



# A Dandelion for Tulip

*R. Cooper*

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## **A Dandelion for Tulip** R. Cooper

David is in love with Tulip, a kind and unusually quiet fairy in his social circle. But everyone knows Tulip doesn't date humans. David tells himself he is happy to be Tulip's friend, because he doesn't believe a fairy could love him and Tulip has never tried to "keep him"—as fairies refer to relationships with humans.

Fairies are drawn to David, describing his great "shine," but David knows only too well how quickly fairies can forget humans, and thinks he's destined to be alone. He can't see his own brilliance or understand how desperately Tulip wants him, even if Tulip believes David can do better.

But exhausted and more than a little tipsy at a Christmas party, David makes his feelings too obvious for Tulip to deny any longer. Because of a past heartbreak involving a human, Tulip is convinced someone as shiny as David could never want a "silly, stupid fairy" in his life. Now, if he wants to keep David, he'll have to be as brave as his shiny, careful human.

## **A Dandelion for Tulip Details**

Date : Published June 24th 2016 by Dreamspinner Press

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Author : R. Cooper

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## From Reader Review A Dandelion for Tulip for online ebook

### Jaylee says

Everything R. Cooper writes is amazing, so you know this was amazing. I love her fairies, and this book has so many of them. She draws a lot of analogies between the discrimination of Beings and racism/homophobia/etc. I love that she takes these flighty, colorful, silly, excitable creatures and gives them depth and power. I have so many feelings about the way she constructs the Beings in her books.

I have no coherent thoughts, only fangirling. Don't mind me.

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### Georgie says

All Cooper's virtues as a writer are here - gentle love, the ability to show depth of feeling with the smallest of gestures, slow-pacing working up to a decent HEA.

Unfortunately, all her weaknesses are here too. Structurally it's really difficult to work out what happened when -- backstories abound, but are rarely spelled out clearly enough to fit them into a timeline. And David and Tulip take to stupid lengths the inability to listen to what the other is saying, instead of making wild assumptions that serve to keep them apart even longer. That grew tiresome.

And - sorry - but fairies have to stay the right side of twee otherwise I'm outa here. Tulip makes flower garlands. 'Nuff said.

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### Relly says

One of my favourites

4.25 ?

Re read Jan 19 in preparation for Clematis' story.

I love both David and Tulip even when they are driving me nuts by going around and around. I understand why both are wary but I wish they would talk it out and listen to each other. David's loneliness and belief that no one wants him is hard to read at times. I liked that David questioned people perceptions and he was pushing the boundaries in his studies. Seeing Bertie and Arthur again, Bertie was as hilarious as always. I also loved the secondary characters and especially David's relationship with Flor. I hope we get to see more of him in Clematis' book.

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### Jilrene ♥ says

I'm writing a review for Gay.Guy.Reading and Friends. I'll add a link when it's available.

*4.0 flower crowns and all the dandelions ?*

## **Lisa The Novel Approach says**

While this is technically the sixth book in this series, I read it without having read the previous books and it worked quite well. That being said, I'm definitely going back to the beginning and reading all of these stories.

This is an absolutely gorgeous love story between a human, David, and Tulip, the faery he is in love with. David is a mixed race human Ph.D. student who is working on his doctorate, specializing in reexamining the literature of the past, featuring beings—particularly faeries and such—in great works such as Shakespeare. Now that beings have come out of hiding and are “known” in the human world, David is trying to put the pieces together to show that these great writers, in fact, were in contact with beings and those actual beings were the inspiration for these works. Apparently this is quite unpopular with the “establishment,” as they seem to think that such a theory denigrates the “genius” of these writers. That hasn't stopped David, though, and he's forging ahead.

Tulip is a beautiful faery that lives in the same building as Flor, David's childhood best friend. Tulip is a children's librarian and he has always seemed to hold himself back from David a bit. But it is obvious to the others that Tulip and David have had some sort of attraction going on for years.

At a Christmas/housewarming party for another mutual human friend, David is a bit drunk and a bit embarrassed after a somewhat disastrous fling with Clematis, another faery. Clem has blabbed the details of their relationship and David feels pretty humiliated. In fact, he's avoided his friends for weeks. He's only acquiesced to attend Stephanie's party because he can't come up with an excuse. While he is there, he runs into Tulip, and they flirt, but once again Tulip pulls back.

