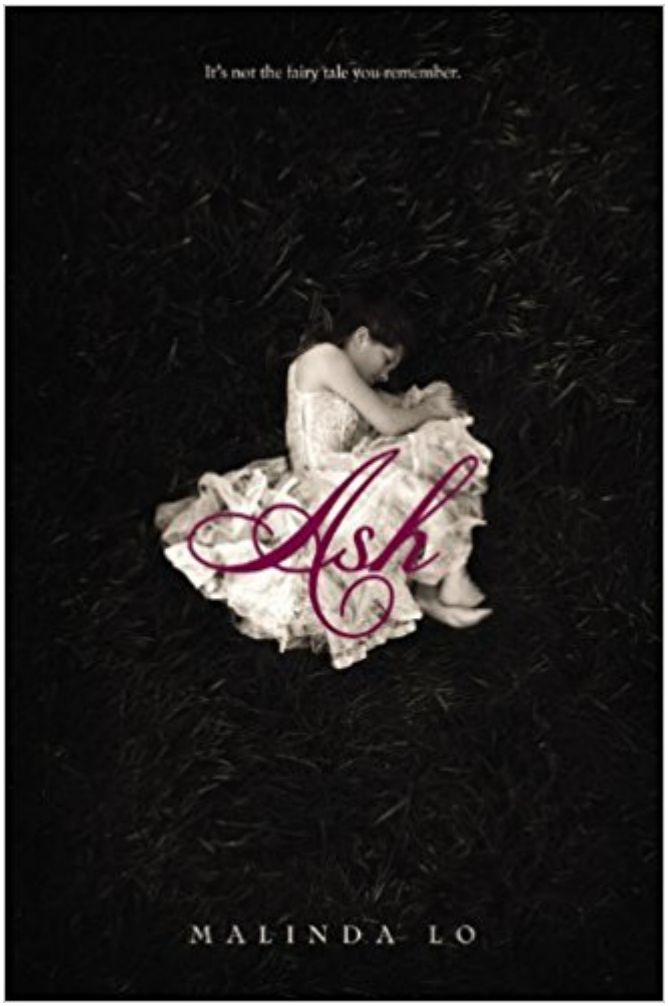
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Ash



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Synopsis

Cinderella retoldIn the wake of her father's death, Ash is left at the mercy of her cruel stepmother. Consumed with grief, her only joy comes by the light of the dying hearth fire, rereading the fairy tales her mother once told her. In her dreams, someday the fairies will steal her away, as they are said to do. When she meets the dark and dangerous fairy Sidhean, she believes that her wish may be granted.The day that Ash meets Kaisa, the King's Huntress, her heart begins to change. Instead of chasing fairies, Ash learns to hunt with Kaisa. Though their friendship is as delicate as a new bloom, it reawakens Ash's capacity for love-and her desire to live. But Sidhean has already claimed Ash for his own, and she must make a choice between fairy tale dreams and true love.Entrancing, empowering, and romantic, Ash is about the connection between life and love, and solitude and death, where transformation can come from even the deepest grief.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 8 UpÃ¢â ¬â •Described as "CinderellaÃ¢â ¬Â¦with a twist," Ash is in many ways the familiar fairy tale about a girl's move from comfort to despair to true love (with a little help from fairies and magic). Standard Cinderella images set up the story: after losing her mother and later her father, Ash is treated as a servant in the home of an unkind stepmother and two unfriendly stepsisters. She has ties to the fairy world, attends the royal ball in an enchanted dress, catches the eye of the prince, and finds love by the end of the story. However, while structural similarities exist, ideologically Lo's beautiful and dark tale takes the story to a new place. It is not about Ash being found and saved by a charming prince; instead, it is about her courtship with Kaisa, the King's

huntress, a relationship that burgeons over time and is based on more than just initial attraction. Despite Ash's grief, oppressive guardianship, and dangerous flirtation with the fairy Sidhean, who promises to steal her away from her sadness, the protagonist finds her own salvation and chooses to live and love in the real world and on her own terms. Ash will appeal to readers looking for GLBTQ titles, but fans of romance, fantasy, and strong female protagonists will also embrace this fine debut novel.Ã¢â ¬â •Jennifer Miskec, Longwood University, Farmville, VA END --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A rich and darkly moving tale I couldn't put down. Malinda Lo is an exciting and welcome new voice in YA."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Meg Cabot, bestselling author of The Princess Diaries series"Cinderella, gorgeously reimagined, captivating and winsome. After you've fallen into the storytelling world of Malinda Lo, the truth of love will transcend the romantic ideal of fairy tales."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Julie Anne Peters, author of Keeping You a Secret and National Book Award Finalist Luna" This lyrically retold Cinderella tale is not just a beautifully updated fable, but an ode to the transformative power of love."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Cassandra Clare, bestselling author of The Mortal Instruments series

