

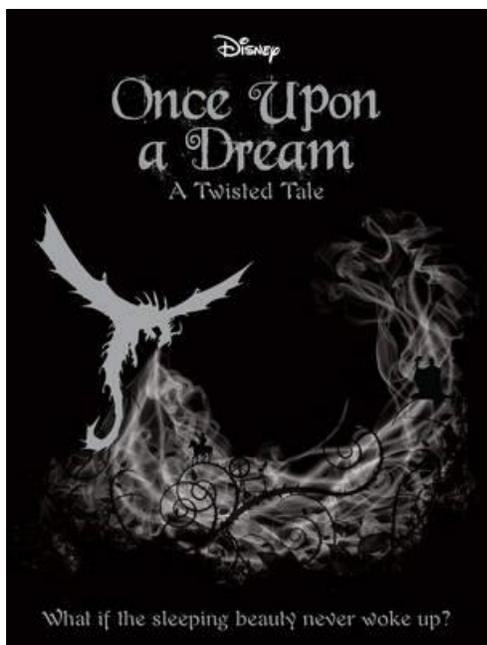


Book Review

Once Upon a Dream

All you Disney fans out there – listen up!

Some of the most loved Disney fairytales have taken a surprising turn into the ‘what if’s’ of the classic plot lines in a spin off book series *Twisted Tales*. There are three books in the series: one is based on the story of Sleeping Beauty *Once Upon A Dream*, the second is Aladdin *A Whole New World*, and third is Beauty and the Beast *As Old As Time* written by Liz Braswell



I read *Once Upon a Dream* which starts just as Prince Phillip is about to give Sleeping Beauty true loves kiss to break the spell after killing the dragon, or so he thought...

Princess Aurora and the rest of the dozing kingdom are confined within a parallel world ruled by Maleficent which exists in the sleeping princess’s dream; trapped inside the castle. The barren, thorn infested wasteland beyond the stone walls forbid anyone from venturing out; where lush meadows of buttercups and frolicking wildlife is but a hazy memory.

After the mad Minstrel mysteriously manages to break out of Maleficent’s protective charms, Princess Aurora starts to discover strange artifacts that once existed on the outside (a bluebirds feather being one) that allegedly vanished when the outside world became inhabited by evil spirits. She begins to question what she has been told and wonders whether it is safe to leave the castle, despite Maleficent insisting that a fragile girl like her would be an easy target for the spirits to infect.

When Aurora secretly witnesses Maleficent using sickening methods in order to strengthen her magical abilities and view the real world through a portal, she realizes that life in the castle is not all that it seems. She has been imprisoned in her own nightmare along with the rest of the sleeping kingdom, controlled by Maleficent. Aurora must be the one to defeat Maleficent and regain control of her own dream-world. On her quest to free the kingdom, with Prince Phillip at her side; they journey through the land of Aurora’s hopes, fears, memories and doubts. All the while finding themselves caught up in Maleficent’s lies and battling evil creatures – trying to work out what is real and who they can trust.

This is a charming tale of self-discovery and learning to conjure the belief in your own abilities, even when it seems all hope is lost among the tangles of pointy thorns. It reminded me of some of the battles with mental health – especially anxiety, depression and low self-esteem - that we can all relate to. It gives a sense of how far our own minds can take us if only we believe we can make it, regardless of how many obstacles we face.

Words by: Emma Heapes

I'd definitely recommend this book to anyone -fanfiction readers or not - who wants to delve deeper into the world of Sleeping Beauty, and discover that there is a lot more to the well-known characters than you thought.

Written by Emma Heapes

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