During the next few months, David and Tulip have several more encounters where they sort of dance around each other. Tulip seems sad when he talks to David but still complements David and obviously cares about him. David knows—everyone knows—that Tulip doesn't date humans. As the story builds, we finally find the reason for Tulip's decision. When David realizes that Tulips has been devastated in the past, he understands, but it still hurts because he really has deep feelings for Tulip.

Flor, David's best friend, has grown up with him. They have been friends since they were young boys. David's family is not happy that his best friend is a faery; they think he already has enough strikes against him dealing with the prejudice and assumptions about his mixed race heritage. But David is always there for Flor, and Flor is there for David. Flor is encouraging about Tulip, but things are still difficult. They have agreed to be “friends,” but it hurts both of them.

When things come to a head, Tulip confesses that he needs more than friendship. Flor is a bit of a catalyst for David and Tulip to finally move forward in their relationship. They finally are willing to take a chance. Things aren't perfect and they still have some issues to work through, but they definitely need each other. When David and Tulip are able to overcome their fears and get past their previous heartbreaks, they are able to achieve something neither thought was possible—a truly loving partnership.

I really enjoyed every bit of this story! I've been a huge fan of this author since I read one of her first stories at Dreamspinner, *A Wealth of Unsaid Words*, back in 2011. I was captivated by the blurb and tulips are my

favorite flower . . . Highly recommended for fans of a slow building story between two damaged guys who are both afraid that they can't really have what they want. I already own all the other books in this series, and I'm off to read them because this writing is just beautiful.

Reviewed by Sadonna for The Novel Approach Reviews

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## **Sadonna says**

The full review can also be found at [The Novel Approach](#)

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Review of Audiobook can be found at [The Novel Approach](#)

David has been in love with Tulip for some time, but he knows Tulip doesn't date humans. He's just had a disastrous liaison with Clematis, another fairy, and he's not too excited to see anyone. He's embarrassed and stressed and he's got a lot on his plate with his research and his teaching and just trying to keep a low profile. But when he attends a holiday party at his friend's apartment, he runs into Tulip and they have a very interesting conversation.

David's best friend is also a fairy, and Flor wants to help David get what he wants. Flor and David have been friends since they were children. There is a lot of history there—some of which isn't so great. David has had his heart broken before, so he's quite reluctant to give anyone the chance to hurt him again. He's extremely sensitive and he's already gun-shy after the messy business with Clematis.

As the months pass, though, and David and Tulip continue to run into each other at various times and functions, it seems like they are dancing around each other; neither wants to put the other in a precarious position. David learns about Tulip's past heartbreak, and he's even more convinced that nothing can ever come of his feelings for Tulip. Flor, though, has finally figured out that there is something there and maybe, just maybe, he can help fix this whatever-it-is between David and Tulip.

I really enjoyed this story when I first read it. The slowly building relationship between David and Tulip was lovely. Unfortunately, the narration just didn't work for me on this one. I'm not sure why, but I just didn't connect with the voices for the various characters in this audio. There were some pronunciation issues that bothered me some and threw me out of the story a couple of times. I still love the story, but for me, the narration detracted rather than enhanced this particular book. As usual, YMMV.

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## **Ulysses Dietz says**

I do believe in fairies.

*A Dandelion for Tulip*

By R. Cooper

Dreamspinner Press, 2015

Cover by Paul Richmond

ISBN: 978-1-63477-314-0

168 pages

Five stars

I'm one of that select, lucky world who find R. Cooper's "beings" novels completely enchanting. My favorite up until now has been her first, "Some Kind of Magic," which features a werewolf falling in love with a half-fairy. But I think "A Dandelion for Tulip" has taken its place. Must be something about fairies...

Cooper's world is American, but it is a United States that has had a century to deal with the emergence of magical beings during the cataclysmic destruction of World War I. Prejudice and ignorance still abound, but beings, for better or worse, are part of the social fabric. Cooper tells their stories, and weaves their history into that of their human kindred. In Cooper's hands, being magical is analogous to being different, and being different in America has always been troublesome.

