



The Invasion of the Tearling

Erika Johansen

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Kelsea Glynn is the Queen of the Tearling. Despite her youth, she has quickly asserted herself as a fair, just and powerful ruler.

However, power is a double-edged sword, and small actions can have grave consequences. In trying to do what is right - stopping a vile trade in humankind - Kelsea has crossed the Red Queen, a ruthless monarch whose rule is bound with dark magic and the spilling of blood. The Red Queen's armies are poised to invade the Tearling, and it seems nothing can stop them.

Yet there was a time before the Crossing, and there Kelsea finds a strange and possibly dangerous ally, someone who might hold the key to the fate of the Tearling, and indeed to Kelsea's own soul. But time is running out...

Erika Johansen's fierce and unforgettable young heroine returns in this dazzling new novel of magic and adventure, set in the beguiling world of the Tearling.

The Invasion of the Tearling Details

Date : Published June 9th 2015 by Harper

ISBN : 9780062290397

Author : Erika Johansen

Format : Hardcover 515 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Fiction

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From Reader Review The Invasion of the Tearling for online ebook

Melanie says

1.) The Queen of the Tearling ★★★

I didn't enjoy this book more than The Queen of the Tearling. This book felt like it dragged way too much in some parts and I'm not a huge fan Kelsea seeing memories from the past. I understand her necklace(s) is very powerful and helpful, but I just didn't enjoy this concept as much as I hoped.

Yes, Kelsea can now see memories from a girl named Lily, who lived in pre-crossing America. Even though Lily is rich and married to a powerful man, while most the population lives in terrible conditions, she isn't safe and lives a very sad life. As much as I really loved Lily's story line, it just felt too abrupt and jarring switching back and forth from her past and Kelsea's present.

Kelsea has her own major problems going on - The Mort army is getting closer to her kingdom every day. The Red Queen wants her sapphires and will do anything to get them. All hope seems lost to Kelsea, but her kingdom believes in her and she will go to dangerous lengths to prove them right.

This book has many important and thought provoking topics that need more discussion in our world:

- Women are **not** alive to just get married and bear their husband children.
- Woman **can** be raped by their husbands.
- Men **do** get raped, not just women.
- Sometimes it's hard to get out of abusive relationships.

This being said, this book has many triggers for abuse, rape, and self harm, so please use caution while reading.

This book also deals with body image in a weird way, which I'm not sure I liked. In The Queen of the Tearling Kelsea is stated as being chubby and plain constantly. Well, in *The Invasion of the Tearling* Kelsea is subconsciously using her powers to be more attractive. People comment on the change of her looks a lot, and it sort of feels bad to read. Kelsea herself has inner monologues where she understands that men should like her regardless of the way she looks, but she obviously prefers being thinner and more beautiful. I mean, I know most of us would, which is why it feels weird. I don't know how I feel about this part of the story, but, regardless, use caution if you feel this might be something that would upset or trigger you.

"This, I think, is the crux of evil in this world, Majesty: those who feel entitled to whatever they want, whatever they can grab. Such people never ask themselves if they have the right. They consider no cost to anyone but themselves."

There isn't much romance in this book, and what romance is in this book is pretty weak. I'm totally team Pen all the way, without question, but let me just say, for the record, the Fetch is so annoying and lame. Why does Kelsea even have a crush on his circle-talking-ass? Oh yeah, he's so dreamy looking.

Again, I feel like this story is so unique because of how it is set in the future while also being medieval feeling. This second book helps you understand the history of the Tearling and the events that took place that made the Tearling what it was and what it is currently.

I really think Erika Johansen writes phenomenally and I very much appreciate her take on what could happen to the world we live in today. Her feminist views shine brightly in this book, and I loved every difficult point she brings up. These difficult discussions are so powerful and so needed, and for that alone I would recommend this series.

Overall, I did enjoy this book and will for sure continue on with The Fate of the Tearling when it is released later this year. This book does end on a HUGE cliffhanger, while we also discover an equally as HUGE twist/revelation. I'm not sure if I could ever resist The Fate of the Tearling if I tried just based on those two factors alone.

