



Waking Beauty

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The rescue wasn't going at all how he planned. Prince Arpien intends to gain a throne and the sleeping beauty's heart with a single kiss that wakes her from the evil fairy's curse. But kissing the princess is only the beginning of a series of unforeseen obstacles: man-eating bugs, deadly spindles, talking lapdogs, and fiery pickles. The sleeping beauty is the biggest complication of all. Princess Brierly is beautiful and Fairy-Gifted, but also...daft. After one hundred years of sleep imprisonment, Brierly refuses to believe this rescue is anything more than a tantalizing but doomed dream. Arpien is drawn to the vibrancy beneath Brierly's indifferent exterior. Can they reclaim her kingdom? Do they dare trust in the Prince of the old tales to help them battle the evil fairy who cursed Brierly? What is the price of waking beauty?

Waking Beauty Details

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Author : Sarah E. Morin

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From Reader Review Waking Beauty for online ebook

Katie Clark says

Wow! Sarah E. Morin's Waking Beauty was fantastic! The voice was masterful, and I laughed and cried throughout. If you like fantasy, or fairy tales, or allegories, or humor, or love stories...well, you get the point...this is a story for you! My only hangups were two things: first, it started a bit slow for me; however, it was well worth pushing through! Second, it took me a bit longer still to even like Brierly. I understood her dilemma, but at times early on I just couldn't connect with her. As the story progressed, though, that changed. And the story ends brilliantly. I loved it!

Staci says

This debut novel takes a unique angle at the Sleepy Beauty fairy tale. Sarah Morin's novel Waking Beauty begins with the kiss that breaks the 100 year rest.

There is a lot to enjoy about this novel. There was humor sprinkled throughout beginning with the first page and the prince dusting off sleeping beauty's face before giving her a kiss. The story line was incredibly creative and had a strong Christian message.

The main downside was the length of the novel and the areas that were covered in too much detail. This was a 468 page novel that could have been narrowed down to around 300 pages and been a more enjoyable read.

Overall, it was a meaningful and humor tinted read.

R. G. Nairam says

When I finished this book, I sat up, hugged it, and got a little teary-eyed.

This rarely happens.

The only books I've ever really sobbed over were Narnia and Lord of the Rings, and I can't remember the last time I felt even a tad overthrown emotionally by a book. Books I love often sink deep into my heart without giving me outward reactions, and I'm okay with that.

But to almost want to cry--

I'm still not entirely sure what it was about this book that got to me. I loved Arpien, I was fascinated by a Sleeping Beauty who couldn't and wouldn't wake up, I enjoyed the serious but often also tongue-in-cheek voice, I was comforted by the acceptance of faith even with doubts, I appreciated the demonstrations of real, solid, strong, and uncomfortable love, I empathized with Brierly's fear and guilt, and I felt hugged by the appearance of the Real Story into this fantasy world. But does that explain tears at midnight?

The story sagged a bit in the middle, I wondered if Arpien was a tad too nice to be real, and maybe things

ended a bit happier than they "ought to".

But I think, besides being a fairytale, it's a book about hope.

The greatest hope there is.

And I'm okay with that.

--

"She was struck again by the unlikely vibrancy of the color brown."

Lauricia Matuska says

Excellent retelling of Sleeping Beauty, so I won't rehash the plot. However, this version examines it from a unique angle, asking:

What happens if, every time Beauty thought she woke up, she found out she was truly still asleep? Once Prince Charming rescued her, how could he convince her she was truly awake?

I don't read many fairy tale retellings, but I absolutely loved this one. It is a cleverly thought out variation on the original, with slightly allegoric overtones. The author cleverly challenges the assumptions we naturally make when we think of the story, and does so with developed wit and poignancy.

For the first time in a while I dove into the story world fully and sighed with regret when I emerged.

J.M. Hackman says

Although I thought it had a slow start, after a few chapters, I was hooked. I loved the characters --Prince Arpien was my favorite. By the end, I was praying for an HEA for these two, although it seemed unlikely. Waking Beauty is a great read, especially for those who love fairy tale retellings.

Kate Finney says

What a wonderful story. If you like fantasy or fairy tales, you will love this book. The story is not just about sleeping beauty; it is about the dreamer in all of us. The author brings you into the tale and makes you want to know her characters like friends. As they grow and develop, you feel like you are on a journey with them. And the ending is a most happy one. It is marketed to teens and young adults, but the layers of meaning in the story speak to those of us who are all grown up, too. I recommend it!