David MacKenzie is a PhD candidate in history, and his dissertation topic is the Influence of fairies on western literary traditions (think: *Midsummer Night's Dream*). He has an uphill slog ahead of him, for the reasons of prejudice and ignorance mentioned above. But David is particularly open to fairies and other beings: he is mixed race, the child of one black parent and one white parent. But just as significantly, his best friend from childhood is Flor de Maga, a fairy of Puerto Rican ancestry (flor de maga is the state flower of Puerto Rico—I looked it up).

Aside from David's academic struggles, there is his emotional conflict over his feelings for another fairy, Tulip. Those feelings have in no way been mitigated by a brief, disastrous affair with another fairy named Clematis. All of this drama is unveiled in the opening scene, a Christmas party at the home of an African American friend, Stephanie.

R. Cooper's books are not for everyone; her intense romantic style is not florid, but it is very emotional and tightly strung. There is a great deal of internal dialogue, and very little real action. This book is, even more than the others, entirely about David and Tulip and their feelings. For me, it was like taking a bath in fairy glitter, and that's probably not going to appeal to everyone.

What made this book particularly effective for me is that Cooper really delves into the minds of both David and Tulip. The single overarching goal is to make the reader understand the source of the barrier that is keeping them apart. It is, more or less, a case study in fairy psychology and behavior. What was hinted at in "Some Kind of Magic" is explored in depth here.

There are quite a few writers who explore the concept of a contemporary human world populated with paranormal creatures, and I enjoy all of them. R. Cooper, however, is really on her own—a subgenre within a subgenre. I find her books fascinating and emotionally compelling. They may not be for everyone but, like fairies, they can be addictive and extremely beautiful to experience.

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## Eugenia says

Sixth in the **Beings in Love** series, this was my least favorite of the lot. Why? This 200 page book should have been a short story. The characters kept going around the subject endlessly, repeating themselves in such a circuitous fashion that I was wondering if the author or editor forgot that we had read over the same points at least three times. It got old, and I got tired of reading what was essentially the same dialogue over and over again.

Highlight: Bertie with Arthur wearing their baby girl make a cameo appearance at the end of the book.

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## Kristan says

Three things:

First off, I haven't read all of the books in this series. I *have* read **A Boy and His Dragon**. If you're in the same boat as me, you'll be happy to hear that Arthur and Bertie make an appearance near the end of this installment.

Secondly, these books are stand alone. I had no problem jumping into the world R. Cooper created.

Finally, I've come to realize that each book has a common theme: they all have that slow-burning, self-pitying, *let's not talk about what we're really talking about* way about them.

Now for the review.

Fairies: hippies of the preternatural world. They have a strong aversion to clothing, usually forget their keys, and phone, and the projects they're working on. They love sweets and often eat candy for meals. They are easily distracted and forget often. (You know, apart from the naked thing, I feel like I'm describing myself here...) They love happiness, burst with colorful glitter, and they rarely stay still. But sometimes... Sometimes they meet the right person, and they settle. They stay.

**They keep that human and they treasure them.**

Tulip has been there, done that, and has the broken heart to prove it. Now he's the fairy with the reputation for *not* dating humans. That's a complication when he only has eyes for David.

When we meet David, he's maudlin and lonely. Overworked and frazzled, he is the furthest thing from happy.

David also shines. He's the shiniest thing his fairy friends have ever seen, and they tell him all the time. Frankly, he's sick of it. What has being shiny ever done for him, besides break his heart and fuel his attraction to fairies - which is not a good thing, because fairies aren't known for their attention span. David can't take another beautiful, glittering creature getting bored of him and forgetting him.

Yet again, David finds himself in a hopeless situation. For three years, he and Tulip have been dancing around each other. **Three years of want, and longing, and settling for friendship.** He has all of these feelings for Tulip, and after having too much to drink, and not enough sleep, he asks Tulip for more.

And Tulip lets him down gently.

**Welcome to the Pity Party. Population 2.**

**There was so much angst!!**



The good kind of angst, though. The unrequited kind.

But my god, these two were drowning in it.

I just wanted to smash their faces together.

