



Heir of Illaria

Dyan Chick

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In Illaria, there is a fate worse than death.

As long as I can remember, I've been taught to fear the Necromancer King. He controls the kingdom of Illaria with dark sorcery and the constant threat of his undead army. I never thought I'd have reason to cross his path. Everything changed the day his guards tried to kill me. That's when I found out my whole life has been a lie. By joining a resistance group called the White Ravens, I've claimed new roles. Princess of Illaria, sorceress in training, and threat to the Necromancer King.

Heir of Illaria Details

Date : Published January 23rd 2017 by Illaria Publishing

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Author : Dyan Chick

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From Reader Review Heir of Illaria for online ebook

Crazy4Books says

Rating: 3.5 Stars

I've become wary of review copies lately. I actually started reading less of them so I wouldn't go into a reading slump from reading so many mediocre books. I often love the summary but still find myself disappointed. Thankfully I didn't feel that way while reading this. Now that I look back on it I notice that it did have a couple issues but I still really enjoyed it.

In *Heir of Illaria* we follow Wilona who joins up with a rebel group after she's forced to run from her home when the King's guards kill her grandmother and then try to kill her. The Necromancer King will do anything to get rid of Illaria's one true heir but with new friends and magic on her side it might not be as easy as he'd hoped.

I wasn't expecting the world to be as vast as it was with all the different countries and types of magic. The workings of the magic system were pretty vague, which was a little disappointing considering the amount of time they spend talking about it but the magic was still fascinating. It wasn't the most original story but the tropes used were ones I love reading about.

The pacing kept me engaged throughout and the characters were well developed. For the most part the development of the characters and the different relationships were well balanced with the plot and the action scenes. Since I prefer when a story has a bit of both instead of too much of one or the other I appreciated the balance between the two. I enjoyed all the characters in this book.

I loved Wilona's character arc but I thought the wards to keep the King from directly harming Wilona were a little too convenient. I ended up liking Wilona and Ashton's relationship but I would have liked to spend more time with them when they were first getting to know each other instead of skipping it and going straight to the part where Ashton started being nice to her.

Wanting to know if she could trust the leader of the rebel group was one of the major reasons I couldn't put it down. After that ending and knowing about the Darkness I see a lot of potential for an amazing sequel. The writing was captivating and easy to follow but I did notice some typos in my review copy. Overall this was an entertaining read with interesting characters. I'm happy to say I wasn't bored once.

received in exchange for an honest review

Raven_Blake (dreamy addictions) says

Same Review Also Posted In My Blog: Dreamy Addictions

Heir of Illaria is an entertaining YA fantasy read with an interesting plot and unique setting! Although I enjoyed reading this book, I wasn't completely satisfied with it because of a few issues. This is a clear case of it's not you, it's me. I didn't put high expectations on this book but I was very intrigued when I read the premise of it. The characters are good but I was disappointed with how the romance was executed. Some

parts of the story felt rushed and less detailed. However, readers who are new to this genre would definitely love this book.

The story follows Seventeen year old Wilona who lives with her grandmother in a village far away from the king's Castle. Her grandmother warned her to never step out of the village but one day when she sneaks out into the king's woods her path crosses with the king's soldiers. Her mistake brings the king's soldier's later on her doorstep who tries to kill her. Surprisingly, she's saved by a woman who claims that she's a member of a resistance group called White Ravens. Later, Wilona learns that she's the old king's daughter which makes her a princess and also a huge threat to the necromancer king. Wilona doesn't know anything about being a princess or a sorceress. Before joining the resistance group she was warned not to trust anyone. When Wilona finally arrives at the White Ravens she's in for many surprises and it seems like she also possesses a unique power that can help them defeat the Necromancer King.

