



2008

The Amaranth Enchantment

Ruth-Anne Brown

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Berry, Julie. *The Amaranth Enchantment*. Bloomsbury, 2009. ISBN 9781599903347. \$16.99. 308 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction

Subject: Fantasy--Juvenile fiction; Princes--Juvenile fiction; Extraterrestrial beings--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

A carriage accident changes young Lucinda's world forever. After her parents' deaths, she must work in a jewelry shop with her uncle and his cruel second wife. She slaves away for ten years until one day a mysterious customer, a reputed witch, enters and commissions a resetting of her enormous glowing stone. The stone is stolen in the night by a young rascal thief and then sold to royalty. To get it back, Lucinda befriends the suspected witch, picks the pocket a prince, and defies the man behind her parents' murder. Her adventures lead her to prison, a royal ball, and eventually a prince.

This medieval tale of a young woman coming into her own demonstrates that happiness does not all depend on Prince Charming. Lucinda's spunk makes the reader cheer her on as she fights for what is rightfully hers. Fans of Tamora Pierce, Shannon Hale, or Catherine Murdock will enjoy Berry's debut novel. Young adult readers will become engaged in this fairy tale fantasy from the flaming flower on the cover to each surprising twist. The happily-ever-after comes once the heroine gains her freedom and independence.

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