*To read the rest of this review, visit the blog below!*

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## **Elizabeth says**

Audio

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## **The FountainPenDiva, Old school geek chick and lover of teddy bears says**

Because there's a huge dearth of M/M romances featuring PoC characters, I definitely wanted to give this one my full support. I loved the cover (which is a huge part of the reason I bought it. I don't care what some stupid publishers think, many readers want and need to see diversity reflected *ON* their books as well as *IN* them). The human hero was depicted in the book as being a lighter-skinned biracial Black man (He blushed. A lot).

Unfortunately, 23% into the book and the hero David was just too full of "woe is me". I just can't do that. I don't mind characters who are dealing with emotional issues, especially breakups, but not for endless pages of sad sack-dom. I just couldn't finish it, and too bad, the overall premise is actually very interesting. I love some well written urban fantasy. To my mind Angel Martinez actually does a better job with intermingling humans and fae without the unnecessary angst.

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## **Elaine White says**

This was another nice addition to the series. With a human/fairy pairing, the dynamics were familiar, but I had some trouble getting into the story to begin with. Mostly, it was because the MC, David, had serious chemistry with Flor, his best friend. I was so confused, for the first 10% thinking about how much chemistry and history they had, the way Flor and David acted around each other, that I found it almost impossible to think of David with anyone else. Especially since Tulip was only mentioned briefly throughout that time and seemed secondary in David's attention, until he finally showed up wearing mistletoe at the party.

Again, there were no chapter headings anywhere and for a 200 page book, I just can't understand it. I mean, knowing how many chapters there are and being able to track how far into one you've gone so far, warns me that I can be heading for a break soon. I use these breaks to write my notes and stop to think about what I've read so far, but that's impossible when there are no chapter headings.

When it comes to characters, we get Frangipani and Adam in brief glimpses (from the very short story Frangipani and the Very Shiny Boy) but not enough to really warrant why they needed the short story on top of their mentions in this book. We also get to meet Clematis, who was Arthur's previous boyfriend/fling in A Boy and His Dragon. He's pretty slutty here, unfortunately, and that was something that kind of frustrated me. Despite all the talk about not stereotyping fairies in multiple books of the series, Clematis, Frangipani and Flor are the most stereotypical characters - flighty, slutty and with no filter.

I had an issue with some of the descriptions of David, who is mixed-race. First off, describing someone as "mixed" out of context was highly confusing and really didn't work for me. But then it was followed by constant coffee/food colour comparisons for his skin and it was just something that, personally, rubbed me up the wrong way. Next to the fairy stereotypes it just felt like it had been gone about in the wrong way.

Saying that, I did like the strength of David and Flor's friendship; I just wish it hadn't been based on a sexual/romantic history with each other, which was obvious from page one, but wasn't actually mentioned until about 80%. It kind of felt, in this story, that fairies couldn't be friends with other fairies or humans unless they'd had sex with each other (shown by the constant references of how slutty both Flor and Clem are, as well as Clem saying "it's their turn now" in regards to David having slept with most of them, and also the fact that Clem has slept with most of the group, too). It just felt like it undid all of that equality and 'we're not slutty' messages that were peppered throughout the series so far.

The story jumps from one big event to another, mostly months apart, perhaps to show how little time David gives to his friends or perhaps to show that they're still great friends no matter how little they see each other. Either way, it left me feeling a little uninterested in David, who wasn't a great friend and was put across as this lonely, shy geek, though he never came across that way to me in the same way that Arthur did, in book 2. It felt too much like David just wasn't interested in anyone else, that he was selfish and self-opinionated, that he only cared about his own life and opinions, proven multiple times where he questioned where people were when he needed them only to be reminded that he was unreachable himself.

I did cry at one point, when David and Tulip had their big confrontation, but that was because I really loved Tulip. He really reminded me of Cal, from book 1 in the way that he was a little bit of a flibbertigibbet, but he wasn't the typical stereotype and he fought back against them when he could. I totally connected with him, his feelings, his needs and he was what kept me reading. I especially loved the way that Flor and Tulip interacted with each other. I'd like to read Flor's story, eventually, because it would be interesting to see him away from being the stereotypical clingy-bestie always hanging off David. The times I loved him most were when he showed some maturity.