Cheryl Cutlip says

Like nothing I have ever read before

Fantastic, witty writing that had me chuckling through the whole book. What a clever use of words. That was the most fun I had reading. It is a different take on the old fairy tale Sleeping Beauty. But don't be fooled, this fast-paced adventure is certainly not for the faint of heart.

Gracie says

This book was so beautiful!!!

It was a little long and kind of dragged at times, but I liked it too much overall to really complain! ;-)

It was humorous, clean, interesting, and it had a really great allegorical thread.

Plus, just look at the cover!

Shantelle says

Now that was a huge book! *Waking Beauty* by Sarah E. Morin is a fairy tale retelling, of the epic sort. It was unique and humorous, while spinning an intense, thought-provoking tale that pierces straight to your heart. While the writing was not, personally, my favorite style, I did love the fairy tale-ish-ness of this thick novel; the fantasy world was great, and more than one scene brought me to tears. The Christian allegory woven into *Waking Beauty* was profound indeed. Because of the more narrative way the story went about, it got a little long at times for me; but Sarah E. Morin wove so many amazing thoughts and lessons in here ... challenges and encouragement. And some sweetness. ^_^ When I finished reading, I wanted to hug the book (and characters).

Oh, and Arpien was fabulous. All his labeled bows were quite entertaining. And his heart is truly loyal and heroic.

There were a couple, fairly brief, moments that it got violent/gruesome. That would be my one caution. Otherwise, *Waking Beauty* is great fairy tale with some powerful Truth woven in the core of it.

Laurie Lucking says

The concept behind this book was fantastic, and Morin makes stunning use of the English language. Brierly and Arpien were memorable characters, and I really enjoyed seeing their growth both individually and as a couple. This book did take me a while to finish, though, as the plot got a little too convoluted for me at times with so many countries' governments at odds and so many characters to keep track of. But by the end I was drawn back in and couldn't wait to see how everything would be resolved. Fans of allegory and fairy tale retellings will love *Waking Beauty*!

Lucy (That Book Gal) says

3.5 stars. Could have been shorter.

Sara Ella says

Just wow! What a way to sweep this fairy tale lover off her feet. Sarah E. Morin's *Waking Beauty* is the perfect blend of satire and charm, of traditional classic and re-imagined tale. I absolutely loved this author's take on a story I've heard a million times plus one. I'm always impressed when an author can take something old and make it new again.

I'll admit I was a tad bit intimidated by the size of *Waking Beauty*. It's definitely an epic novel—all 480 pages of it. But if that minute detail is what's keeping you from picking this one up, I say "Fear not!" For once you pick up *Waking Beauty* it will be near impossible to put down.

I truly enjoyed the characters in *Waking Beauty*. Sarah E. Morin has a way of making classical language and speech not boring. I was cracking up at Arpien's dilemma that his princess refuses to wake, and I was equally amused by Brierly's insistence that her prince isn't real. But my favorite character by far is Nissa. She has this way about her—this honesty. Everyone needs a Nissa in their life.

Aside from the rich storytelling, unique world building, and captivating descriptions, the ending is what most stole my breath and brought tears to my eyes. It was so clever, and the message left me thinking long after I put this book down. I won't say more and spoil it for you. Just know *Waking Beauty* is a tome you won't regret adding to your at-home library. Oh, and the cover is gorgeous—the perfect representation of the beauty that is this book.

Disclosure: I received *Waking Beauty* for review from the author. I was not asked to write a positive review. All views and opinions are solely and completely my own. I received no compensation other than a copy of *Waking Beauty*, which is mine to keep or gift as I so choose.

Grace Mullins says

So this book had been on my TBR list since before I saw its cover. And what a lovely cover, and so nice to see when I finally got it in the mail and saw it in person. But that was last summer, and it's just been sitting on my shelf, in as sad a state as a sleeping princess waiting in her tower to be woken by love's kiss... Anyways, I've now read it and can say that it is an awesome "Sleeping Beauty" retelling! Allow me to share the first line from it:

"His princess was dusty."

I seriously loved that line from the moment I read it, and it was just the first to amuse me. This book looks like a daunting read— it's big, probably the largest retelling of this story I've ever read—but all 400+ pages were well-worth the story inside. It's a funny tale in places, yes, so it gets big points from me for that. But it also has a good allegorical parts as well. This was such a beautiful part of the story, and one I think others

who like this in their books will also appreciate.

