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The wicked king book

Use elements of Celtic folklore and mythology as inspiration for the story of courteous intrigue. The plot raises questions about loyalty and family. Title: The Wicked King Author: Holly Black Genre: Fantasy, Young Adult Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young ReadersPublication Date: January 2019Hardcover: 336 pages This exclusive edition contains scenes certainly deleted to delight fans and give them a special glimpse into the world of Fairies! The enchanting and bloodthirsty sequel to the New York Times bestselling novel The Cruel Prince.You must be strong enough to strike and strike and strike again without tiring. The first lesson is to get strong. After the revelation that Oak is Faerie's heir, Jude must keep his younger brother safe. To do this, she bound the evil king, Cardan, to her, and the power behind the throne was made. Navigating the ever-changing political alliances of Faerie would be quite difficult if Cardan were easy to control. But he does everything in his power to humiliate and undermine her, even if his fascination with her remains undiminished. When it becomes too clear that someone close to Judah means to betray her, threatening the life and lives of everyone she loves, Judas must discover the traitor and fight his own complicated feelings for Cardan to maintain mortal control in a world of fear. Stand alone or series: Book 2 in the Folk of the Air series I got this book: Bought Format (e- or p-): Print ** WARNING: This review contains inevitable spoilers for Book 1, The Cruel Prince. If you haven't read book 1 and want to remain unadulterated, LOOK AWAY.** Review Last year, I had the distinct pleasure of reading the Cruel Prince-first in a new series from the prolific and distinguished Holly Black. At first, I wasn't extremely interested in reading the series, although I certainly appreciate a good story involving fair folk, and Holly Black's drectable writing about a cruel prince faery through a mortally under-fueled point of view (inevitably leading to a love story between the mentioned characters) didn't get recorded very on my meter of excitement. But then a ton of reviewers and authors and friends started delirious about the book, and I was in a bookstore and it was like there, so of course I decided to scoop it up and try it. Readers, I really liked that book. I liked it so much that it made my best of the 2018 list. And it ended with a wonderful cliffhanger/twist, so naturally I was addicted and eager to get my hands on King Wicked as quickly as possible. [Spoilers for book 1 before, friends.] In a brilliant move, Jude Duarte went from disembling, a weak mortal to the most powerful being in all the fairies. After tricking Cardan into taking the crown as the Great King of Faerie-as part of a desperate gamble Keep her younger brother, Oak, safe and free from handling their surrogate father Madoc-Jude now secretly controls the will of the elfhame. For the rest Madoc himself, as well as her twin sister Taryn-Jude is an ambitious mortal, perhaps struck by love, who defied her father's wishes in exchange for cardan's seneschal power. In reality, Judas is effectively the king of the Fairies. With her ability to command Cardan for a year and a day, and with the spy organization of the Shadow Court behind her, Jude schemes and plots and tries to keep the kingdom under control and out of the war. The rule is not so easy, however, when no one can know of the true power of Judah, and when her king fights her command at every turn. Things get even more complicated when the Underwater Queen makes a move against the Great King, claiming that her pact for peace with the people of the country was with King Eldred and not with King Cardan-worse yet, somehow cardan Balekin's defeated and imprisoned older brother is part of the plot. Faced enemies inside her own network of spies and allies, and a reckless, drunk king rubbing at her commands-and attacks from the outside in the form of the Land of the Sea and her father, Jude goes down a dangerous path. It will take all her skill and determination to maintain control over the Elfhame. After all, Jude learned well from her father. Power is much easier to acquire than it is to hold on. The singular theme of the Evil King is power. Jude lived most of his life in Faerie. Being the surrogate daughter of the King's general would mean prestige and power for any bloody creature fey-unfortunately for Jude and Taryn, both are fully mortal, the children of Madoc's human wife and the man who helped her trick her way out of Faerie. As a man in this land of magic, guesses and charms, Jude was told to keep his head down and stand in her place. But, after illustrating the events of The Cruel Prince, Judas was never one to simulate weakness – at least, not if it serves a larger strategy. In the Evil King, Judas went from prey to predator; she