“There's a better world out there, so close we can almost touch it.”

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Simona Bartolotta says

4.5

“I have news for you, Arlen. We’re on my chessboard now.”

•This series is the umpteenth proof of the fact that **the most deserving books are very often the less known and hyped**. This series deserves to have her praises sung for the whole world to hear. I have no words and I’m in love with such perfection -save for one tiny thing that annoys me to no end, which I’ll explain in a minute.

•First things first, they say, and the first thing here can only be her: **Kelsea Glynn**.

“Even I won’t defy her. She is terrible.”

“Let me tell you a secret, General. I am worse.”

And she is. Good God, she is.

I’ve already applauded her in my review of *The Queen of the Tearling*, and now I confirm everything I said there: **she’s unflinching, unshakeable** in her resolve to protect her kingdom, **while inwardly feeling lonely** and **at a loss**. I loved **her contradictions** and I loved her courage; I even loved that she gave in to the darkness of her powers before finding in herself the will to stand and walk only on her own legs.

“Always she had been a child of the light [...]. But the world was also full of darkness, a cold gulf that beckoned. The people hungered for violence, and suddenly Kelsea wanted, more than anything, to give it to them.”

Her struggles felt **poignantly real**, the difficulty of her task exacerbated by the fact that in spite of being

surrounded by people ready to help her and stand by her every step of the way, she basically is profoundly alone, and **hopelessly isolated** from everyone. She's too powerful, too intelligent and too burdened to keep up any pretence of normality. She'd rather give it up altogether. I can't express the sadness, the **empathy** I felt for her character.

•Blessed be **the Queen's Guard**, all of them, without exception. But you'll forgive me if I feel that **the Mace** deserves a special mention.

“Are you my father, Lazarus?”

(view spoiler)

•Unpopular as it may be, I also adored **Lily's chapters**, though it's true that, at first, they seem to be rather unconnected to the main story. And in this regard, let me say that **this is not a young-adult novel**. It contains violence, domestic abuse, and contents I would never feed a twelve or thirteen-year-old kid. I don't honestly know why it's labelled as a YA, but trust me, it's not.

•There is one great little thing that truly bothered me in the whole book, or rather, in the whole series, and that's is a thing concerning the world building. Lily's chapters were fundamental in understanding what the Crossing is and the reasons why it took place, and I was very satisfied and happy with the explanation. But one crucial doubt is still there: **where does the magic come from?** Basically, **it popped up out of thin air**. We're given no explanation for it and the characters are not even close to being dumb enough to justify their being apparently okay with the inexplicableness of this thing. It wasn't even necessary to provide the full explanation now: I think that, for it to be realistic, an attempt on the characters' part to formulate some hypothesis would have sufficed, since what clashes here is the fact that they roll with it as if it were perfectly normal.

•Also, why do Kelsea's features change so as to look like Lily's? I was confused.

► Needless to say, I've got high expectations for the conclusion to this series, and **I don't want to let go**. Couldn't it just go on forever? I'm not sure I'll ever be ready to say goodbye to Kelsea and the Mace, or this world. And if *The Fate of the Tearling* turns out to be a disappointment, I think I'll die of heartbreak.

Ben Alderson says

THIS WAS ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS/SERIES I HAVE EVER READ BEFORE!

Faye, la Patata says

Loved the first book but... this was a **clusterfuck**. In a really, really, Dali-trippy kind of way.

Like, seriously, those flashbacks?! Migraine. MIGRAAAAAINE.

Me, when I finished the book:

Ugh, so disappointed.

Heidi The Hippie Reader says

The Invasion of the Tearling picked up where the last book left off. The Mort army is invading the Tear because of the actions of Kelsea, their new queen.

I won't say what exactly those actions were, in case you didn't read the last book. Let's just say: she's breaking with tradition in more ways than one.

Kelsea has started to embrace her power in this book. It suits her.

