



## **Adela's Curse**

*Claire M. Banschbach*

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*A curse. A murderous scheme. A choice.*

A witch and her master capture a young faery and command her to kill their enemy. Adela has no choice but to obey. If she does not, they will force the location of her people's mountain home from her and kill her. To make matters even worse, the person she is to kill is only a man struggling to save his dying land and mend a broken heart.

Count Stefan is a man simply trying to forget the woman he loves and save a land crippled by drought. When a mysterious woman arrives at his castle claiming to be a seamstress, he knows she is more than she seems.

Adela enlists the help of Damian, another faery, to try and delay the inevitable. He insists she has a choice. But with the witch controlling her every move, does she?

## **Adela's Curse Details**

Date : Published February 11th 2018 by Campitor Press (first published March 8th 2016)

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Author : Claire M. Banschbach

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## From Reader Review Adela's Curse for online ebook

### Shantelle says

3.5 stars. *Adela's Curse* was a fun, intriguing fairy tale! I do really enjoy stories about fairies, and Claire Banschbach's take on these fantastical people was great!

This is a fairly short and quick read about a fairy named Adela. She lives with her aunt, and her life is going along normally - with friends and balls and the like - when she encounters a deadly curse and her world is turned upside down.

Will she find a way to protect her people and save a kind count named Stefan? Or will the witch who threatens them all have her way?

So as I mentioned above ... fairies, so fun! And Claire's definitely had their uniqueness! I liked Adela, and Damien, and their friends. The fairies' encounters with humans were interesting. I like that there were griffons and other such fantasy-ish things too! Overall, I found myself quite interested and excited to see where the story would go.

There was some dark magic, only wielded by the villains though. The fairies had some dismal rules they had to abide by. Such as, if they die before getting on the "journey through the stars", they spend an exhausting amount of time wandering dark halls searching for their Creator, or something of the sort. So I wasn't really fond of that aspect.

But overall, it was purely a fairy story, and I enjoyed it. Adela and her friends are quite sweet, and though dealing curses and darkness, *Adela's Curse* did have a whimsical touch. ^\_^

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### Hazel West says

This was a nice faery fantasy story, with a likable cast of characters and an interesting plot and universe. Adela was a very likable heroine, and seeing her put into the position she was and struggle with still doing the right thing made me like her even more. I also really loved Damian. He was such a likable character, and his and Adela's relationship was sweet and just felt real and true. Lidia and Rafael, as well as Count Stefan, were enjoyable side characters as well, especially seeing Lidia and Rafael bicker all the time ;-)

I like how the message of this story was about the power of love (how it \*should\* be written. Take notes *Wintersong*) and dealt with the lengths people will go to for those they truly care about. I would have liked a little more world building as there were several points that were a little vague about the universe as a whole, but apart from that I very much enjoyed this story!

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### Elizabeth Koetsier says

Oh my goodness. This almost reminds me the the Ella Enchanted world. It's so bright, sweet and an enchanting little adventure. Besides, I love little critters and there were plenty of those. Rafael and Lydia were my favorite characters, their bantering was quite amusing.

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### **Jack Fernard says**

A MUST OWN for any fan of the faerie world!

This novel was written by someone who clearly has a love of faerie.

Would definitely recommend!

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### **Lilian says**

Review:

Adela's Curse was such a delightful read! It's about a faerie girl who forced to act against her own will, and enlists a faerie friend to help. Many aspects of the story really drew me in- like the setting of the story, the soft but amazingly sweet romance, and especially the clean, safe, and friendly atmosphere (friends, family).

Content:

Very light + sweet romance. There are mentions of barely-described kissing.

Light mentions of magic. Ex: "The faeries used their magic to protect and nurture Myrnus, as was their purpose on this earth."

Conclusion:

Overall, one of my favorite reads of the year! Claire Banchbach weaved an amazing tale of faeries, humor, friendship, suspense, and light romance in Adela's Curse that any fantasy lovers would absolutely love and enjoy. **5 stars.**

**Recommended to 9+ for mentions of light magic and romance.**

Read my full review [here](#).

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### **Alicia says**

This was a charming story that was filled with magic, fairies, battles against evil and selfless acts of friendship and love. I like books with all those things and so I really enjoyed it! I particularly liked the secondary characters Rafael and Lydia (whose banter was fun to read), and the plot was exciting.

I would have liked to learn more about Adela and Damian, two of the main characters who are fairies, and would have liked to have seen more dialogue between them. I loved the setting, though- the author did a wonderful job describing the fairy world that the characters lived in.

If you like books by Gail Carson Levine, you may like this one!

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## **Alyssa says**

### **What I thought:**

I wasn't quite sure what to expect with this book, to be honest. I mean, faeries can range from pixie like things (Tinker Bell), to crazy dark faeries (I can't think of an example from the top of my head). So, I didn't know where this stood.

But, I will say, that I was thoroughly impressed. It's kinda like a happy medium; happy faeries who each have a job and live in harmony; and dark, magic stuff (though nothing inappropriate).

