

[PDF] The Thirteenth Princess

Diane Zahler - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: The Thirteenth Princess

Author: Diane Zahler

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Pages: 272

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Description:

From School Library Journal Grade 4-8—Though clearly based on "The Twelve Dancing Princesses," this addition to the burgeoning field of fairy-tale novelizations alters the original tale more than most others. It is the youngest—13th—sister, rather than a visiting prince, who discovers why the princesses are wearing out their shoes (and suffering from exhaustion). Zahler has created this sister and her complicated backstory with somewhat uneven success. For the first seven years of her life, Zita's been banished to the kitchen of the very palace where (unbeknownst to her) her father and sisters dwell. Her father evidently hates her because she was his last attempt at fathering a male heir. After Cook spills the beans regarding her royal lineage, Zita ventures to have a clandestine sisterly relationship with the older girls, sneaking into their room at night and returning to the kitchen each morning. Something is clearly ailing her sisters, though, and Zita's friendships with a stable groom and a reclusive old woman in the woods give her the assistance and skills she needs to break through the destructive enchantment that's harming them. She earns the recognition and love of the king and—of course—the love of the stable groom, and they all live, just as you'd

expect, happily ever after. In the hands of masters like Robin McKinley and Gail Carson Levine, fairy-tale expansions gain depth and nuance. Zahler's retelling doesn't fully humanize its characters. She adds complexity without much resonance, making her book entertaining, but not compelling.—*Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY*

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From After Zita's mother died in childbirth, her father banished his thirteenth daughter to the servants. But working in the kitchen has its advantages: while her sisters remain captive in their moldering castle, red-haired Zita is free to roam the woods with the stable boy, Breckin. Zita tells her story chronologically, beginning with her childhood feelings of abandonment and her joyful reconnection with her older siblings. After her father threatens to fire the old nurse who cares for them, the princesses begin to waste away. Thanks to magic learned from a good witch living in the woods, Zita follows them to a dream palace where they must dance all night. With the help of Breckin—and later, Breckin's handsome soldier brother—she discovers the source of their enchantment. Readers do not need to be familiar with the Grimms' Twelve Dancing Princesses tale to follow the story, but those who are will enjoy the lively reworking of familiar elements. Though the author has published nonfiction for older readers, this is her first novel. Grades 4-7. --Kathleen Isaacs --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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