The girl who had been raised by Carlin Glynn would never have trusted in visions, but Kelsea's world had broadened well beyond the width of Carlin's library. The Mort would come, and the Tear army wouldn't be able to stop them. All they could hope to do was slow them down." pg 33, ebook.

I remember being rather unimpressed by the first book in this series. It felt cliched to me and predictable, except for the shadow creature and the introduction of the magic of the gems.

This book has more of both of those things. I approved.

Trigger warning in *The Invasion of the Tearling* for anyone who has had issues with cutting.

"Just the skin," Kelsea whispered, staring at her arm, focusing all of her will on a tiny inch of flesh. She had borne worse; surely she could handle this. "Just a scratch." A shallow line of red appeared on her forearm. Kelsea bore down, watching the line deepen, her breath hissing through her teeth as the skin parted with a sting, allowing a thin line of blood to well up and hold." pg 117, ebook.

There's also domestic violence, rape, non-graphic torture and some hints of sexual abuse. I suppose a young adult could read this, depending on their maturity level. 16+ may be appropriate. I would hesitate to go any younger.

Queen Kelsea has a lot on her plate: *"My people are starving and uneducated. We have no true medicine. On the eastern border is an army that will crush us into dust. These are real problems, and so for a time I've let the others lie.*" pg 208, ebook.

Will she be able to save everybody?

"And Kelsea wondered suddenly whether humanity ever actually changed. Did people grow and learn at all as the centuries passed? Or was humanity merely like the tide, enlightenment advancing and then retreating as circumstances shifted?" pg 381, ebook.

I wonder that sometimes too.

Recommended for readers who enjoy their fantasies on the gritty side. I don't feel like it ever veers into the truly "dark" but there are some disturbing elements to *The Invasion of the Tearling*.

manda says

23 Feb. '15

blog | goodreads

Disclaimer: An advanced reader copy was provided by the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

As before, folks. Come prepared with fries and your favourite condiment. Long and bitter review up ahead.

If ever I could use half-star ratings on goodreads, it would be now. Actual rating would be 2.5 but I decided to be generous and round up.

I gave it a go, and it passed. Barely. Enough to convince me to read the third book once it's out? Absolutely. **The writing style is simplistic and yet remarkably fluid, absorbing, and just keeps you turning the pages.** I urge you to also take a look at the more glowing reviews, as I doubt reading mine would actually tempt you to read this book. But really, *The Invasion of the Tearling* deserves a fair shake and it may just be *your cuppa tea*.

But all that said, I have to warn some of you (potential[?]) readers -- **this book should come with its own trigger warning for rape, sexual assault/harrassment, and self-harm.** To give credit where credit is due though, I did not find these topics to be used in a romanticized way or gratuitously (although it teetered there in some ways -- which I will get to in the meat of my review later).

Speaking of my review. Please do not click the "spoiler" tags unless you are in fact prepared to be spoiled.

And not in the brush-your-hair-feed-you-grapes sort of way.

I did not enjoy this book nearly as much as I'd like to; and for very similar reasons that I expounded in my review of *The Queen of the Tearling*, which you can find >>here<< should you be interested. As I've detailed them in my previous review, I'll not repeat them here.

The reason I enjoyed *The Invasion* marginally better than its predecessor is simply because at least **it managed to answer some much-needed questions.** Unfortunately this came at the expense of *more* questions, albeit little details, and so my enjoyment of it was really constrained.

My biggest peeve of this book in particular, and the whole series in general, would have to be **Kelsea's inexplicably powered necklace, which so happens to be a deus ex machina.** Nearing the end of the novel we're given a tease of the first sighting of the necklace. Yet by the time we close the book, we still know absolute Jack Schmidt about it -- where it came from, how it got its powers, what exactly *were* its powers and how did it function Kelsea's *deus ex machina* necklace remains the novel's greatest mystery still.

This wouldn't be so much of a problem if *literally everything* weren't solved by it. Indeed, all Kelsea needs to do is twirl around at her new-found prettiness and let her jewelry do its job.

With this kind of unknown force, we have no idea what its limits are and how it operates. It effectively

remains open as a miracle solve-all for indeed anything and *everything* until the author decides it inconvenient for her plot progression to use the necklace as an answer.

