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### The Princess Curse by Merrie Haskell

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Author: Haskell, Merrie

Title: *The Princess Curse*

Year of Publication: 2011

Publisher: HarperCollins

ISBN: 9780062008138

Number of Pages: 322

Rating: Dependable

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult

Keywords: Fantasy; Fairy Tale Retellings; Princesses; Curses



Review:

Reveka is an herbalist's apprentice who uses her knowledge of plants and magic to solve a terrible problem: twelve cursed princesses are descending into the underworld each night to meet with an evil humanoid dragon. The dragon gives each princess the option of accepting his marriage proposal or dancing with him. Reveka sees that she can break the curse by accepting the dragon's proposal, so she does. Then she learns that the underworld is mysteriously dying. Suddenly it is up to her to become the queen and cure the underworld so she can awaken those above who are still cursed. This allows Reveka to return back home, but she promises to return to the dragon and help resolve his mysterious past.

Haskell's debut novel is a combination of two fairy tales: *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Although readers are most likely familiar with these two tales, Haskell weaves them together in an unpredictable way. But this story is not just fairy-tale based; the author also includes historical facts about the setting and language of her characters, as well as a knowledge of herbs and plants. One thing that may deter parents or teachers from sharing this book with children is that Reveka is only thirteen when she becomes engaged. However, no physical affection is shown between the two characters. Because the ending did not offer a full resolution, Haskell will likely write a sequel to this book.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

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