took power when no one thought she could, and although she did to protect her family, eventually possessing true power is intoxicating in itself. (Of course, the thing of it is, no one can know Jude has fooled them all or all her carefully laid plans will come crashing down.) But the crazy thing about power is that it comes with constant challenges-from the sea, from dethroned and those who have been displaced from Cardan's rise, and from intriguing within the court. Madoc's lessons have always served Judas well, and she learns this special thing over and over again in The Wicked King and one that sounds very true. Beyond Judas's bow, The Wicked King is so damn good because of his twisty plot-another Hallmark Holly Black, and she doesn't disappoint. FairyLand is full of tricks and mistrust, and even friendly allies have their own Secret. Although there is undeniable attraction between Jude and Cardan, it is not exactly love or lust or hatred-there are reasons do the things they do, and we can't really predict what those reasons are or will unfold. That's part of the thrill, really. Similarly, the relationship between Judas and her sisters (especially Taryn) and Ohmygod the relationship between Judas and Madoc are particularly thorny and nuanced. There is respect and tension, betrayals and lies, and everything is so incredibly well written. I finished this book with my heart in my throat at the final revelations, and while I am so frustrated I have to wait another year to know what happens next, I loved every moment of this adventure. Absolutely recommended and one of my favorite readings of the year so far. ** A note on the edition: I read B&N hardcover exclusively, which has a different jacket and also features several deleted scenes from the book (as an appendix at the end). Definitely worth it, in the opinion of this reader. Rating: 8 - Absolutely Brilliant Buy Book: B&N Exclusive Edition | Amazon FairiesFantasyFolk from AirHolly BlackYoung Adult Hate this book. I don't like it so much that I can't stop thinking about it. I don't like enough to want to make 100 accounts to evaluate a star over & over again. But I won't, not because it's immoral, but because there can be no hate unless there's love. There can be no loss unless it's necessary. He can't get hurt unless there's care. I hate you, I say, words that come out as a comfort. I say it again and again. A litany. A delight. A ward against what I really feel. So, really, it's my own hate this book. I don't like it so much that I can't stop thinking about it. I don't like enough to want to make 100 accounts to evaluate a star over & over again. But I won't, not because it's immoral, but because there can be no hate unless there's love. There can be no loss unless it's necessary. He can't get hurt unless there's care. I hate you, I say, words that come out as a comfort. I say it again and again. A litany. A delight. A ward against what I really feel. So, really, it's my damn fault. I gave Holly Black a gilded dagger, turned my back, and begged her to stab me, going so far as to give her directions to the place south of my hopes and a little north of my dreams. I am Judas and this book is my King Wicked. And there is no better way, absolutely none, to convey how it feels to read every page, every ink brush, every curve and the tins, than to quote the book itself: It has all the sinister pleasure of hiding from the house, all the revolting satisfaction of stealing. It reminds me of the moment before I slam a blade in my hand, amazed by my own capacity for self-betrayal. (Please excuse me for stealing lines- I do this because I am an inadequate piece of the human soul and unable to compete with Queen Faerie who wrote this pure treasure trove of precious stones). Power is much easier to acquire than it is to hold on. I've said it before and I'm going to say it again: people don't paint it. That, that's really how it is. Folk of the Air is not an easy, romantic fairy tale, however captivating; is a dark and deadly one - less a page-turner and more an enticing one. It's about tricks and traps, games and intrigueand pain and, above all, power. Infectious power, greedy, alluring. And that, all of that, is being sprinted around every corner, around every thread of the books. Embrace Jude's curves and fly off her lips, slide along Cardan's tail and between his smart locks. He wraps his hunger around the characters, bathing, choking, choking. And she, quite gloriously, circles the dynamics and ties, twisting and blurring the lines of love and hate, and desire fear, until it is one with every angle, dip, and chip. I think it makes sense for some people to confuse one with the other. Isak Danielson's song Power (which you can find on my book playlist) is King Wicked incarnate and why oh why didn't I listen when people told me not to finish it before an exam and went on to do just that? Sigh, I'm a fool, yes, but a fool to