I liked Wilona! She is an innocent and naive girl who hadn't seen violence in her entire life. She started as a weak character but eventually she grows into a strong character who can speak for herself. Ashton is a sorcerer apprentice and also Wilona's love interest who helps Wilona in discovering her elemental power. I wasn't impressed with his character yet but I do really want to know more about him. Though the romance isn't the central focus of the book, I think it could've been better executed. There's barely any heart-to-heart conversations between them but suddenly they're in love with each other and that's why it seemed a bit awkward for me. The secondary characters are interesting but sadly they aren't fleshed out well. Saffron is a kickass character and I liked her friendship with Wilona. Max is a character that I didn't like from the start and I pretty much hated how he treated Wilona like how she doesn't have a say in anything. The necromancer king also the evil villain of this story is definitely not what I expected him to be and would love to see more of him.

The plot is pretty interesting but at the same time it was quite predictable because it's a typical fantasy plot that I've already seen in lots of books. The story started with an exciting start but as it progressed, it slowly turned into less exciting when the plot took a slow pace with Wilona's training. Nonetheless, I enjoyed the ending part and I wish the story was a bit more detailed and more action packed. The romance feels forced and it's one of my favorite aspects in YA fantasy reads so it's a bit disappointing. The story was told in Wilona's POV and the writing is flawless. I liked the elemental magical system and also the kingdom of Illaria, they are the best aspects of this book. The book finally concluded with a minor cliffhanger and I might read its sequel but I'm not sure yet.

Overall, I like it but I don't love it! For a debut novel, I think it's a good start and hope the sequel would be much better.

Aires says

Království plné magie. Král nekromant, uchvatitel trůnu. A jedna ztracená královská dítka, která si jde pro to, co jí právem patří.

Wilona žije ve vesnici se svou babičkou, dokud ji jednoho dne nenapadnou strážci samotného krále Nekromanta. Najednou ji všichni touží zabít a pronásledují ji. Smrt má doslova v zádech, když na ni král pošle své probuzené mrtvé. Naštěstí se setká s příslušníky odboje, kteří jí prozradí, že je dítkou trůnu. Jak se zdá, jen ona jediná může dokázat přemoci krále, který zabil její rodiče a zmocnil se království. Pomůže jí v tom objevená magie i ohrožený mág Ashton, který je mimochodem velmi přitažlivý...

Heir of Illaria mi ze za?átku neskute?n? p?ipomínala Královnu Tearlingu. Nápad je totiž velmi podobný. Ale zatímco Královna Tearlingu m? moc neohromila, tato kniha m? pohltila. A ten konec wow :) Heir of Illaria je mnohem poveden?jší sest?i?ka Královny Tearlingu. Je v ní více magie, sympati?t?jší postavy, více boje a nap?tí, mén? kralování :)

Brooke — brooklynennereads says

This one is a hard one to review. For the majority of this novel, I was bored. Very, very, bored. There was a lot of stuff going on and it was a non-stop adventure yet at the same time, the story was just not holding my interest. It almost felt like there was TOO much going on within the storyline with the main character's background/identity and all of these discoveries were happening in such a short period of time. It was hard to get a grasp on each new development because shortly after, something else would be introduced. Sorry if this is coming off confusing but I'm really trying to avoid giving away any spoilers.

With that being said, even though this wasn't the novel for me, I could see others enjoying it. It's fast-paced, has magical elements, and has romance. Personally, if anything, the romance was the part of the novel that most kept me reading.

I rarely ever begin a series without continuing but with this series, I doubt I will continue. It was mediocre and I don't feel the interest or attachment to any of the characters/story enough to continue.

****Thank you to the publisher for supplying me with a copy of this book via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review****

?Stephanie? says

Title: Heir of Illaria (Illaria #1)

Author: Dyan Chick

Publisher: Illaria Publishing, 2017 (Jan 23)

Genre: YA Fantasy

****I received a copy of the ARC free from the author in exchange for an honest review****

This review can be found on my Blog, TeacherofYA's Tumblr, or my Goodreads page

My Review:

First things first....HOW BEAUTIFUL IS THIS COVER?? I'm in love!

And I'm not surprised that this book called to me....this cover shouts, "Look at me! Read me!"

So I did.

And it was good. So good.

