again and forced to live the new life the Godmother chooses for her—a fairy-tale story, complete with a charming prince—instead of finding her own happily ever after.

When the glass slipper just doesn't fit . . .

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Pin wakes up knowing nothing about her past. She is told she is a Seamstress, one of many slaves forced to work for the fearsome Godmother. With the help of a mysterious thimble she has somehow saved from Before, headstrong Pin and a frightened but caring Shoemaker escape the prison fortress. But Pin is captured, and her memory is again wiped away by the Godmother. She awakes as an abused stepdaughter who is fated to wear glass slippers and meet a charming prince at a ball. Meanwhile, Shoe is saved by rebels and plots to rescue Pin. When Prince Cor realizes that he has also been used, he joins Pin, Shoe, and the rebels in their efforts to thwart the Godmother's power. But can they ever escape the inevitable ending that Story has planned for them? Narrated in the first person alternately by Pin and Shoe, the book begins with a sense of foreboding and steadily builds suspense as the characters piece together the truth about how the Godmother manipulates people and events. Prineas skillfully brings her characters to life and creates a believable premise for this unconventional "Cinderella" story, even managing to sneak in references to other fairy tales. There is plenty of action mixed with romance, as Shoe and Cor compete for Pin's affections. The wicked Godmother concept works perfectly, and it is a revelation when Pin discovers the reason for the witch's actions in the original stories. VERDICT A first purchase for fans of Marissa Meyer's "Lunar Chronicles" (Feiwel & Friends) and Robin McKinley's retold fairy tales.—Martha Simpson, Stratford Library Association, CT

Review

Ash & Bramble is a delightful deconstruction of society's fairy tale myth, wrapped in an exquisite, spellbinding adventure. A must-read for teens who yearn to forge their very own story. (Rae Carson, author of the best-selling Girl of Fire and Thorns trilogy)

“A uniquely new fairy tale, full of beauty and danger. Splendid!” (Tamora Pierce, author of Mastiff)

“Ash & Bramble is a book written for anyone who wants to decide for themselves what path their life should take.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) (Starred Review))

“Ash and Bramble is a uniquely written story with a strong and engaging voice. 4 ½ stars.” (Romantic Times Book Reviews, Top Pick)

“Prineas handily incorporates numerous twists on fairy-tale conventions in this feminist reimagining of the Cinderella story.” (Publishers Weekly)

“The romance absolutely aches. A fresh fairy-tale retelling.” (ALA Booklist)

From the Back Cover

A prince.

A ball.

A glass slipper left behind at the stroke of midnight.

The tale is told and retold, twisted and tweaked, snipped and stretched, as it leads to happily ever after.

But it is not the true Story.

A dark fortress.

A past forgotten.

A life of servitude.

No one has ever broken free of the Godmother's terrible stone prison until a girl named Pin attempts a breathless, daring escape. But she discovers that what seems like freedom is a prison of another kind, one that entangles her in a story that leads to a prince, a kiss, and a clock striking midnight. To unravel herself from this new life, Pin must choose between a prince and another—the one who helped her before and who would give his life for her. Torn, the only thing for her to do is trade in the glass slipper for a sword and find her own destiny.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joe Lowe:

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Joyce Martinez:

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