The 'mis-communication' theme for this series was still present, but in a much more subtle way that made it more interesting to follow. Although David and Tulip had spent years tiptoeing around each other, never really talking about the elephant in the room that they each only thought they could see, the mis-communication didn't continue long. It came up early in the story and was routinely argued about, though it was other people who stopped them from saying the important stuff, by interrupting at the right time.

I loved that Bertie and Arthur were back, even for a little while, but it's still frustrating to know that there's no hint of what the baby is or is called. We never got answers to that, so I'm hoping it will come up eventually. I found it interesting that Bertie wanted to meet Clematis and I'm intrigued to read his story, whenever it comes along.

Overall, it was a nice story but not as strong as the others. I'm going to keep reading, because I want to find out about the side characters that we've practically been promised will have their own story, but with only

one novel left and one short, neither of which feature these characters, I think it's going to be a long wait.

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## SheReadsALot says

### FOUR HEARTS--Fairies, dragons, glitter and shine?!

Contact glitter might possibly be a thing after reading *A Dandelion for Tulip*.

This was my first R. Cooper and after reading, it won't be my last. I read along as I listened to Michael Fell narrate. The story is within **4- 4.5 Hearts** range, the narration is a **3-3.5 Hearts** range. My rating is an average. The story was subtle slow burn. It used the smaller, quieter moments to get the point across. And it writhed in the angst...

**"Ever see yourself doing the same thing over and over? And inside you're screaming, Why do I keep doing this? Why am I so stupid? Because you know how it will end, and yet you do it anyway. And more of you seems to get stripped away each time until all that's left is this hopeful idiot who never learns."**

Great internal angst where the author has an excellent sense of their characters, characteristics and the setting.

Set in an alternate universe where beings, or supernaturals, are known and is closely related to our world (all of our historical events happened just with beings out in the open for the last hundred years or so). The beings are marginalized by humans and you could switch any present day marginalized group with beings and the same emotions and hurt comes across. The author showcases inclusiveness and present day marginalized groups without getting preachy or it coming across as looking for 'cool kid' points.

All the books in the Being(s) in Love series are standalone and I was not lost reading this. In fact, I'm so going back and reading the dragon book. (The couple from A Boy and His Dragon make an appearance)

David is an overworked PhD student and TA. He is also biracial and feels he has to prove himself just to get respect in his field and in his life. He works extra hard to be taken seriously, it is what his family pushes him to do and what he's learned he should be as there are others who will judge him for his skin color. (The author really excelled at getting David's challenges in life across) The subject of David's doctorate and programs doesn't make his life an easier...he studies beings. Humans are slowly warming up to their supernatural counterparts.

David's got his work cut out for him. And he doesn't make it easier for himself with who he is in love with, a quiet older fairy named Tulip who doesn't do humans. It's been years since David fell for the fairy with swirling gold eyes and black and pink glitter wings.

**Side note:** the cover is beautiful, but it doesn't really get the way the main characters are described. David is

described as a biracial academic with auburn, curly hair. I don't know if the author based David off musician Jidenna (he's a biracial academic with a flair for preppy clothes - listen to his music--it's AWESOME)

But I couldn't stop picturing David as this. And Tulip's wings on the cover doesn't match either. But the sentiment is nice as it captures a pivotal scene. End side note.

The story is told exclusively through David's perspective. The self proclaimed nerd has a close knit circle of friends that includes his object of his love, his best friend Flor and his ex-hook-up Clematis. Fairies are known as the 'hippies' of the beings - they down sugar and sweets like it's alcohol, tell the truth all the time and clothing is optional (mostly not!) The total opposite of David's seriousness. But what David possess is a shine. Seen by only fairies, his "shine" draws fairies to him. But no one wants to "keep" him...

Through an embarrassing Christmas party, a drunk David finally lets his feelings known. And he's rebuffed gently. The author brings us through mutual pining and restraint, quiet touches and soul bearing. The angst, it aches at a point but overall it is a quiet, gentle story. A sweet romance with achingly sweet words, heady breaths and painstaking moments.

