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Fairy Queens: Books 5-7 (Fairy Queens Box Set Book 2)



Synopsis

"A captivating series!" ~Jennifer A. Nielsen, NYT bestselling author, *The False Prince*

A war is brewing between the queens of Winter and Summer—a war that threatens to shatter the balance of magic, destroying the world in the process. But there is still hope. For the daughter of one of the queens does not share her mother's hatred. Elice has found love and hope, and she is determined to take it. If she can survive, she stands a chance of healing the rift that threatens to break apart the very fabric of the world.

By law, any child born in Idara is free, even if that child is born in a slave brothel. But as Cinder grows into a beauty that surpasses even that of her mother and grandmother, she realizes that freedom is only a word. There are other words too, stronger words. Words like betrayal and prison and death. And there are words even stronger than those. Words like courage and family and love. In the end, if Cinder is to escape the fate of her matriarchs, she'll have to fight for her freedom. Because true freedom is never free.

Daughter of Winter

Bargains. Only the truly desperate make them. Only the truly desperate need them. And always, the desperate pay. The silence and never-ending dark of winter are all Elice has ever known, for she is the daughter of the Winter Queen. Isolated in a northern queendom with only the seals for company, she dreams of color and music and life. So when a whaling ship crashes just offshore, she doesn't hesitate to rescue the lone survivor, Adar, who quickly becomes her friend. She must keep him hidden from her mother at all costs, for if the Winter Queen discovers him trespassing, she'll kill him. When her mother reveals just how dark her soul has become, Elice realizes she is as much a prisoner as Adar. To ever know true freedom—to ever become the woman she was meant to be—she must flee with him. But in their flight, she begins to see hints of something more nefarious. The darkness that has taken hold of her mother is spreading, staining the world with its influence. Unbeknownst to Elice, a bargain was made long ago. A bargain she was born to fulfill. Winter's Heir. A price must be paid. Elice has left behind the ice and isolation of winter. Before her is the warmth and wonder of summer with all its color and life. Adar, the young man she saved from the sea, is by her side, and his touch sends tendrils of heat where before there was only cold. But all is not as it seems. There are secrets hidden in the heart of summer. Secrets that could burn Elice to the ground and take the whole world with her. The decades-long war between the fairies of winter and summer has thrown off the balance of nature, leaving the world in its death throes. Adar believes Elice can stop the destruction—if only she will trust him. But like the fairies' bargains, that trust comes with a cost. And the price Elice will pay will tear asunder the boundaries between dreams and family, loyalty and betrayal.

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Customer Reviews

The Fairy Queen book 5-7. Are great this authoress has a way of pulling you directly into the story her people are real and you tear up when things go wrong. And cheer when things go right. Her stories are never black and white they burst with color and you feel the gamut of emotions and feel that you are a participating in the adventure she is writing about. Her stories make you feel like you can taste and smell and she does it with words. I feel I can't do the stories justice. I recommended this author to my friends and family. Looking forward to more.

The Fairy Queens Box Set 2 contains the books 5-7 of the Fairy Queens series by Amber Argyle. Book 5, Of Sand and Storm, tells of Cinder, born in a brothel as half Idaran and half clansman, as she struggles to achieve true freedom for herself and the many slaves in Idara. Book 6-7, Daughter of Winter and Winter's Heir are about Elice (whose image is captured on the cover), daughter of the Winter Queen who is caught in the mounting struggle between the Winter

and Summer Queens and their followers. All three of these novels complement each other in the box set. While the first four capture the stories of previous generations, telling how the Fairy Queens came into power, these three novels tell of their children and the children of others in their communities. Books 5-7 range all three people groups – the Clansmen, Tribesmen, and Idarans – and corners of the world. They expand the mythology intertwining the series and show the struggle of being born as half of two races and having a non-human entity as a parent. Finally, they bring the series to a close, rectifying the ongoing struggle between the opposing fairies but leaving an opening for future adventures. The books were very well done with a satisfying and romantic conclusion. A main theme worth mentioning in *Of Sand and Storm* was the topic of human trafficking. Much of the story takes place in a brothel, showing the general mistreatment of the slave women from the perspective of one of their daughters who, though born free, owes large debts to the Madam of the location and, because of her mixed heritage, cannot find work anywhere but as a servant in that brothel. How far would a girl go to save her mother, grandmother, and the other women from slavery of the worst kind? *Of Sand and Storm* takes the reader into these harsh circumstances (without forcing them to read the actual sex scenes) through the eyes of a beloved character in order to make them aware of what is going on even now, in the real world, with the hopes that we will be inspired to make a difference. And hopefully we will. (As a note, the story is very well written in itself and isn't too pushy about the theme.) *Daughter of Winter* and *Winter's Heir* follow closely together, and it is impossible to tell much about the second without revealing what is in the first. In *Daughter of Winter*, Elice, daughter of the Winter Queen, saves the life of a shipwrecked man and hides him from her mother. He encourages her to flee with him out of the winter realm to start a new life together, but he may have ulterior motives and secrets he is unable to share. The first book tracks them on their journey and the second describes what happens after they arrive and attempt to reconcile the winter queens before the world is destroyed. These two books focus on familial love and the effects of bitterness and forgiveness. Much is sacrificed for the love or hatred of another. All three books were written well and provide a satisfying conclusion to the series. I recommend them to those who enjoy fantasy, especially with fairies and romance. I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