Jude and Cardan. And that never ceases to be an honor. Things are always super dramatic around here, Vivi tells Heather. Epic. Everyone's acting like they're out of a murder ballad. So I called this book a pure treasure trove of precious stones, I will proceed to refer to treasures as the four most precious gems: Black Diamond: Jude Duarte Once upon a time, there was a human girl stolen from fairies, and because of that, she swore to destroy them. I'm going to fight every person who dares to call my Jude annoying or unbearable and everything else in the lexicon for those adjectives. She's the definition of a brilliant badass queen and I'm willing to break her necks to prove it. Metaphorically, of course. In The Cruel Prince she evolved from the girl who wanted to impress and match in and fight for honor, to a ruthless, power-hungry, intriguing star, and in this sequel her brilliance multiplies a thousand times; So I suggest you protect your eyes before you blind yourself to its resolved. Exploring her hatred of vulnerability, her need for control, and her relentless insistence on pushing and pushing herself both physically and mentally to the brink of collapse until she achieved perfection and total independence, made me refer to her at a level that borders on discomfort, where comfort really made no sense (at least to me) and I wasn't such a self-absorbed bastard. He's going to do it. That, right there, is my most adored trait in man or fairy, reality or fiction. You relax like a coil. What happens when there's no wire? Then I spin more. Anger or fear? Fear or anger? Jude would argue anger (unsurprisingly, that is, she being an angry hurricane and all) and herself agree. Both are overwhelming emotions that can snow and paralyze and turn one into a fool, while both can also motivate and embolden and turn one into a champion. However, there is a certain thread of arrogance interwoven with that fear happens to be missing. And, you all know me, I'd choose anger over fear any day. So I can't do anything less than shout my love for her from the rooftops, not the mountains, as Jude got hurt and folk weakness carved into her flesh and bone, add him to the stew of her desire to be magical as they mixed up with her obsessive knowledge of their rules and their ways and the music of their strings as they are pulled and plucked , and sprinkle it with a formidable amount of pleasure from power and dance and determination to learn and excel, watching everything bubbles and burn. She's definitely my favorite chef, because she's better at being worse than her. Never underestimate my killer's power, her talent in strategy and her capacity for cruelty. Finally, I want to raise a glass to the question holly raises with this book: Is it good, or bad, for a ruler to contain these cutting, cunning impulses? Answer me you want. Cat's Eye Emerald: Cardan Greenbriar Have you never heard that virtue is his own reward? Cardan says nice. That's because there's no other reward in it. Ahhhh, I'm in love with this evil king (while wanting to strangle him to death and back, oof) and I'm not even evil. I stand by my point in my review of the Cruel Prince that his most important difference from the worst charming boys (or girls) in the books, is his absolute lack of ambition. Hell, that's the main difference between him and Jude. This small (perhaps inconsequential to most fans) detail is so ridiculously stressed to me because it makes him endearing and unique and powerless adorable, adding to his irresistible charm as he langui for life, and why I'm fainting right now ugh. The Wicked King is arguably the best game in this trilogy and one of the reasons why Cardan's beautiful, heart-stopping growth as a character. He goes from a person hired to, as Judas would say it, being a layabout who does none of the real work of government, to find himself, his determination, courage, fight-as you want to call him-because of the way his sense of helplessness and fear drips away, dripping, as he no longer has anyone to inflame (Judas excluded). And, most of all, because of Jude pushing him unwittingly. Learn to hold it. You three have a solution to every problem. Crime. No key matches every lock. Cardan gives us all a hard look, holding a long hand with my finger with my stolen ruby ring still on a finger. Someone's trying to betray the Great King, murder. Someone gives you a hard look, murder. Someone doesn't respect you, murder. Someone's ruining your laundry, your murder. I could go on for two more paragraphs about what he seems to have a singular taste for the women who threaten him and why and how a certain type of power calls to our dear twisted fear like this, frankly, not to most of the characters messed up in this series, but I won't bore you anymore with my psychological discourse. I'm going to go, I'm going to go. Go, and carve a Cardan-shaped room deep into my cold, dark heart to trap this smart