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Enna burning

Jessica Farmer

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Hale, Shannon. *Enna Burning*. Bloomsbury, 2004. ISBN 1582348898. \$17.95. 317 pp.

Reviewer: Jessica Farmer

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Fairy tales;

Subject: Fire--Juvenile fiction; Nature--Effect of human beings on--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

This is a continuation of the story that started in *Goose Girl*, although not really a sequel. This story picks up with Enna, the best friend of the Princess Isi of Bayern. After her mother died, Enna left the castle to live with her brother, Leifer, in the forestlands. She is restless and longs for the excitement of the palace but knows that she can't leave her brother. Everything changes when whispers of war reach the forest and Leifer suddenly acquires a mysterious gift to control fire. But something happens, and it seems like the fire starts to control him. Enna and the Princess are reunited as they accompany Leifer, some common friends, Finn and Razo, and the rest of the Bayern Army to war. Leifer's ability turns the battle in Bayern's favor, but at a terrible cost, his life. Enna vows to honor her brother's memory by learning the art of fire speaking and helping the army herself. She controls the fire better than Leifer did at first, but eventually the overwhelming desire to burn almost consumes her as well. Princess Isi and Finn struggle to find a way to save Enna before the fire burns her from the inside out. They travel to a neighboring country to discover the secret to controlling the fire and ultimately discover that by combining Isi's gift of wind speaking and Enna's gift of fire speaking they can each find balance within themselves and with each other.

This is a touching story about love, friendship, loyalty, control, and balance. The writing is just as captivating as in *Goose Girl* with unexpected plot twists and the same lovable yet intriguing characters. Hale has a marvelous flair for painting scenes and developing characters in a way that inspires readers to do better and to enjoy the beauty of life and nature. This is a wonderful book for anyone who loves fairy tales, well-written heart warming stories, a little suspense, and, like all good fairytales, a happy ending.