But that doesn't tell you much, does it?

Wilona lives a pretty normal life as a peasant. She lives with her grandmother and does embroidery to help make money. One day in the woods picking berries, however, it all changes. The King's Guards find her and later ambush her in her home. They try to pull her from the home, but a mysterious stranger named Saffron comes in and whisks her away in the nick of time.

Wilona's grandmother isn't so lucky. Wilona isn't sure if she's dead, but according to Saffron, the King and his army of Necromancers are after her. Why?

Because Wilona is a princess.

What I imagine Wilona looks like in Queenish glory!

With help from the White Ravens, Wilona has been protected all her life. She is meant to help the Ravens remove the evil king and restore Illaria to a peaceful land. When Wilona meets a key person in the quest for the throne, she is told she also comes from a long line of Sorcerers. Powerful Sorcerers.

That's what Sorcerers wear, right?

As the Ravens hide Wilona from the king, Wilona gets in touch with the magic inside her. Apparently, Wilona is a pretty powerful Sorceress. When she receives help from Ashton, a strong Apprentice and a master of fire magic, she realizes that the magic inside her might be stronger than any other Sorcerer. She wants to help bring down the king.

But the king is a Necromancer...and he has someone very important to Wilona.

And he wants Wilona...dead or alive.

This is my vision of a Necromancer King

I will wait to fangirl until after the rundown.

Is It Classroom-Appropriate?

Yes, this is definitely a good YA novel. We have a young girl, orphaned (I know it's a trope but it happens), and we read her story from the first person perspective, which is the most personal perspective one can read. She goes through some confidence boosting as she tires of being used as a pawn....there's some serious girl power in this book. Though I cannot find "academic" value in it, per se, I can find merit in the novel. I think this would be a great book to recommend or allow as free reading. It would also make a nice edition to a classroom library.

With that being said, there's more to the series, so it is hard to assess when this is book one. It does end on a bit of a cliffhanger. The cliffhanger, though, doesn't leave the book in an awkward spot: it is a natural resting place which helps when using a series book independently. (Kind of like how Harry Potter ends in the first

book: there's more but you can stop and not feel "unfulfilled.")

Age Range:

Since this is an independent title, it will not be on Lexile. So I have to use my best judgement. There are some swoon-worthy moments, but nothing inappropriate. There's no swearing, which is also nice. I could comfortably recommend this book to ages 13 and up. I think younger fantasy readers will love connecting to Wilona and her struggles, fears, and triumphs.

Before the End Result, I want to introduce you to Dyan Chick, the brains behind *Heir of Illaria*. I am always thrilled (especially when I love a book), to include some info from the author. But Q&A is even better, right?

Dyan Chick in all her glory!

1. What's your fave genre to read in your spare time?

My favorite genre is definitely YA fantasy. (YES!) I'm also drawn to historical fiction set in Renaissance or Medieval times.

2. What's the strangest/worst job you had before you started writing?

I've had pretty typical jobs: waitress, bartender, nanny, retail stores. Probably the worst job was the week I spent working at a bar that had off-track betting. Smoking was still allowed so the whole building was a cloud of yuck and it was full of older men who didn't treat the waitresses very well. I spent a lot of time hiding in the bathroom before I got the courage to quit. It's the shortest job I've ever had.

3. Is this your first book baby?

This is my first book baby! The original idea was conceived in 2011 and I wasn't brave enough to finally finish it until 2016.

4. What are you working on next?

A prequel novella is out now on Instafreebie and will be on Amazon on February 22nd. Currently, I'm finishing up books 2 and 3 in the Illaria series. I also have two projects that are in the outline stages. One is based on a Greek Myth and one is based on a classic fairy tale.

**Here's the linkie to the prequel if you want to taste Heir of Illaria. I haven't read it yet, but I can't imagine that being bad when this was so good: Tales of Illaria: Max and Saffron*

5. If you had to take only one book with you on a desert island...would you just end it all? Just kidding...what would you bring and why?