I really dragged my feet finishing this book. The author sounds like quite a cool person - she sees the need to give happy endings to a set of people who are all too often denied that in both media and reality. And fantasy and fairy tales are a huge part of my identity. So, in the midst of questioning my sexuality, after a lifetime of reading of princes and princesses locking lips, I badly needed to see what a queer fairy tale looked like. This was the first one I ever picked up. And then I set it down for a month because the first 2/3rds of the book are so very slow. The biggest problem is how little interaction Aisling and Kaisa have for the vast majority of the story. I just didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t feel much in the way of chemistry between them until near the end. Their budding friendship as the Huntress taught Ash to ride was never elaborated upon - it just sort of happened. The only time they clicked as a couple for me was at the ball, when Kaisa saw Aisling in her enchanted finery for the first time and returned her love at last. It was only at that point that the book had me well and truly enthralled. The ending is beyond worth it. The poetry, the delicateness of the dance, the sense of unstoppable doom as Ash realizes what it is that sheÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s traded away - and the gorgeous solution to a problem which seemed intractable. If the entire book were like the final third, there would be no problem. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s definitely a solid first novel and worth reading, if you can make it through the sluggish beginning. My interest is piqued enough to pick up ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“HuntressÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• at some point in the near future. I can just barely see the

shadow of greatness in the author - and know that she has it in her to do better in the future.

Overall, I quite enjoyed Ash. The author did an excellent job of building a distinct atmosphere and sense of background to the setting. The use of smaller fairy tales embedded within the larger story was also successful. My main complaint would be the lack of development with the relationships. They were too thinly sketched, claiming to carry intense emotion without ever showing the reader the truth of this, or really how it came to be in the first place. The main character herself was vivid enough, but both love interests seemed vague and flat. Despite the lack of a convincing love story, the beauty of the imagery and the unique qualities of this Cinderella retelling earn it four stars.

when I read it was a queer Cinderella retelling, I was really interested. I needed more wlw fiction in my life and queering a heteronormative narrative like Cinderella sounded amazingthe actual novel was decent. mainly, it left me wanting more. I wanted more details, more insight on the nature of the relationship aisling had with Clara, more details of aisling and kaisa falling in love, more about kaisa’s life as the Kings huntress, more about the fairy world and sidhean, more about the nature of magic in humans, more about aisling’s mother, etc. in the end, it’s very plot driven and the characters are left feeling a little simpleI enjoyed it tho. I’m going to give huntress a shot

I really liked this, though i didn’t expect to. The first quarter or so of the book so intensely follows the Cinderella saga that it is kinda of boring, hard to press through. Keep at it though, and I think you won’t be disappointed. This was a quick read for me. There are enough twists and meta fairytale elements that it keeps you interested and invested - if only in the main character.The huntress has this potential to be a badass, sexy character, and never really develops into more than this cold body, admiring from afar. I never really warmed up to the character beyond Ash’s draw to her.Lo creates a really unique, interesting world, and really flourishes when she tackles the fairy world and all its complexities and relations to the human world, and then encompassing all that in a story structured so classically as a fairy tale itself... It’s impressive.The dialogue in the story was my only personal issue with the book. It is not contemporary or natural, and comes across somewhat jilted. It makes it harder to invest in conversations that are supposed to be emotionally fraught or intense. In retrospect, however, it is almost as though she was writing in the structure of some of the oldest fairy tales, really completing and bringing full circle the whole idea of the story, and in that way, I applaud her.I came for the lesbian relationship, and stayed for the unique world that the author created. The Woods themselves are enchanting in their detail, and the fairies are so eerie and real

you can almost reach out and touch them.

I was expecting so much more out of this book and was completely disappointed.There was little to no interaction between Ash and the huntress.The book dragged on forever.

This incarnation of the Cinderella story features Aisling (Ash) as a conflicted and oppressed young woman struggling to take control of her life from an evil stepmother while contemplating an escape with a fairy (Sidhean) cursed to love her. Further complicating matters is her attraction to Kaisa, the Royal Huntress.Set in a non-specific magical realm where faith and science vie for dominance, *Ash* readily conforms to most conventions of the fairy tale genre. What makes it distinct is the absolute dominance of female charactersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •with the exception of a few minor male characters (e.g., since itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a Cinderella story, a Prince is pretty much required) and Sidhean the fairy, whose gender is nearly irrelevant. By adapting the familiar fairy tale format, this young adult novel depicts a young woman who overcomes oppression and empowers herself to determine her own fate and seek happiness that does not depend on a male presence in her life. While the pastoral setting and the passages of extended lyrical prose might bore some readersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •there is a noticeable lack of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“actionÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and narration far exceeds dialogueÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •*Ash* is a powerful tale of female young adult agency.

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