The Fairy Queens series is one of my all-time favorites and it will always have a special place in my heart. It reminds me of why I love reading so much and has everything I could ever wish for in a book series - captivating stories, love, friendship, action, multi-layered characters, amazing world

building and breath-taking settings. If you haven't read books 1- 4 yet what are you waiting for? This is a series you don't want to miss!

OF SAND AND STORM Of Sand and Storm is the fifth book in the Fairy Queens series and it works as a sort of companion novel to the rest of the series. It takes a little side step from the main storyline and it follows a girl named Cinder, who also shows up in the very last book in the series, **Winter's Heir**. In **Of Sand and Storm** we get to know Cinder's background story and how she came to be part of the conflict between the fairy queens. All of the books in the Fairy Queens series have their dark moments, but **Of Sand and Storm** is by far the darkest since it deals with slavery and sex trafficking. Argyle handles these themes well and I appreciate that she doesn't shy away or tries to sugarcoat it to make it easier for the reader to cope with. It's raw and honest and I believe it has to be when it comes to these themes. Cinder's journey took me on an emotional roller coaster and her story really wound its way to my heart. There are a lot of feelings tumbling around and the tears are never far away, but despite the dark themes there's still hope and glimpses of happiness to be found in the story. It's not all darkness and at the end I feel hopeful rather than sad. It is possible for light to outshine darkness, even though it seems impossible. It might take a lot of time, strength, courage and sacrifices, but it is possible. I liked Cinder when I met her in **Winter's Heir**, but I like her even more now that I've read her story. She actually reminds me a lot of a young Nelay. She's determined and strong and utterly selfless, willing to risk everything to save her loved ones. Even though the whole world seems to fight against her, she always gets back up and never loses hope of true freedom. She's facing an impossible fight, but she doesn't let that stop her. It's inspiring and you root for her all the way. Cinder's mother and grandmother are both very strong characters and the bond between the three generations of women is just beautiful to see. Despite their hard lives as slaves, they haven't lost their independence or their pride. They hold their heads up high and together they are strong, courageous and invincible. **Of Sand and Storm** is just as fast paced and action packed as Argyle's books always are and there's never a dull moment. The pages fly by and it's impossible to stop reading. The story is emotional, thought-provoking and gripping. I'm on pins and needles throughout the whole book and it's just as exciting as it is terrifying. As beautiful as it is sad. Argyle never ceases to amaze me with her way with words and her incredible ability to create worlds and characters that

draw you in and never let go. DAUGHTER OF WINTER Daughter of Winter is the sixth book in the Fairy Queens series and also the second to last. I love this series immensely and I've been anticipating Daughter of Winter ever since I finished Summer Queen. It's both exciting and scary when a series you love is close to its final ending. I love the world Argyle has created and even though I'll always be able to return to it by rereading the books, it breaks my heart a bit that I won't be able to return to it in new stories. There's also all these expectations when it comes to a finale, especially when all the other novels and novellas in the series have been amazing. You want the series to have a worthy ending - an ending that will blow you away by its awesomeness. Luckily Argyle seems to be heading that way, since Daughter of Winter is a great build up to the finale. I fell completely in love with it and I am dying to read the last book. Sure, I'm still a bit scared but I know Argyle will give the series the epic closure it deserves. Something I really like with the series is that with every new novel there's a new perspective. It gives a lot of depth to both the overall story and the world. You get to see the ongoing conflict from different point of views and it is all greyscales, never plain black or white. And how I love that. In Daughter of Winter we get to follow Elice, the daughter of Ilyenna, the main character in Winter Queen. Elice has been living in the winter queendom all her life and she is starting to feel trapped. She wants to see the rest of the world, meet other people than her closest family and discover who she really is. Elice is an adorable character and I fell for her from the start. She reminds me so much of the Ilyenna we got see in Winter Queen. The innocence and the kindness, the courage and the strength, and of course the willingness to sacrifice everything for the ones you care about. It's impossible not to like her. Set in the quite isolated winter queendom, the novel doesn't offer that many new characters, besides Elice, but the ones we get to know shine all the more. The boy Elice saves from the ship-wreck being one of them. Adar might be a bit full of himself and quite a bit annoying from time to time, but he grows on me throughout the book. While most of the story is quite dark, Adar brings just the right amount of humour and lightness to the story to keep the reader from totally drowning in heartbreak and sorrow. There's also the fact that he and Elice make quite an adorable couple. They complement each other very well. As this is the sixth book in the series I know Argyle is quite a queen when it comes to world building and making sure that everything is described in a way that will make you feel like you're truly part of the world. With that being said, she still manages to amaze me with her descriptions of the world, which is quite an accomplishment considering I already thought she did amazingly with the other books. The way the winter