(view spoiler)

Kelsea could have been substituted for any other character for all the effective agency she had.

Everything was solved away by the magical mystery of her necklace, and her -- or *its* -- powers seemed to suddenly blossom during the last few chapters of the book.

Powers that we had never even seen before or heard mention of, suddenly were mastered and -- just when I thought I couldn't possibly dislike Kelsea even more -- came to save the day in a final battle that could only be described as mind-rape.

Again, I've gone through enough detail regarding Kelsea's character in my first review, so I'll only brush it briefly here. Suffice to say, her choices were so foolish, stupid, and made for no valid reason. It seemed extremely out of character for her to make, which makes it **painfully obvious that it's all a huge set-up and foreshadowing for the third book.**

(view spoiler)

I suppose Kelsea was *frequently* "out of character", though. I call it puberty, or the Red Queen's libido somehow transferred on to her. It must be all that darkness brewing up in her soul. Funny, though, that the "darker" Kelsea grew, the more horny she became? I thought we were all pro-lust, here?

Speaking of puberty -- it did wonders for Kelsea, and not just on her hormones. Forget the author's rather extensive article on the "need for ugly heroines" -- she may as well take that back.

All of our protagonist's preoccupations on beauty in the previous book were not for nothing. Here, **Kelsea transforms from an ugly duckling -- into Emma Watson**. And by gosh you guessed it, that process involved losing weight.

I will just pause right there as we all take a collective gnashing of teeth.

But enough about Kelsea, and on to the world. You'll all be relieved to hear that **we get a lot more info on the world's history** -- although keep in mind, it all still needs to be taken with a mountain-high suspension of disbelief.

(view spoiler)

A plus point of this book were the glimpses we saw of Earth's future, leading up to the Crossing. **These scenes I found to be interesting and a breath of fresh air** between Kelsea's hormonal woes. The depiction of women is very disconcerting, however -- as if with the sheer amount of women's rights movements and feminists nowadays, we could ever revert back to those dark, dark ages.

But never mind how plausible **Johansen**'s future earth is. She needed it that way to show dissatisfaction and how low mankind have become. I'll let you decide for your own whether it was necessary for the author to use scenes of domestic violence and rape to illustrate just how despicable Lily's husband is. Just like I'll let you decide whether it was necessary or added any value to the story/characterization to have Kelsea self-harm.

Personally, I found it odd -- but only because there seems to be so much going on. It gives me the impression, and the first book gave me the same impression, that **Johansen is trying to cramp her book**

full of contemporary issues that we all should be concerned about.

Self-harm, rape and sexual assault, religious intolerance, homosexuality -- it's all in there. Right next to allusions of child sex trade, deathrings ...

As admirable as it is to bring up these issues, **the whole jumble of them makes it unfocused and actually cheapens the effect.** As if the author has overreached herself and is trying to swipe at what is most likely to appeal to her audience.

Add to it that our protagonist, of course, falls on the "right" side of these issues. It's such a **cheap way of making readers feel guilty and "wrong" should we dislike our heroine.**

Unfortunately, I'm not one to feel much guilt. I detest you, Kelsea. You and your mind-rape and stupid decisions and hypocrisy.

Despite the overall tone of my review, I did not, however, detest this book.

my review of The Queen of the Tearling.

my review of The Fate of the Tearling.

more reviews are available at my blog

7 Feb. '15

Interesting article written by the author about "ugly" heroines, which I actually agree with. Enough with this preoccupation with beautiful female leads and a plot that centralizes on her romantic affairs!

Too bad her "ugly" heroine doesn't translate on screen though. Don't get me wrong, I *love* Emma Watson, but one of the points of Kelsea was that she wasn't attractive by any traditional standards. But like Hermione, Emma just doesn't capture that aspect of the character, and it kind of diminishes the point the author was trying to make.

Or, I don't know, I could be wrong. Perhaps they've found a way to dress Emma down (if she really does end up playing Kelsea on film).

