



2006

Ophelia

Cassandra Fugal

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Klein, Lisa. *Ophelia*. Bloomsbury, 2006. ISBN 1582348014. \$16.95. 328 p.

Reviewer: Cassandra Fugal

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Historical fiction;

Subject: Revenge--Juvenile fiction; Murder--Juvenile fiction; Princes--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

In this gripping story, Klein creates a very different Ophelia from the pitiable girl in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. This Ophelia is intelligent, witty and not afraid to speak her mind. She first meets Hamlet as an 11-year old tomboy and as she grows into an accomplished lady of the court the attraction between them grows. After the death of Hamlet's father, they secretly wed with only loyal Horatio as their witness. But on her wedding night Hamlet's leaves her to investigate the report of his father's ghost haunting the battlements. Despite her attempts to dissuade Hamlet from revenge he drags her into the middle of the intrigue and then abandons her to defend herself as he plunges into madness. With the eyes of the murderous Claudius and his henchmen upon her Ophelia cloaks herself in madness as she plan a daring escape from Denmark. Intermixed into the dialogue of the story are many lines from *Hamlet* which Klein creatively uses in different scenes and spoken by different characters than Shakespeare to propel the story forward, weaving a spellbinding tale.