Also, I was kinda nervous when I saw that there were only a little over a hundred pages (especially when the plot got really exciting, and I couldn't see how things would be resolved that fast!), but I was really impressed with how things were wrapped up!

But I liked it!! It was actually really pretty good! (That sentence has so many things wrong with it...)

The ending, though. I SO WANT THE NEXT BOOK!! (Though, it actually wasn't a cliff-hanger, I just don't quite know why...)

### **Writing/Plot:**

Admittingly (that's TOTALLY a word!), at first I didn't like the writing. The paragraphs were big, and I just wasn't really getting into it. But I quickly grew use to it, and I feel that the paragraphs shortened and the writing improved as the book went on.

I also liked that the book started out with a normal day (though there was a bit of time jumping), and then got really exciting, then got wrapped up awesomely!

### **Characters:**

I liked Adela (though not at first. But it's rare that I like a MC straight away). I also like all of her friends and her aunt (who, honestly, I thought was going to be like Cinderella's step-mother).

But, since I'm bleeding honesty right now, I didn't really like Damian until the end ('cause then he was pretty cool, if not a little bit.... well, SPOILERS ;)). But then I didn't want him to die. Sooo, that's good.

I did like Stefan, though. He was probably my favorite. He just ... I dunno. I just liked him.

### **Problems:**

I felt like there was a bit of insta-love, and I didn't really love the guy. And I didn't really care for Damian.

Also, as I said above, the paragraphs came in large sections, but maybe I'm not use to that.

And I also feel that it could've been made a bit longer, but I still thought that it was handled quite nicely!

Lastly, I could guess all of the plot twists, and found the book a little predictable. But, eh! I'm too smart for

my own good! :P

### **Other/Summary:**

I feel like this would be fine for upper elementary kids and up.

Stuff it includes: Magic/controlling people, and there's a witch; sword fighting, though nothing too described; dark faeries who I REALLY want to know more about (\*nudges Claire\*); there's romance, but there's nothing more than a kiss, so not too bad. The last bit definitely had a darker feel, what with all the dark faeries and sword fighting and stuff. And I think that that's about it!

I read this in one night, and really enjoyed it! It was kinda different than what I was expecting, but good nonetheless! And I was really impressed with how the story was only one hundred pages (I'm usually a four to five hundred paged book person), but managed to get the whole story out and not feel rushed!

Yep, I'd recommend this!

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### **Kyle says**

A very fun "classic" fairy-tale fantasy with all the best, time-honored elements plus a heaping dose of depth. Adela's Curse has engaging protagonists, genuinely creepy and scary villains, and high stakes, and subverts reader expectations in an interesting way as it builds to a conclusion. There's some great stuff here concerning the ethical dilemma of having to kill a genuinely evil person, which leads to an unexpected twist in the arc of one particular character. I love the way this subplot was handled. Ms. Banschbach has a unique talent for writing endings which are satisfying but not without believable and lasting repercussions for the characters. Also, the content is clean, and Christian elements are openly included but not over-done. Highly recommended for anyone who wants a good-old-fashioned fantasy read that doesn't skimp on quality.

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### **Moriah says**

Though I've not read many books about faeries, I found that I really enjoyed "Adela's Curse." Adela is almost seventy. Old in human years, but young in faery...considering that they live to be six hundred. She cares for the growing things. And she has a tender heart. When she comes across a weeping human child, Adela wants to help. Thus begins her journey. Adela must choose. Will she bend to the will of the one who has control over her? Or will she fight against the curse?

I enjoyed following Adela through her journey. Ooh, Damien! I really like that guy:) Willing to give up anything for the one he loves. And I so enjoyed getting to see a little of Lidia and Rafael's story. There was some dark magic (which is the reason for my lower rating) but it was only used by the evil side and was defeated in the end. The relationship between Adela and Damien was very sweet and I loved watching them get to know each other and grow closer. Overall it was a very lovely faery story.

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## **Joy Rancatore says**

Every now and then, you pick up a book, read a few words and instantly realize you've met a new book bestie. For me, my most recent new friend is *Adela's Curse* by Claire M. Banschbach.

This book holds within its covers faeries galore, magic—both good and evil, action, adventure, intrigue and sacrificial love. Adela faces a seemingly impossible task, one that could rend her very soul if she complies but lead to the death of all she loves if she doesn't. Does she have another choice?

I teared up as I read the Prologue because the author's prose was just that beautiful. I got misty again in Chapter 1 when I fell in love at first read with every single character. Let's just say, I finished the book and added tissues to my shopping list.

I unreservedly recommend this book to readers of all ages who love a well-written faerie tale that will linger on the edges of their mind long after the final page.

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## **Kendra Ardnek says**

I love fairies, have always been fascinated by magical people with wings, so when when Claire asked me to review *Adela's Curse*, I naturally jumped at the opportunity to read a new spin on the magical, mysterious folk.

