The Star-touched Queen

Roshani Chokshi; read by Neela Vaswani

A lush, beautifully written and vividly imagined fantasy inspired by Indian folklore.

Sixteen-year-old Princess Mayavati spends her free time hiding up on the rafters, spying on her father's court. Scorned by the women of the harem and her father's political advisors because of her foreboding horoscope which pairs her with Death and Destruction, Maya enjoys the freedom of roaming the palace as she pleases. Despite her reviled status in the palace, Maya is content to live a life of scholarly pursuits. This all changes when war skirts her kingdom's borders and her father, the Raja, announces that she'll be married within the week in efforts to ally with rebel forces.

A deadly tumult on the day of her wedding leaves Maya no choice but to wed Amar, the enigmatic Raja of Akaran. Unlike the husband of her nightmares, Amar encourages and challenges her. But Akaran has its own secrets. In its halls, Maya finds a garden of glass and a tree that bears memory instead of fruit. Haunted by what she sees in the Memory Tree, Maya begins to suspect her life is in danger. When she ignores Amar's plea for patience, her discoveries put more than her marriage at risk - it threatens the balance of all realms, human and otherworldly.

ROSHANI CHOKSHI is a 2008 Pushcart Prize nominee. Her work has appeared in Loose Change, In The Fray, and The Feminist Wire. One of her short stories was a finalist in the 2014 Katha Fiction Contest (hosted by Khabar Magazine and India Currents Online) and will be published sometime in October. THE STAR TOUCHED QUEEN is her first novel.
If I Was Your Girl
Meredith Russo

For any listener who is looking for a story about being seen for who you really are, If I Was Your Girl is a debut YA novel about a teen with a secret who moves to a new town.

Amanda Hardy is new to her small town. Like any other girl, she wants to make friends and fit in at school. Pretty soon, she does. Before too long, she even starts dating Grant, the most popular boy in her class. But Amanda has a secret.

Soon, Amanda and Grant begin to play the Honesty Game: a version of truth-or-dare where they take turns sharing things that the other person doesn't know, and by the end, share a secret that they never thought they'd tell anyone. And as the game goes on, Amanda grows terrified that when she gets to her deepest secret, that the game will be over, and that Grant will be gone.

The secret that Amanda's been keeping?

At her old school, she used to be a boy.

An honest, unflinching look at what it means to be different in high school, If I was Your Girl magnifies the struggles of identity and acceptance all teens go through, regardless of gender identity. Amanda is a heroine that every girl can relate to, and this is a love story that YA listeners, all listeners, are ready for.

PRAISE

"OMG. How could you only give me 80 pages of this amazing novel? Wow. I haven't felt this way about a novel since reading Eleanor & Park." --Talia Sherer, Director of Library Marketing

MEREDITH RUSSO is a debut author who lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee with her wife and two children. As a transgender woman, Meredith's personal experiences shine through in If I was Your Girl. She is eager to share her story with readers during the marketing and publicity efforts for the novel.
Royal Wedding Disaster: From the Notebooks of a Middle School Princess

Meg Cabot; read by Kathleen McInerney

You are invited to a Genovian Royal Wedding in this second book in our middle-grade Princess Diaries spin-off series, written and illustrated by New York Times-bestselling author Meg Cabot.

Olivia Grace Clarisse Mignonette Harrison still finds it hard to believe that she's a real live PRINCESS OF GENOVIA. Not only does she get to live in an actual palace with a loving family and two fabulous poodles but she also gets her very own PONY!

Of course, things aren't going exactly like she imagined. Her father spends most of his time "renovating" the summer palace for his new wife (Mia's Mother!) while her half-sister Mia is so busy learning how to take over the country she doesn't even have time to plan her own wedding.

Fortunately, Grandmere and Olivia are there to take charge of the wedding. (Who doesn't love horse-drawn carriages?) But, for such a carefully planned event, it seems like a LOT of things are going wrong... Can Olivia keep this royal wedding from becoming a royal disaster?

PRAISE

for From the Notebooks of a Middle School Princess:

"Cabot manages to combine wit and lavish details to positive effect...newcomers to the Cabot magic will be charmed. A sweet fantasy, both funny and highly satisfying." —Kirkus

"This sweet and sassy spin-off featuring the younger half-sister of Princess Mia Thermopolis...will be a perfect fit for Fancy Nancy alumni and readers not quite ready for Cabot's longer novels." —School Library Journal

MEG CABOT is the #1 New York Times-bestselling author of the Princess Diaries series, with over 25 million copies of her books sold worldwide. Born and raised in Bloomington, Indiana, Meg also lived in Grenoble, France, and Carmel, California, before moving to New York City with a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Indiana University. She is the author of numerous books for adults and children, but From the Notebooks of a Middle School Princess is the first series she's illustrated.
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