queendom is described totally blew me away. It's so stunning and while reading, I feel more than ever that I'm truly there. Walking around in Elice's garden of mesmerizing ice sculptures, discovering the secrets in the many rooms of the ice palace and watching the striking aurora from one of its towers. As I dive into the story I let myself forget about the real world and for a moment the winter queendom feels just as real as my own. Daughter of Winter is not as action packed as its predecessors, but I must say I like that. Action is great but sometimes it's nice when the story moves along a bit slower, focusing on the characters and their relationship. Daughter of Winter still has a lot of action, especially towards the end but the second part is a thrilling, emotional roller coaster ride but that only makes it even more logical to have a bit of a slower beginning, so that you, as a reader, really can get a feel of the new turn the story is about to take. And to clarify, by slow, I do not mean nothing happens. There's a lot going on, it just takes another form than typical action. It works wonders and fits this part of the story very well. With its breath-taking setting, captivating story and multi-layered characters Daughter of Winter blew me away and I can't recommend it enough. It will take you on a sparkling, thrilling and emotional adventure that you will not forget in a hurry. WINTER'S HEIR Winter's Heir is the conclusion to the Fairy Queens series and I've both been longing for and dreading this moment. I've loved every single book in this series to pieces and knowing that the ending was rushing forward made my heart ache. I don't want to leave the world and the characters I've grown to love so much. I know I'll always be able to return by re-reading the books, and I definitely will (many times!) but it still breaks my heart a bit knowing that there'll never be any new stories to explore. However necessary, I hate endings and having to say goodbye. There's also all these expectations when it comes to the finale and I was terrified that Winter's Heir wouldn't be able to live up to them. Being the last in a series of seven books, where each and every book have been amazing, is not easy. But deep down I knew Argyle would give the series the closure it deserved and she definitely did. It was epic and moving and kind of perfect. I couldn't have asked for more. Winter's Heir starts off right where we left Elice and Adar at the end of Daughter of Winter. It's action packed and fast paced from page one and you can really feel how the finale is rushing closer and closer. It's a captivating and emotional journey and all questions get their answers. I'm really impressed by how Argyle ties all the books together in this one. I love when you can suddenly see how everything fits together. A lot has happened since Of Ice and

Snow and Winter Queen and everything is tied up so nicely in *Winter's Heart*. It's hard to grasp that this really is the end. That there will be no more. When you've followed three generations, in six equally amazing books, it's very hard to let go. The Fairy Queens series will always have a special place in my heart. It reminds me of why I love reading so much and has everything I could ever wish for in a book series - love, friendship, action, lovable characters, amazing world building and vivid descriptions. In *Winter's Heart* we're back in the Summer Realm and even though I love the harsh beauty of the Winter Queendom, the Summer Realm will always be the place I love most. I love the crowded cities, the vibrant colors and the warmth. And of course I was thrilled to finally see my favorite character, Nelay, again. I may even have shed a tear or two. She's still one of my all-time favorite characters and even though she's no longer the main character, she still shines just as bright and I'm happy for every scene she gets, however small. Elice is the star of *Winter's Heart* and she's grown so much during these two last books. She's been through such a difficult journey and been forced to make impossible choices, but still she manages to stay true to her heart and never loses her kindness and strength. The journey helped her find herself and truly live up to her potential, but without losing what she already had. She's an amazing heroine. Adar has also grown a lot and he feels more mature. He still has that witty charm, that you cannot not like, but he doesn't get on my nerves as much as in the previous book. Just as Elice, he's had a difficult journey and faced impossible choices. But, as Elice, he fought his way through and grew so much in the process. I love them both immensely and they make the most adorable couple. World building and descriptions are on-point as always. As I've said in almost every review, Argyle is a queen when it comes to making sure everything is described in a way that will make you feel like you're truly part of the world. This again, makes it so hard to leave. The world has become like a second home and while reading it feels just as real as my own world. I love when a book can give you that feeling. It's magical!

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