PS. I personally like this cover better:

18 Oct. '14

How does this have ratings? Is there an ARC out *already*???

Aly's Bookish Wonderland says

“This, I think, is the crux of evil in this world, Majesty: those who feel entitled to whatever they want, whatever they can grab. Such people never ask themselves if they have the right. They consider no cost to anyone but themselves.”

To say that *Invasion of the Tearling* surprised me would be an understatement. After *Queen of the Tearling*, it was hard to imagine that the second book could be anything but samey. Yet, something made me request it... and found myself pleasantly, shockingly surprised.

Invasion of the Tearling has a number of things going for it that its predecessor did not:

→**The heroine, Kelsea, has grown up.**

In the first book, she came across as shallow, selfish and incredibly naïve, and it took away a lot from the story. Such as, for example, her strop when she wanted to save a bunch of books rather than watching out for her people. In Invasion it is almost like Kelsea has had a harsh wakeup call... which is, in fact, exactly what happened at the end of *Queen of the Tearling*, and the battle of the Argive Pass. With huge losses to Kelsea's army, and a shocking revelation about her two sapphires, Kelsea realised she needed to be more. As soon as Invasion starts, we're confronted with a council meeting, and Kelsea's adamance in protecting the people, as well as fighting back against the Mort and not giving in easily. She knows, deep down, that there is no way the Tearling can beat the Mort. After all, the Mort have a huge army and a bloodthirsty queen – two things that the Tearling do not have.

“We don't want to stretch the army too thin, Majesty. It's a poor use of resources, this plan.”

“Must everything be a fight with you, General?”

He shook his head, clinging doggedly to his point. “You can defend your kingdom, or you can defend your people, Majesty. You don't have the manpower to do both at once.”

→**The guards are not just her advisors, but also her friends.**

Queen of the Tearling portrayed the guards as bumbling fools who preferred alcohol and a good song over protecting their queen's life, who didn't do their job and looked down at her with disdain. However, in *Tearling* they couldn't be more different, or better. Mace advises her as a father would his daughter, Pen protects her and becomes a friend she can confide in, and all of them wouldn't think twice about laying down their lives for her.

“That night, for a minute, just before you came out of your fugue, you seemed to... fade.”

“Fade?” The word chilled Kelsea, but she produced a halfhearted snicker.

“Laugh if you like, Lady, but I did see it.” Mace leaned in even closer now, lowering his voice to a whisper. “Do you ever consider, Lady, that it might be better to simply take them off and throw them away?”

→**But the most important part is the storyline.**

Queen of the Tearling became almost infamous for its confusing storyline, its confusing world building and its even more confusing turn of events. Marketed as high fantasy, this reader in particular found it confusing when things such as technology and pharmaceuticals were mentioned... only to later find out that it was, in fact, dystopia. Later, once I finished reading, I realised I had far too many questions left unanswered: What was the Crossing? Why did everyone speak of it so much? If they live in a medieval setting, why do they know what technology and electricity is? The list went on and on and I was incredibly surprised when *Invasion* gave us a concrete answer to all those questions.

Full review now available! Happy book birthday, IOTT!

EDIT: 27/06/2015

100% Rock Magazine is taking part in the *Invasion of the Tearling* blog tour! Keep an eye out for details!

Let me tell you a few things about **Queen of the Tearling**:

- It was one of the **worst books I'd read in 2014**.
- It had a TSTL heroine that made ridiculous decisions, **like saving a bunch of books and starting a war with the terrible and feared Red Queen**.
- It had a bunch of bumbling buffoons for guards.
- It had **the slowest moving plot in history, as well as random plot holes that made no sense**. *Ebooks? Internet? Computers? Harry Potter? How do people who live in a medieval era know about such things?*
- It had an incredibly confusing storyline that made little to no sense at all.
- The interesting characters had as much originality as **tea-stained teaspoons**.
- **Everyone wanted to kill Kelsea, but no one seemed to have a valid reason**.
- There was body shaming, slut shaming, age shaming, gender shaming. **No one was good enough for Kelsea's sensitive eyes, Kelsea who had once seen her reflection in a muddy pond and had decided she was plain and boring**.