Oh man, only one? Could it be a box set? I don't think I'd ever get tired of The Princess Bride. (I like her more now!)

6. Do you have any favorite authors or people who inspired you to write?

So many favorite authors! J.K. Rowling, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkein...lots of others. I'm also very inspired by movies. *Star Wars* is a big influence for me. I grew up on those movies and a lot of classic SciFi. My parents took us out of school to see new *Star Trek* movies and the *Batman* movies that came out in the 90s. Having geek parents is a big plus.

7. Where did you come up with the idea of Heir of Illaria? Do you identify with a specific character? Do you have a favorite?

The idea came from a dream about siblings who were in hiding and didn't know they were the rightful heirs to the throne. It evolved from there. I identify with different parts of each main character. They have traits that I have or traits that I wished I had. I've always been drawn to the idea of standing up for what is right so most of the stories I want to write are about somebody brave enough to fight to change their world. My favorite character to write lately has been my bad-guys. It's fun to get inside their heads.

A thank you to Dyan for letting me ask her inane questions and her actually answering them!

End Result:

You know I've been practically foaming at the mouth for this part, right? You could probably tell by the title of this review that it wasn't an ordinary one.

This. Book. Blew. Me. Away.

I can easily say it surpasses *Ever the Hunted*, and it almost rivals *Frostblood* for me. And I **loved** *Frostblood*. But this book is magical, easy to read, and quick to get sucked into, as I quickly learned myself. I keep reaching for my Kindle to continue and I don't have book two yet. Luckily it's in its final stages and I'll have it soon. Dyan did give me a prequel Novella and until I have the next book, it will have to suffice.

The only way I can demonstrate my feelings accurately is in gif form:

I give *Heir of Illaria* ★★★★★. If I could give more, I would. I'm in love. So to show my point even more...

Now, let me tell you: you need this book if you love YA Fantasy. I'm not trying to overhype...but I could see this on the shelf with the likes of *Frostblood* or *The Kiss of Deception* series. That's saying a lot.

So I hope I made my point.

Happy Reading, y'all!

Ninoska Goris says

English - Español

I received this free eBook from Netgally in exchange for my honest opinion.

Wilona has lived all her life with her grandmother in a small town. Her grandmother has taught her to fear the king and his guards, but one day she walks away in the forest and meets the king's guards, who after interrogating her let her go.

When she arrives at her house she tells Grandma everything and Grandma decides that they must leave immediately. But it's too late, the guards are at their door. They have gone to kill her. A mysterious woman has come to rescue her, but she can not save her grandmother.

This is when she finds out that her whole life has been a big lie. That she is actually the heiress to the throne. She's taken with the White Ravens. They are those who have kept her alive, who have guarded its safety. In the next few weeks she will discover that she is the heir to the throne and possesses magic.

When I started reading I got the impression that it was going to be an excellent fantasy book, but once Wilona/Etta reaches the White Ravens' lair everything becomes boring and predictable. Not to mention the insta-love, they go from zero to I can not live without you.

After turning it around for weeks and losing interest, in the last hundred pages it gets a little more interesting and I could finish it.

In conclusion, it is the typical fantasy story where the protagonist grows without knowing that she belongs to the royalty. Ideal for YA readers.

???

Recibí este eBook gratis de Netgally a cambio de mi honesta opinión.

Wilona ha vivido toda su vida con su abuela en un pequeño pueblo. Su abuela la ha enseñado a temer al rey y a sus guardias, pero un día se aleja en el bosque y se encuentra con guardias del rey, quienes después de interrogarla la dejan marchar.

Cuando llega a su casa se lo cuenta a la abuela y está decide que deben marcharse de inmediato. Pero es demasiado tarde, ya los guardias están en su puerta. Han ido a matarle. Una mujer misteriosa ha ido a rescatarle, pero no logra salvar a su abuela.

Aquí es cuando se entera que toda su vida ha sido una gran mentira. Que en realidad es la heredera al trono. Es llevada con los Cuervos blancos. Son los que la han mantenido con vida, que han velado por su seguridad. En las próximas semanas descubrirá que es la heredera al trono y que posee magia.

