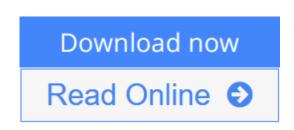


The Kiss of Deception (The Remnant Chronicles Book 1)

By Mary E. Pearson



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In a society steeped in tradition, Princess Lia's life follows a preordained course. As First Daughter, she is expected to have the revered gift of sight—but she doesn't—and she knows her parents are perpetrating a sham when they arrange her marriage to secure an alliance with a neighboring kingdom—to a prince she has never met.

On the morning of her wedding, Lia flees to a distant village. She settles into a new life, hopeful when two mysterious and handsome strangers arrive—and unaware that one is the jilted prince and the other an assassin sent to kill her. Deception abounds, and Lia finds herself on the brink of unlocking perilous secrets—even as she finds herself falling in love.

The Kiss of Deception is the first book in Mary E. Pearson's Remnant Chronicles.

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Editorial Review

From **Booklist**

Starred Review She is a princess, and it is her duty to marry into an alliance. But 17-year-old Lia has her own opinion about that obligation, one that she puts into action when she escapes her wedding with her ladyin-waiting, Pauline. Determined, confident Lia thinks that she knows how to cover her tracks, and soon she and Pauline are working as barmaids in Pauline's hometown. Now two new voices enter to help tell the story. One belongs to the prince whom Lia was supposed to marry. He is curious about his fled fiancée and angry that she thought of a way to get out of the marriage first. The other voice belongs to an assassin who is sent by the Komizar of Venda to make sure that Lia doesn't change her mind and return to initiate an alliance that will harm their country. Pearson offers readers a wonderfully full-bodied story: harrowing, romantic, and full of myth and memory, fate and hope. She never compromises her characters—especially the multifaceted Lia—for plot; each element motivates the other. There is also a richness to the descriptions that makes readers feel that they can see and even smell the changing landscapes. This has the sweep of an epic tale, told with some twists; it's a book that almost doesn't need a sequel, but readers will be thrilled that it continues on. Grades 9-12. --Ilene Cooper

Review

Praise for The Kiss of Deception:

"The Kiss of Deception has it all--**beautiful writing, heart-pounding suspense, a fiery princess, and an epic romance** that'll make you swoon. This is definitely **one of my favorite reads of the year**!" *?Alyson Noël, #1 New York Times–bestselling author of The Immortals*

"In *The Kiss of Deception*, a new realm is **masterfully created**, featuring court intrigue, feuding nations, breathtaking landscapes, and the gift of sight. Fans of the *Game of Thrones* series will enjoy the magic and fantasy in this timeless dystopian world." *?VOYA*

"Gripping, urgent, and highly appealing." ?School Library Journal

"Pearson (the Jenna Fox Chronicles) is off to an extraordinary start with her fantasy series, the Remnant Chronicles, creating **an alluring world and romance** that's ideal for fans of Kristin Cashore and Megan Whalen Turner." *Publishers Weekly*

"Pearson offers readers a **wonderfully full-bodied story: harrowing, romantic, and full of myth and memory, fate and hope**... This has the sweep of an epic tale, told with some twists." *?Booklist,* starred review

"A marvelous new fantasy series that is sure to find an audience with devotees of Suzanne Collins's The Hunger Games and John Flanagan's Ranger's Apprentice books (Philomel). Romance, adventure, mysticism-**this book has it all** and it just may be the next YA blockbuster." *?School Library Journal*, starred review

"After her strong Jenna Fox series, Pearson adeptly switches gears here from science fiction to fantasy, but her ability to write a romance featuring complex characters and a strong plot remains constant." *?The Horn Book*

"The Kiss of Deception is a **deeply satisfying, intricately plotted fantasy** where no one--no one--is quite what they seem. Full of lush writing and rich, complex characters, readers will quickly become enmeshed in the intricate web of lies that have been woven into the very fabric of the kingdom itself. A thoroughly engrossing read--I couldn't put it down!" ?Robin LaFevers, New York Times-bestselling author of Grave Mercy and Dark Triumph

"This is the kind of story I love--a heart-pounding tale of magic and murder, betrayal and romance set in a richly imagined fantasy landscape." ?Cinda Williams Chima, New York Times-bestselling author of the Seven Realms and the Heir Chronicles

"Peppered with excerpts from sacred texts and traditional songs, the novel has a formidable heroine at its core, who is as quick with a knife as she is to laugh or cry. Pearson maintains the mystery of Rafe and Kaden's identities, pulling readers through this **masterfully crafted** story." *Publishers Weekly, Starred Review*

"Pearson's first book in her Remnant Chronicles is **thrilling**. **Readers will be hooked** from the first page to the last and will find themselves eagerly anticipating the next installment. Pearson pairs a rich and varied plot with a **fiery and headstrong heroine**." *?Romantic Times*

"Mystery, romance, betrayal, redemption: There's plenty to hook readers in to this installment of Lia's saga and make them impatient for the volumes to come." *Chicago Tribune*

"Pearson's writing is **beautiful**, and her ability to twist a plot into knots keeps the reader wanting more." *BookPage*

"This thick book is fantastical and interesting (with a bit of mystery thrown in!)....There's a lot of mystery that spices up the book. It's not all about the mystery, but it's on the peripheral always, which makes it that much more interesting." *?USA Today*

"Lia herself is a likeable heroine, and the selfishness in her act of leaving a kingdom in shambles for some future love is negated by her obvious naivete about political strategies and romantic relationships . . . Most intriguing are the two love interests, though, partly because of the way Pearson structures their narrating chapters." ?*BCCB*

"Rich and exciting . . . a bold ending whets appetites for the next installment." ?Kirkus Reviews

About the Author

Mary E. Pearson is the author of many novels for teens, including the popular Jenna Fox trilogy and the *New York Times* bestselling Remnant Chronicles. She writes full-time from her home in Carlsbad, California, where she lives with her husband and two dogs.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Heather Snyder:

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