So you can see why I'd given it a big, fat, ugly one star. You can see why I went on a venting, ranting rampage and spared no one. I had very valid reasons.

Now, let me tell you a few things about *The Invasion of the Tearling*:

- It's one of the **best books I've read so far in 2015**.
- It has a heroine that seems to have grown some balls and takes charge of the situation (although she still makes silly decisions, but I couldn't even blame her).
- **It has guards that advise her as friends as well as guards, who guard her with their life and defend her and the kingdom, whatever the cost**.
- It has a **fast paced, action-packed plot with a lot of answers, a lot of loose ends tying up nicely and a lot of problems that are quickly solved**.
- It has a storyline that **makes sense**. We are given pre-Crossing flashbacks that make the reader go, "Oh

my God. THAT'S WHY!"

→ Even though the Fetch only appeared once (boo!) there was another character introduced that made me go slightly ga-ga. Oh, I do love me a villain.

→ **Everyone still wants to kill Kelsea, but it makes more sense now. There are reasons.**

→ NO SHAMING WHATSOEVER. (view spoiler)

So colour me surprised. I honestly didn't think I would enjoy *Invasion* at all. In fact, I was 100% sure I would hate it with every fibre of my being. With that said, if it hadn't been for the fact that I recently started working again, **I'm pretty sure I would've finished this in two days, it was that good.**

Full review to come on 100% Rock!

Thank you Transworld Publishers & Penguin Random House UK for sending me a physical ARC of this book!

Pre-review: YOU GUYS.

HOLY CRAPOLI.

FOUR STARS.

I think I'm more shocked than anyone right now. I'm sure a lot of people remember my rage rant review of the first book and the big, fat, ugly one star I gave it.

But this... PHWOAR. So good. So incredibly, ridiculously good.

Full review to come!

Regan says

Favorite book I read this year

Anne says

I LOVED THIS BOOK! LOVED IT!

{insert weird fangirl noises here}

This one has been on my radar since I read (and loved!) the first book last year. I was so freaked out that this one wasn't going to live up to the hype in my head, I couldn't even crack it open for 2 days after I got it. *Yes, I'm being totally serious. Yes, I know that's incredibly weird!*

But once I finally grabbed my nuts and plunged in, I could tell pretty quickly that Queen of Tearling wasn't a fluke. This is a nice sized book at 551 pages, but I flew through it in a couple of days like it was nothing.

Nothing!

{insert more weird fangirl noises here}

Ok, ok. I'll stop.

One more? No? Fine.

cough

Ok, so if you didn't like the first book, then don't waste your time with this one. I know this was a hit-or-miss book with a lot of my friends, and I doubt that anything that happens in this second book will make someone who hated the original change their mind about these characters. So.

Wow. This is harder to write than thought it would be...

How can I describe why I loved it without spoiling anything? Hmm. Ok, I'm really going to try my hardest not to let anything slip, but if you're super-freaky about not knowing ANYTHING, then feel free to stop now. I don't want anyone getting upset with me...

Well, the best thing would have to be the Big Reveal about **The Crossing!**

Why's that, you ask?

Well, I've read several books with this It-Looks-Like-Medieval-Times-But-There's-All-These-Hints-That-Really-Everything-Just-Collapsed-At-Some-Point-And-It's-Actually-Taking-Place-In-The-Distant-Future...thing. So, while it's not a totally overdone concept, I wasn't flipping out over the originality of it by the time I picked up this book.

Ermahgard! There's a twisty-twist!

I'm not going to tell you what the twist is, but it's **awesome!**

Not to mention, the addition of Lily really threw me for a loop. I'm pretty sure my mouth dropped open when she started describing what her life was like, and what was going on around her. It was **insane!** Her story was heartbreakingly real and more than just a little scary to read. Plus, (and this is in the blurb, so I don't think it's a spoiler) when the lines between Lily & Kelsea start to blur, it got really interesting. By the end, I was totally freaking out on Lily's behalf!