Cuando comencé a leer me dio la impresión de que iba a ser un excelente libro de fantasía, pero una vez que Wilona/Etta llega a la guarida de los Cuervos blancos todo se torna aburrido y predecible. Ni hablar del insta-love, pasan de cero a no puedo vivir sin ti.

Después de darle vueltas por semanas y perder el interés, en las últimas cien páginas se pone un poco más interesante y pude terminarlo.

En conclusión, es la típica historia de fantasía en donde la protagonista crece sin saber que pertenece a la realeza. Ideal para lectores YA.

Patricia says

An amazing book can't wait for book 2

Kayla says

Thank you to Netgalley and Illaria Publishing for providing me this ARC in return for my honest review.

This book was honestly fantastic! I read it in one sitting and couldn't put it down. I will be reading the rest of the series and the prequel as well sometime in the future.

Read my full spoiler-free review here: <https://gracelingaccountantblog.wordpress.com/2017/05/15/graceling-by-fairy-farm/>

Likes:

--> Etta. Her whole character is just amazingly well-written. I liked that she wasn't just auto-ready to rule an entire country. A lot of YA will do that secret princess trope and write it to where they didn't know they were a princess, but they're ready to rule a country when they find out. I liked Etta's story-line, it felt very organic. I liked that she made her own choices and stood up to her brother when she had to, and that she made the right choice in the end when she learned a big secret.

--> Etta's magic. It was so cool the way she took down those reapers. I LOVED the arctic fire concept it was AMAZING!

--> The LOVE in this book. I hated Max, but I loved Saffron and I felt really bad for her. Etta and Ashton were a thing of beauty. I adore "i hate you but come to love you" trope-y love stories. While it is a trope, it was written well, and I don't mind them to begin with.

--> I loved the whole entire part where she was at the Sorcerer Trials with Ashton. It was so interesting to see the magic, and watch Etta make yet another ally and learn how to do some spells. I also liked the little bit of jealousy we get to see from Etta ?

--> I read the entire book in one sitting. While it did have minor issues when it came to being either rushed or dragged out at times, it kept me entertained. I am definitely reading the rest of the series.

Disliked:

--> The beginning of the book, up until Sir Henry's house, felt kind of rushed to me. I think that Dyan could have spent more time developing that part of the story. A lot of the story kind of feels like it has weird pacing.

--> Poor Saffron getting played

The book lost one star for pacing, and trope-y story elements but overall this was a fantastic story and I would definitely recommend it to people who like YA, Fantasy, lost-princess-tropes and female protagonists with a backbone.

Joy says

DNF. I received a free copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Rating: 1

I kept trying to get into this, but just couldn't. The premise seemed interesting and thought it might be on par with the Tearling series, but my God the writing killed me! So over simplified and the dialogue was cringe-worthily awkward. I just can't with these books that are eye-roll inducing when there are SO MANY well written, entertaining books out there instead and only so many hours in the day.

Here's what I was sold on: Necromancer King with an Undead Army, girl with a mysterious past who joins forces against him and hopefully is super badass (didn't get that far if it happened), dark sorcery. And yeah, it bears repeating - UNDEAD ARMY.

NOW WE HAVE SOME SPOILERS

What I got was a naive, immature and simple girl who can't even handle "princess" lessons for 3 days which include standing up straight and eating properly. Sigh, Oh well. On to the next.

Hetal says

I was so excited to read Heir of Illaria and the verdict is... it was decent, but no more than that. I put way too much stock in the premise of this book. Queens!! necromancy!! Magic!! Alas, the writing hit me rather flat. I admit I DNFed it a while back, but decided to give it another try. It wasn't amazing but definitely not DNF worthy.

