



Queen of Hearts and Tarts: Heartless by Marissa Meyer

Heartless, a novel by Marissa Meyer, delves into the history of the infamous Queen of Hearts. In Meyer's imagined backstory, Cath is neither evil nor royalty. She is simply a girl who wishes to fall in love and open her own bakery. The King of Hearts has set his eyes on Cath to become his Queen. The entirety of the Kingdom is aware of his attraction to her and Cath's mother is determined for her daughter to become Queen, rather than follow her dreams to open a bakery. At one of the King's balls, Cath meets the court joker, Jest, and they fall in love. Their secret relationship is tested as Cath tries to follow her dreams, rather than give into the pressure being placed on her to become Queen.

Personally, I found this book to be extremely charming and adventurous. The secret romance and theme of "redesigning fate" kept me on the edge of my seat and addicted to the story. I would recommend this book to all audiences, but girls and Disney fans (or classic fairytale fans) will most likely enjoy this book the most. If you like this book, you might also like *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer or *Romanov* by Nadine Brandes. You will enjoy *Cinder* because it is a twist on the classic fairytale, Cinderella. If you enjoyed the writing style of *Heartless*, you will enjoy *Cinder* because it is also written by Marissa Meyer. *Romanov* is a fantasy retelling of the tragic Romanov family story. The story has been told in the animated movie, *Anastasia*, which is adored by many fairytale and Disney fans. If you enjoy the fantasy aspects of *Heartless*, you will enjoy the fantasy aspects of *Romanov*.

This book can be enjoyed even if the reader does not know anything about the base stories, which are *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll. Disney has produced two movies based off of this novel, both titled *Alice in Wonderland*. The first movie was released in 1951 and is an animated retelling of Carroll's novel. The second movie is a live-action film based on the previous animated film, as well as Carroll's original novel. The live-action film also has a sequel, titled *Into the Looking Glass*. Overall, if you enjoy Disney films, fantasy novels, or classic fairytales, you will enjoy *Heartless*.

To find more information about *Heartless* or Marissa Meyer, visit her website: <https://www.marissameyer.com/book/heartless/>. If you would like to discuss *Heartless* with your friends, consider using the official Discussion Guide: <https://www.marissameyer.com/books/discussion-questions-heartless/>. Do you want to know more about the story before you read it? Watch the official book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAgClSBT3ZA>.