Kelsea still had that unyielding badass attitude that I loved in the first book. She may not always be right, but she always does what she *believes* is the right thing. And when the General or some of the other men try to *handle* her & her crazy 'save the people of her kingdom' ideals?

Ok, her looks also change in this one. *Why? Unsure!* One more mystery of the stones, I guess.

But does it actually help her to become more beautiful? *Shockingly*, the answer is **no**. The people who already loved her, **still love her**, and the people who didn't...well, let's just say she finds that maybe beauty isn't everything she thought it would be.

Kelsea's my hero! Yes, even after everything that happens in this book. I love her! She's the perfect **imperfect** heroine, and I can't WAIT to see where the next book is going to take us!

I know not everyone is going to love this one as much as I did, but I absolutely did. This will be the second year in a row that Erika Johansen's book makes my top ten list!

{insert weird fangirl noises...again}

Ouch! Jesbus! Frick, that hurt!

rubs head

Anyway, it was everything I hoped for and more.

I *do* feel the need to point out, *once again*, that these books have some pretty graphic stuff in them. They are *not* Young Adult, and some people probably might not feel comfy handing this subject matter over to younger teens. Seriously. Lots of abuse, rape, torture, etc..

Have fun!

Also reviewed for:

Cait • A Page with a View says

I liked this sequel a lot more than the first book!

The story is still a bit slow-moving with all of its descriptions, BUT it's absolutely nothing like the first book. The pacing here worked a lot better for me and I finished the whole book in a day!

The plot was more engaging and I absolutely adored the new characters of Aisa and Ewen so, so much. Aisa is a tough girl with a miserable past who's training to fight with Kelsea's guard. Ewen is the adorable jailer

who's not very bright but has the biggest heart that made the entire story 200% better. I just wanted to give him a hug in every single scene.

I wasn't terribly huge on how the plot was split between the old & new worlds or pre-crossing and present... Lily's POV could have been a LOT shorter for me. This book's world is so rich and wonderful, but I do want to leave a trigger warning here for violence, rape, and self-harm. It does get pretty graphic.

But the parts that were in the "modern" setting were SO much more fascinating than in the first book. I connected with Kelsea's character more and love how complex she's getting. Like she slowly becomes beautiful, but her analysis of how that affects her relationships is really well done. I was expecting a bit more to be done with the Fetch, but I do like the idea of Pen + Kelsea. I wish Pen had more page time or a stronger character, but this book really isn't going for romance.

I'm not sure why this series had to wait until page 462 of the second book to explain the Crossing, though. Treating it like some mystery really did nothing except frustrate me in the first book. Yeah, it's a twist, but the story could've used it sooner. And what it ends up being is a little odd but I'll roll with it.

I just care about all the characters SO much more after reading this sequel. If you're struggling to get through the first book, the second one does get better! It's not a favorite yet, but I'm still pretty into this world now.

Anja says

4.15 SAPPHIRE STARS

“Even small gestures of kindness have the potential to reap enormous rewards. Only the shortsighted man believes otherwise.”

This book took me **months** to finish. I just couldn't seem to get into it, while I absolutely **loved** the first book in this series. (Although, after reading my review on that one, it appears that *The Queen of the Tearling* also took me quite some time to get into lol).

A few days ago I made up my mind about finally pushing forward since the last book in this trilogy gets published next month, and I read the remaining 300 pages of this book in 2 days... **2 DAMN DAYS!** While the first half took me 6 months!

And boy, after that initial slow start, this was really good, **so very very good!**

What I didn't understand and found completely unnecessary about this book at first were the *seemingly* random visions that Kelsea started having about a woman from another world and another time called Lily. I just seriously couldn't wrap my head around that, but in the end **it all started making sense** and now I think it was absolutely brilliant! The way everything came together nicely, kudos to Erika Johansen!

Also, I love how this book doesn't involve a lot of **romance**. I do love Pen and the Fetch (who didn't have nearly enough appearances in this book imo) ofcourse, but I love the fact that this book focuses more on politics and strategy! It kind of reminds me of *Game of Thrones* in some ways, which can only be good!