boy, cutting, shameless, simple, but playful, and to protect him at all costs. Ship Jurdan If you're the disease, I suppose you can't be the cure. I mean that anyone who hasn't already been abroad this ship should be careful because they might kindly push them overboard to be late to the party (let's ignore the fact that we were also late to the shhhhh general party). If a card was warming them up for the match, card two is sparring them at full swing and I'm here for it. So just as he's wary of it, bracing for her next shot while enjoying the game and trusting her completely, he's also going to field kicks. Seriously, that's fair. I've heard that for mortals, the feeling of falling in love is very similar to the feeling of fear. Your heart is beating fast. Your senses are accentuated. You get so wet, maybe even you get so wet. I think my second favorite aspect of their relationship (after games and sparring matches) is how their need and attraction and glimpse of a kindred spirit turns into denial and anger and fiery hatred as they flee from the feeling they despise lacing through their love, all while being helpless to do so. Running at full speed on the sloping terrain soaked with a rain of pain and desire. Cardan has already slipped. It's Jude's turn to do that. Kiss me again, he says, drunk and stupid. Kiss me till I'm tired of this. Now, I'm going to make a confession. I was as stupefied petrified by their dynamic change as Jude was. Every step she took beyond her control, every claim she made, every handful of power she dug up, I found myself screaming not as much as I cheered on her growth. Because I understand her fear of being out of control and powerless, and I don't want him to hold more power than Jude. And this fear is idiotic and unjust, because the fact that one's power should come out of another's powerlessness must give everyone pause. He capered while she schemed. It's time for them to learn to be equal, with mutual trust, even in their chess game, trusting that their opponent and partner will not land a kill shot. For a moment, he says, I wondered if you weren't pulling screws at me. I'm making a face with him, and what made you decide he wasn't? Smile at me. They missed. Violet Sapphire: The rest of the Mob as an ant in the fable who works in the dirt while the grasshopper sings the summer away. And he's got nothing for the winter. I say, I don't need anything, he says, nodding, mock-jelly. I am the King of Corn, after all, to be sacrificed so little Oak can take my place in taking the story by the neck, donking it into an ocean of vocabulary and punctuation marks, and threading water and words in whorls of magic and spell. Thank you, Holly, for weaving waves of crying stories for us. I'm still your father. You're my father's killer. I'm out of town. They can be both, says Madoc, smiling, pointing to those teeth. - Madoc: I couldn't break my gaze away from this given-up father-daughter relationship. He, the monster who took everything from Judas, also gave her a new life, pushed her to her full potential (even while underestimating her), encouraged her fire (even while beating her), was all she had. And I lived for how well this facet of this dark tapestry, this theme to go beyond the power of the person who raised you, burns throughout the book.P.S. Pain makes you strong? Sith a lot? Your ridiculous family might be surprised to find out that not everything is solved by murder, Locke calls after me. We'd be surprised to find out, we called back. • Taryn the Traitor: I argued in my review of The Lost Sisters that Taryn likes games and adventure and power play and is ferocious enough to claim his own story (while being hypocritical enough to deny it). And he does. But it doesn't mean she's not weak, because she is, too. She escapes confrontation and discomfort as a sunflower constantly turning towards the sun to run away from the dark- and I never liked much sunflower. This adaptability is exactly what fascinates Locke, and this weakness is just what takes apart the trust between these two lost sisters. Locke F*** ing Fox: I know everyone hates and wants to kill this guy, but I can't resist bringing him back to life after choking him for more of his playful, dangerous-but-fun fox games of backstabbing delight. "Sheep smile" Revenge is sweet, but ice cream is sweeter. • Vivi Humanlover: A moment of appreciation for the defiant yet chill mt, loving yet selfish knight-to-heart. Fala Foot: Putting it here because no one seems to care about this jam wty. K I'mma really shut up now goodbye. Companions Book series playlist: Spotify URL Books in series: ** The Cruel Prince (Folk of the Air, #1) ★★★★★ The Lost Sisters (Folk of the Air, #1.5) ★★★★★ The Wicked King (Folk of the Air, #2) ★★★★★ The Queen of Nothing (Folk of the Air, #3) ★★★★★ ** the King of Elfhame learned to hate Stories (Folk of the Air, #3. More... More

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