
A Court of Thorns and Roses #1: A Court of Thorns and Roses

Abigail Packard

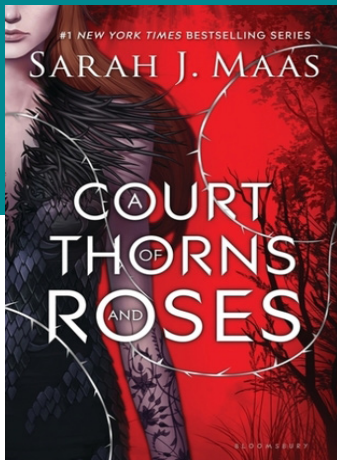
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Book Review

A Court of Thorns and Roses #1: A Court of Thorns and Roses

Author

Sarah J. Maas

Illustrator

Reviewer

Abigail Packard

Rating

Dependable

Level

Young Adult

Pages

448

Year

2015

Publisher

Bloomsbury

ISBN

9781619634442

When Feyre shoots a wolf in the forest, her life is changed forever. The wolf is a faery sentry sent out to the border between the human and faery worlds. Tamlin, a fierce faery high lord, shows up and demands that Feyre accompany him back to the immortal faery realm as payment for this murder. Feyre returns with him and slowly learns of the political intrigue and magic of the faery realm. The Spring Court, of which Tamlin is the ruler, has been under a curse for nearly fifty years, and a vengeful faery from another realm has taken over as Queen of the seven courts. Feyre becomes entangled in the faery world despite her hopes of escape, and she begins to develop feelings for her mysterious captor. But then Tamlin is swept away by Queen Amarantha and Feyre follows him only to be swallowed up by the maniacal Night Court. Feyre is offered a chance at escape when Amarantha approaches her with three brutal tests. Feyre succeeds in completing all three and, with Tamlin's help, defeats Amarantha.

Sarah J. Maas's first book in this series is astonishingly twisty and well written. However, there are definitely many slow-moving parts, particularly during the first half, that seem to drag on. Yet persistence pays off for readers who reach the halfway mark when things begin picking back up again. The relationship between Feyre and Tamlin does seem stilted and fake at times, which is not very satisfying for readers. Moreover, readers will be surprised, given that this is a young adult novel, at how explicit the sex scene between Tamlin and Feyre is. Overall, though, the story is an interesting retelling of the Beauty and the Beast story. It has just enough of the old fairy tale to keep readers on track, but adds creativity and complexity to make the story its own new version.

*Contains severe sexual content, moderate violence, and mild language.