



2010

Starcrossed

Debbie Barr

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Bunce, Elizabeth C. *StarCrossed*. Scholastic, 2010. ISBN 9780545136051. \$17.99. 362 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Fantasy Fiction;

Subject: Religion--Juvenile fiction; Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Juvenile fiction; Robbers and outlaws--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Digger is a thief looking for a new job. Her last adventure nearly got her killed, so when some nobles offer to help her, she figures she had found some easy prey. Working as a maid to Meri, the daughter of a nobleman, Digger moves with the nobleman's family to a snowy fortress and get trapped there for the winter with a number of guests. Daul, a friend of Meri's father, discover's Digger's secret, and blackmails her into discovering the secrets of Meri's family. As Digger works, she makes many discoveries: there is a conspiracy against the current king; the nobleman's guests all practice a forbidden religion of magic; and the nobleman's family has been hiding the lost prince under the castle. Everything culminates with a climax that pits Digger against not only the King's High Inquisitor but also her past. Although Meri, her family, and the rest of the nobles get off alright for the moment, there are many loose ends left for the next book in the series.

Elizabeth C. Bunce has created a compelling world full of rebellion and secrets, perfect for a theiving main character. The book starts off rather slowly—the first fifty pages relate to events that won't be addressed until later books. However, once the plot gets going, it will be hard for readers to put it down. Fans of Megan Whelan Turner and Robin McKinley will enjoy this rich fantasy full of magic, adventure, and secrets.

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