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The Silver Bowl (Silver Bowl #1) by Diane Stanley

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Author: Stanley, Diane

Title: *The Silver Bowl (Silver Bowl #1)*

Year of Publication: 2011

Publisher: HarperCollins

ISBN: 9780061575433

Number of pages: 307

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult

Keywords: Clairvoyance; Blessing and cursing; Magic; Kings, queens, and rulers; Inheritance and succession; Fantasy; Novels

Review:

At a young age, Molly is sent away to be a scullery maid at the king of Westria's castle. Before she left home, Molly's mother reveals that Molly has magical abilities that she must uncover. Once at the castle, a new friend, Tobias, helps Molly handle her new life. After several years, Molly is promoted to help Thomas—overseer of the royal silver—polish the castle's silver. While polishing a hand basin, Molly sees in vision that the basin is cursed and its curses are killing the royal family. She tells Tobias her visions and they rush to protect the last prince, Alaric. Together, they keep the prince in hiding and plan a way to stop the curses. Molly discovers that Thomas was behind the cursing of the royal family. With Tobias's help, they are able to end the curses and defeat Thomas.

Stanley's take on magic is refreshing and original. Molly's character shows that even when a person is put into an unfortunate situation, that person has the choice of how they react to their circumstances. This lesson is clearly taught to Molly by Tobias, and she benefits from it by working hard and doing her best with what she was given. *The Silver Bowl* is a creative fantasy read with many unexpected twists and turns that will have readers up all night. This is the beginning book of *The Silver Bowl* trilogy. The second book in the trilogy is *The Cup and The Crown*.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

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