**"Have you always wanted to do this?" David asked, slow as honey. "My bed waits for you," Tulip answered in a low serious tone, and wiped chocolate or sugar from David's chin. "Since the first time you fell asleep in it. Before then, even."**

I have so many quotes saved on my Kindle. The slow burn is definitely turned on high. There were moments when I just wanted to grab Tulip and David and just shake them. It's so obvious their adoration for each other, but they're damaged and oblivious. But I wasn't bored at any point. There were a few lull moments, where it seemed the character was talking around the issue. Or the nerd was on full steam and the research subject would take precedence to the romance, but in a way it worked. I figured as I read it's the way the author told the story.

When the two finally get their act together... MAGIC.

Smutters, there is sex. Hell, there was a surprising public sex scene that definitely hit the right notes. And a big guy bottoming! Yay! But it wasn't overly graphic, if it's what you're seeking. The moments were hot and it fit the entire vibe of the romance.

I did read along with the audio and if you dive into this standalone story, I'd suggest reading it first, or at least along with the audio. Fell was decent at narrating. I think he lost steam as the story progressed, but he did seem to read it and react accordingly to most moments. He did fail with pronunciation a lot, like he kept

saying Cle-MAN-tis for Clematis, or NA-DREE-UH for Nadira. And he'd change words in the text a good number of times. Would I listen to him again? Yes. But I warn audio sticklers, I'd try reading if it's a major issue for you.

Because either way, the story is magical, quietly romantic and sweet. There was a light plot twist I didn't see and it made me understand why David was the way he is and how he views the world that surrounds him. Maybe it was also the reason he chose the field he studies?

After finishing, I want a fairy of my own. I definitely loved what David and Tulip brought to the table and think they'll continue being the best for each other for years to come.

Highly recommended for urban fantasy fans who like the romance with pining, internal angst and glitter.

Glitter smack!

*A copy provided for an honest review.*

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### **Serena Yates says**

The magical, supernatural world of R. Cooper's 'Being(s) In Love' series has fascinated me since the first book – and my addiction has been growing more serious with each volume. Fairies have been around since the beginning of the series - in fact, one of the two main characters in the first book was a half fairy. But their specific behaviors and “rules” have been no more than hinted at, making them more than a little mysterious, possible flighty, and worth a second look. Imagine my delight when I discovered that 'A Dandelion for Tulip' has a human falling in love with a full fairy! I couldn't wait to see what would happen.

Please find my full review on [Rainbow Book Reviews](#).

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### **Chris, the Dalek King says**

Tulup doesn't date humans, and David has a rather bad history when it comes to love and fairies. Both of them are madly in love with each other, but their bad experiences mean that they don't trust themselves to trust the other. It doesn't help that the world around them is constantly pushing the idea that fairies and humans are great together when the sex comes with no-strings, but that humans shouldn't trust fairies to stick around longer than the next cookie. The true love of a fairy is nothing to sneeze at, though. And if David can just take the chance, he might get the one thing he always wanted. Someone to call his own.

I am unabashedly in love with this series. There has not been a single book in it that I haven't enjoyed

(except Little Wolf—and that is only because I haven't read it yet). I still think that *The Firebird and Other Stories* is one of the best things that R. Cooper has ever written. So it should come with little shock that I wanted to review this sixth book in the *Beings in Love* series.

Plot wise there is not a lot going on in this story. There are some forays into David's work on his grad thesis, but overall this book is about the tumultuous relationship between Tulip and David. While I wish there had been more subplotting here in this book, I also can't deny that I adored the slow-burn (and at times rather teary) relationship between these two MCs.

Yes, I do believe that this story could have been a lot shorter if they had figured their shit out a lot earlier...but what is the fun in that? Like the candy that fairies love so much, this book was a bit of a salty-sweet treat for people who like long-sighs and longing looks. Yeah, it is bit over the top at times...but it fit the whole fairy theme of the book. A little bit flighty but also with a true and honest spirit.

One of the things I really like about these books is they take on prejudice that is not unique to them...but by removing it a step from reality it gives us a chance to be more objective about it. These are fictional characters in fictional situations, but a lot about what this book and this series talks about it still true to our world today. The beauty of fiction is that it can make us see the truth about ourselves and our world...and not even realize it until the seed has already been planted.

I will probably go on wholeheartedly recommending this series to the end of time. Most of them are fairly light stories, but the characters and the world are totally enchanting to me. And I hope to you as well.

4.5 stars

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