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The Cup and the Crown by Diane Stanley

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Author: Stanley, Diane

Title: *The Cup and the Crown*

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: Harper

ISBN: 9780061963216

Number of pages: 344

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Young Adult

Keywords: Drinking Cups; Identity; Clairvoyance; Magic; Royalty; Fantasy; Juvenile Fiction; Historical; Medieval

Review:

Prince Alaric asks Molly to search for the loving cups created by her silversmith grandfather. Molly, Tobias, and their traveling party follow the trail of Molly’s grandfather, which leads them to Harrowsgode, a magic-based closed city. Once inside Molly is able to meet her regal relatives, including a cousin who is a gifted silversmith. But Molly and Tobias are not allowed to leave the city. Molly is taken away to gain a royal education, while Tobias is left in the hands of a sympathetic rat-catcher. Meanwhile the “uncle” spirit that escaped the silver bowl has inhabited the body of a raven. With the raven’s help, Molly, Tobias, the rat-catcher, and Molly’s cousin are able to escape the city and return back to Alaric with a new loving cup.

Stanley’s characters from *The Silver Bowl* return again, this time exploring more of Molly’s magical family history. Molly always thought she was a fluke in her family tree. Once she arrives in Harrowsgode, she sees that her elite relatives are also magically gifted. But Molly still feels like an outsider because she lacks education and has backward manners. When the people of Harrowsgode kidnap her and force her into an education, Molly finally realizes that education is the key that will help her escape from the closed city. A great read with a wonderful heroine who leads readers through all the unexpected twists and turns. The final book in the trilogy is *The Princess of Cortova*.

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