Let's talk about **Kelsea** next! I really love her as main character! She went through some major character (and physical) development throughout these 2 books. I love that her strength doesn't come from the body, I don't think she even knows how to fight, but from the mind! Her magic is pretty awesome and she's so *smart*,

I really have nothing but respect for her.

What I didn't really like were the **endlessly lengthy chapters!** Some of those even went on for over 50 pages and that's a little too much, even for me. I sometimes even found my attention wavering and then I started skipping forward just to see how many pages I still had left to read until the end of the chapter.

Overall, this book was really enjoyable once you get through the first chapters and I would recommend it to everyone!

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

This book picks up where the first left off. Kelsea is trying to stall an invasion of the Mort, with the evil Red Queen at the forefront. However, there is SO MUCH MORE going on, and it surprised the heck out of me. New characters are introduced and ones from the last book have POVs. My favorite was Lily. Kelsea begins to have "fugues," where she goes into trances and appears to start seeing the past, pre-crossing.

People who had issues with the first book and it's vagueness about the dystopian qualities, the lack of world-building, will find more answers, but whether it will be enough is up for debate. We get to see a lot of the world pre-crossing, which was still several decades in our future. Technology was huge, people had chips, machines and computers helped with housework, security, medicine, etc.

We get to see an insurgent revolution through Lily's eyes and she becomes such an amazing heroine. I loved her!

Kelsea was still kind of crusty and not your typical heroine, which I appreciated. But she is maturing and even changing physically, which is a mystery. She comes into new abilities and is more isolated than ever.

Although the book took a little bit to get going, it became a page-turner. I adored it. There are MANY revelations and plot twists and things even get a little sci-fi! (I won't say anymore.)

Previous post:

OMG this was just amazing! I admit, it took a little while to really get into, but by the end, I was in tears (hehe) and swooning over the awesomeness. Review to come.

August 7, 2017: The first two books are currently \$1.99 on US Amazon!

The Queen of the Tearling #1): 5 stars!

Shannon (leaninglights) says

Reread November 2016: flawless are always. Finally ready for FATE. #dyingggg

Full video review: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rfLM...>

This arc was sent to me from Harper in exchange for an honest review*

First impressions:

Five glorious stars - this was a fantastic sequel, maybe the best I've ever read. I wasn't sure how I was to like the new character and perspective that was added to this book but I LOVED it so much. This book outdid the first one and I am so excited for the third book!!!

Samantha says

I still have so many questions! I NEED to read the finale before the end of the year. Hold me to it.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

UPDATE: 10-19-2016 THIS IS ON SALE ON KINDLE FOR \$1.99 ! It doesn't say for how long though

BLOODY HELL!

Okay so I loved the hell out of this book and I was confused about certain things!

Queen Kelsea takes a little walk on the dark side in this book, but that's okay, she's going to rock it. I just know it.... NEED NEXT BOOK!!!!

Everyone that has read the first book knows that Kelsea sees things. Well she sees a lot of things that have to do with the Crossing! Every damn time she went there and here's this other world so to speak, this my face....

I loved Lily's story, but I'm still stumped. My poor ole head, because it went right over it!

That stupid jerk Anders became the new Holy Father and he did some bad things to people. I so wanted to see someone end him. He was cruel to sweet Father Tyler too!!

I will give a little spoiler and say he didn't get killed but he got a good beat down and trust me, he deserved it when you read some of the stuff he did. I was disgusted and well.. lets just leave it at that!!!!

There is finally the meeting of armies and the meeting of the Queens. Holy crow, we find out so much about the Queens and oh I forgot to mention there was some evil dude appearing to Kelsea, but that's a whole other story.

I don't want to wait until next year for the new book!! :(Gaaaahhhhhh, I want to know what is going on!

Because I'm confused in a way at the end and what the Crossing is..... help!

I loved the book regardless of my stupidity and I think the cover is awesome! Fin!

MY BLOG: [Melissa Martin's Reading List](#)
