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Ruined #1: Ruined

Lisi Merkley

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Book Review

Ruined #1: Ruined

Author

Amy Tintera

Illustrator

Reviewer

Lisi Merkley

Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

355

Year

2016

Publisher

HarperTeen

ISBN

9780062396600

Emelina Flores's lost everything when a neighboring kingdom destroyed her family's palace, killed her parents, and kidnapped her sister, Olivia. In the aftermath of the attack her own people refuse to let her rule, because unlike the rest of Ruina she doesn't have any powers. She decides to prove that she can help her people by rescuing her sister. In order to do so, she impersonates a princess from an enemy kingdom and marries the prince from another. Her plan is going perfectly until she falls in love with Prince Cas and decides not to kill him. Eventually the royal family figures out that she is not actually the princess she said she was, forcing Emelina to flee the castle and begin the journey to rescue her sister. When Em finds her sister, she can't believe how powerful and ruthless Olivia has become.

Ruined falls short of its potential. The author set up a premise where Em could go through this marvelous change and realize that even though she doesn't have powers she isn't "useless," but instead she falls in love with a prince and almost fails at her mission before miraculously succeeding. The world building also could have been great—four kingdoms who hate each other, coming together for the first time—but the author didn't spend enough time focusing on the cultural differences between them or why they hate each other. Even with its flaws, Ruined is an easy, entertaining read.

*Contains moderate language and moderate violence.