I also really liked (most of) the characters, and was pleased that not only does this book have the point of views of the prince and sleeping beauty, but a new character who gives this story an edge of uniqueness. To be honest, she's probably my favorite of the three, probably because she's the most relate-able due to her familiarity with being practically invisible to others, and, of course, her love of fairy tales. Brierly (Sleeping Beauty), and Arpien (the prince) were also good, fairly well-developed characters. I liked how this story delved into the "other" gifts from the fairies that were bestowed on Brierly other than just her beauty. They made her quite the interesting princess. And Arpien... Such a charming prince, and one whose past makes feel sorry for. Neither of them were perfect, but overall they were pretty cool characters to spend time with, and whose interactions with each other were sometimes quite delightful. This helped make them a memorable couple that are superior to the original Disney film.

And I know I've mentioned this book is funny, but I'm going to praise the amusing-ness of this tale a bit more. While this tale is by far not exactly what I would call a comedy, it had just the right amount of humor to make it not too droll, and absolutely lovable.

As for any problems with the book, I think the one major issue I had was how Brierly was so insistent that she was not awake. I just did not understand her. Of course, I don't think some of the other characters did either... This wasn't a huge problem for me, though, so I'm not going to go on and on about it.

In the end, I have decided to give "Waking Beauty" a rating of five, because when I was done and it was put all together, I found it a pretty great read. What makes me sad is that I don't seem to seem to see many others going for this book, and I wish they- and you- would try it because it really is a wonderful fairy tale retelling. "Sleeping Beauty" has never really been one of my favorite fairy tales, but this story gave it a whole new outlook for me and made me like the story even more. So go and get yourself a copy of this book and read it now. Right now. Now...

You may want to know- There is kissing and violence.

SparksofEmber says

I fell in love with Waking Beauty by ?Sarah E. Morin immediately. From the first page it was clear I was in for a treat.

That opening line sets the tone for the book – often humorous, always adventurous, and sometimes profound in its simple truths. Arpien is such a sincere, earnest prince – the hero anyone would root for – heroic because he acts, even while he feels inadequate in doing so. Brierly is the princess you can't help but sympathize with – abundantly fairy-gifted but wounded from a century of dreaming failed rescues. Nissa – the endearing distant cousin of Brierly's, with a good head on her shoulders and a love of books and the old tales – whom you look forward to finding her strength.

I love the world-building, the character development, the different cultures in each kingdom, and the overall whimsicalness of the writing. Metallic trees, electric tree eels, giant mantises, creepy magic boars, goateed Strandish, dramatically verbose Conquisani. Invisibilifiers, ill-intention-ometers, tornado seeds and swords

with minds of their own. How, anytime Arpien isn't sure what to do, he turns to memorized protocols...

"He whipped off his cap in the *Half Bow of the Potential Wooer Upon First Stage Introductions* and began again."

"Arpien cleared his throat, removed his cap, and pressed his palms together in the *Fifth Stance of Bereavement for Distant Relatives and Especially Good Cooks*."

"Arpien didn't like tears. On the few occasions he'd tried to ease a maiden's tears, she inexplicably started producing more. How to fix this? He assumed the *Sixth Stance of Deep Mourning* and flourished the *Bow of Esteemed Members of Foreign Nation States*. "My condolences on the loss of your-"

"Pickle?" She offered him one from the clay crock."

It's a long book but one of those where you don't notice other than being glad the story isn't over because you never want it to end. I did think there was a slight lag at the beginning of the middle but it lasted all of a single chapter. The action and narrative are nicely balanced. Oh, and you know how dream sequences in books rarely work well? Well, in a unique story like this where dreams and waking overlap and dreams have just as real an effect as real-life, those scenes work. The depth and themes unfold slowly while not getting preachy, though I can see any reader who's got a complex about such thing getting annoyed.

I may have gotten a little carried away with the quotes...

A small word of caution:

90% of the book is PG but there are hints and bits of darker material that might be a bit much for younger readers. Things that happen, in the dream world especially, can be violent. Brierly may not have died when she pricked her finger on that spindle but she was imprisoned for a century of torture, both physical and psychological, instead. It's not a YA/MG book, though many of that age may be fine reading it. But protective/selective parents may want to read it first just in case.

Linda Yezak says

What an incredible allegory of the Christian life and God's guidance! A superficial read is enchanting enough, but this novel has an amazing depth and complexity that will delight even the most discriminating reader. This one is my favorite read of 2016.