Admittedly, it wasn't until last night that I actually sat down and devoured the book, but it wasn't the story's fault that I delayed so long. I was looking for a block of time that I could fully devote to reading, since it was in PDF format, and I didn't want to loose my place.

Reading this story was like coming home. It wasn't a grand, epic adventure, but a sweet fairy tale that can almost trick your mind into thinking you've read it before, yet still remain completely original. It's not a long story, though longer than your average fairy tale. Personally, I think Claire's writing style suits this sort of story better than the epic.

Adela was a sweet heroine. Considered average at best among the fairies, she prefers to spend her time in the forest, caring for the plants, for that's where her talent lies. However, when an act of kindness traps her in a witch's power, she finds herself forced to act as no self-respecting fairy ever would - lies, schemes, murder even.

There is a bit of a love triangle in the story, but one that made sense. Adela is forced to win the heart of Stefan, but at the same time, she and Damian grow closer as he tries to help her out of the magical entanglement.

The worldbuilding was excellent. I loved Claire's take on fairies, and I just wish I could have seen more of the world.

I'd recommend this story to anyone who enjoys fairy tales and fantasy.

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## **Elizabeth Rawls says**

An endearing tale of friendship, love, the threat of war, and overcoming fears. And yes, there are faeries--my favorite part. :)

(I received a free copy as a beta-reader, before its publication date)

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## **Allison says**

[Read and reviewed as part of a book exchange with the author! Free digital copies of our books were swapped in return for honest reviews.]

An original story of love, conflict, adventure, and chock-full of mythical creatures, *Adela's Curse* has to be one of the cleanest YA fantasy novels I've read in a while. Adela, a happy young faery, is tricked by a pair of conniving "mortals," who bind her to them with dark sorcery and force her to use her magical powers to suit their twisted agendas. She is forced to do whatever they tell her - or die. And every faery fears death above all nasty fates! (To borrow another science fiction franchise's terminology, faeries typically "ascend to a higher plane of existence" when their material bodies expire, instead of dying the way people do.) Adela is a clever faery, and finds creative ways to resist and delay her captors' machinations, but can she find a way overcome her curse completely before it's too late?

Claire Banschbach is true a master of world building and fantasy storytelling. There's a certain light, airy, jovial tone to her writing that makes me (as a reader) feel like I'm being carried through the fantasy world on my own pair of faery wings.

The supporting characters are endearing and complex - my favorite has to be Estella, Adela's caring but meddlesome cousin and guardian. At times, we are offered a peek into the story from their perspectives, which in turn provides explanations to several things our heroine wouldn't otherwise know - a convenience that only the third-person narration (and the wit of a clever author) can offer.

I'll be honest, I'm a little wary of books categorized as religious fiction, especially for a religion I don't practice. Religious fiction in general is still not my cup of tea, but having read this book from cover to cover, I feel like *Adela's Curse* is more of a regular fantasy book that happens to appeal to a religious audience, because its content wouldn't conflict with traditional values and sensitivities.

I've started making a list of books that I hope to someday read with my children before bedtime, a chapter at a time. These books need to have positive messages, gripping plots, and minimal to no content that needs to be skipped over. This book is for sure going to be on that list. *Adela's Curse* is a thrilling original fairy tale that I would recommend to fantasy-loving readers of any religion, ages 12 and up.

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## **Maddy says**

I really enjoyed this book overall! I will say that I'm normally not a big fan of fantasy, but I did like this one. I absolutely loved the story line, it was fun and unique. I thought that the story moved at a good pace and everything fell into place at the right moments. This book is definitely for you if you enjoy fantasy! It's a fun

and intriguing fairy tale!

“ I received a free copy of this book in exchange of my honest review”

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## **Morgan says**

Rating: PG (magic and mild violence)

Recommended for: Ages 10 to Adult

I read this book in one day. I enjoyed it very much, the fairy-tale quality of the story, the characters, the tough decisions they had to make...

Writing: 4.5/5

Claire's writing has greatly improved since her last book. She's gotten better at letting the readers in on her characters' thoughts and feelings. I was truly absorbed in the story. There's still some "head-hopping," but it was fairly minor.

Setting: 5/5

Myrnus is a well developed world. Despite having a definite fairy-tale feel, it still managed to feel real. The world of the faeries and the work they do was very interesting. The world of the humans is distinct from where the faeries dwell and just as well developed. It's a world that would be neat to visit.

Plot: 4.5/5

Adela is in a tough situation. She's controlled by a witch who is trying to get her to kill a man, but not only are faeries not allowed to kill humans, Adela naturally doesn't want to. As her target begins to fall in love with her, things only get more complicated, especially as Adela is finding herself to be in love with fellow faery Damian. Things escalate. I was honestly afraid for some of the characters' lives at times, especially since I know Claire is not above killing her characters.

Character Development: 5/5

I really liked these characters. I felt that I could understand Adela and relate to her. I also liked Damian. In the short time I was with them, they became friends, and I was invested in their lives.

I would definitely recommend Adela's Curse.

I received a free ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review. The opinions are my own.

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