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Fairest: The Lunar Chronicles - Levana's Story



Synopsis

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all? Fans of the Lunar Chronicles know Queen Levana as a ruler who uses her "glamour" to gain power. But long before she crossed paths with Cinder, Scarlet, and Cress, Levana lived a very different story - a story that has never been told - until now. Marissa Meyer spins yet another unforgettable tale about love and war, deceit and death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fairest - Levana's Story by Marissa Meyer is a prequel to her fairytale reimagining series The Lunar Chronicles. It provides the backstory to series antagonist Queen Levana Blackburn of Luna. If you are new to The Lunar Chronicles, PLEASE don't start with this book - go read Cinder, Scarlet and Cress and then come back to it. It will be more engaging in that way. This book is a very focussed character study of Queen Levana and how she turned from a naive, self absorbed young girl into the tyrant our heroines are trying to depose. There is little in the way of worldbuilding or major plot development. It remains mostly confined to the Lunar Royal Palace. What I liked Character development. This is the focus of the book and is excellently done. We follow Levana's progression from a self absorbed, naive young girl to the vicious despot of the later books. I appreciated how each step and decision she took along that path was small and logical at the time but each developed her character as it turned out to be. I found her an interesting character, and at many points she gained my sympathy for what she went through. Character cameos. Many of the characters from the later books made cameo appearances as their younger selves. Even if they weren't specifically named as such it was great fun to spot Cinder, Cress, Kai and other

characters. Audiobook narration. Once again narration is provided by Rebecca Soler who did the narration for the other books in the series. She does a brilliant job of capturing the characters' voices and I hope she continues for *Winter*, the final book in the series. What I didn't like Very expensive for such a short book.

WELP. We used to have the WTF Elephant. Now we have the WTF fork. BUT fork or elephant, the principle is the same. It didn't occur to me that some readers might skip this installment of *The Lunar Chronicles*, counting it as a novella. Technically, while being a prequel, I think it's still a full-length novel. I don't know the word count, but I did the math (with a calculator, and everything), and even excluding the preview of *Winter* that begins at 79%, Levana's story is still over 200 pages. Fyi. And regardless, any fan of the series will want to read this book, b/c: 1. What does Levana really look like under that veil? 2. What happened to Levana's husband, and how did *Winter* end up in her care? 3. What is the depth of Levana's evil? And those are just a few of the questions that *Fairest* answers. Also . . . as it turns out, Levana might just be as crazy as she is evil. The end result is the same, of course, but I was surprised. If she was simply a narcissist, I might not have been, and that's definitely part of the crazy, but guys . . . this woman is downright diabolically insane. It's uncomfortable. I had the misfortune of agreeing with my husband to *Pillars of the Earth* as our holiday driving read this year . . . I loathed it. And for once I didn't have to analyze what it was that made me loathe it: there are just some people's heads you don't want to be inside of. Clearly, I didn't hate *Fairest*, but sharing Levana's headspace is . . . well, it's stressful, I was full of stress. And awkward.

4 STARS A twisted fairytale that shows the dark side of an happily ever after. Told in the POV of our favorite evil Queen from the explosive debut that shook the YA genre with a fairytale that has been told time and time again, but not quite as delicious and addicting as *CINDER*! Levana's story is finally told, and it is enough to make you recoil in revulsion, yet, find a tad bit of sympathy for our evil Queen that's determined to rule the world, making all cower and serve her evil purposes. Marissa Meyer is a MASTERMIND of a storyteller!! I love everything this woman writes. She creates the most unique, addicting, oddly disturbing in this case, worlds that could awaken any feelings that have never been roused. Meyer's takes this story by force with her vivid details, developed characterization, lush writing, uniquely enthralling world-building and tantalizing anticipation that seizes you from the first page and does not let up until the very end. *FAIREST* is another exquisite hit for Meyer's! When I read *CINDER* last year I fell head over heels in love with the unique fairytale

world, but I despised, yet was fascinated with the evil villain Levana. I had a love/hate relationship with her. On one hand I thought she was despicable and the worst kind of evil, but I also found her the best villain for the story, and this series wouldn't be the same without her. She fit so well with the complex world and all her evil jabs were so riveting as she unleashed her manipulation and wrath on whom ever she chooses. She's as evil as it comes, and I loved the lengths she would go to get what she wanted. She was the perfect villain for this world.

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