It's hard for me to pin point exactly what it was for me that didn't do it. The writing *wasn't* terrible, the characters *weren't* annoying, yet somehow, it all still felt very flat to me. Maybe it's that we really aren't give a good history of the world other than a sentence or two. Maybe it's that our main character and her love interest literally go from hate to love so fast I could have gotten whiplash. Maybe it's that the MC accepts everything presented to her rather easily and the struggle isn't described well or in depth. I couldn't get into this world. In the end, after writing this review, I think what it comes down to is the lack of information.

I think Heir of Illaria is a solid solid read for those getting into the fantasy/romance genre, but a well seasoned patron may find it lacking. I believe I would have really enjoyed this book in my middle school or high school years. The characters can be funny, the main character likeable enough, and the struggles of coming of age something people in their teens can relate to.

Annemieke / A Dance with Books says

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Heir of Illaria is a book I came across on Netgally that stood out to me because of the cover, hello gorgeous, and the mention of a necromancer king in the synopsis. If you don't know this about me. Necromancing is a thing I find highly interesting but don't come across too often. So that was an instant need to read for me. Unfortunately the book didn't quite live up to the expected darkness.

To be honest, the book has a bit of a cliché young adult fantasy going on where the not so special girl finds out she is a princess, heir to the throne and has a special power. Which can be fun when it is filled in well

and can manage to twist away from it at some point. Unfortunately it doesn't quite manage to do that until the very end.

The start to the book, when we get to meet Wilona, feels rushed. We move through things incredibly fast and there is little explanation. Our main character doesn't put her foot down about any of it and just lets herself get pushed around and accepts it all without any explanation to be honest. It made her feel flat as a character.

In the second half of the book she had a bit more personality about her. I liked how she made it clear she didn't want to be queen and wanted to get away from that. She slowly grows into the role that a princess needs though and tries to put her foot down to her brother every now and then. She also doesn't want to be married of. And is vocal about that in her own mind which is great. But doesn't actually manage to get it out to the person that matters. It then gets so easily resolved for her so she didn't have to deal with it. Bit of a shame really.

I found the magic system rather on the messy side. They are aligned with the elements. Fire and water are rare but why? And where do their powers come from? Is there a story or a legend surrounding them? They also have to make hand movements but then it is said they don't have to be exact. And some can do it without movements. What are the rules exactly?

The romance moved too quickly unfortunately. I think there was potential there for a good romance but it just moved forward too fast. Where was the real connection being made?

The idea of the king necromancer which I would love to know more of and the ending were interesting. But there wasn't enough emotional impact for me to truly care about it. There wasn't enough bond between some of these characters to create the impact the author wanted.

Overall the book was an okay read but couldn't pull itself away from the typical young adult fantasy. It also needs more world building, especially when it comes to the magical system.

Sylvia Mercedes says

DNF for now.

This might be a really amazing book . . . but I just cannot find any interest in it. Maybe it's too much like some other things I've read recently. So I'm going to set it aside and maybe try again later.

Erin Arkin says

I really, really wanted to like this one but it fell short for me. The story had a lot of promise but there were some issues I had with the editing and they kept pulling me out of the story. The pacing was also a pain point for me as there were parts that dragged for me and other parts where I felt like I missed something.

I did like the characters and thought between the king, the White Ravens, and Wilona, there is a great story here. I might check out the next book just to see what happens next but we'll see.

Thank you to the publisher and NetGalley for the review copy.

M'lissa says

I received this book as an ARC in exchange for my review

Heir of Illaria is a good example of a YA fantasy story that is written well for its intended audience. The characters, especially Wilona/Etta, are easy to relate to and full of life. The plot is similar to that of many fantasy books in that a seemingly simple girl discovers a past hidden from her and goes on to discover her true potential with the help of many new friends. However, it is appropriately geared to the YA group because it doesn't complicate things too much, i.e an extensive list of characters or various plot lines to keep track of, like many more adult fantasy novels do. It also sets up things well for successful sequels and in my opinion, potentially even a prequel.

If there is anything to criticize about this novel, it might be that it could use a bit more detail in regards to Wilona's training as an apprentice sorceress. The bits that are there are good, but it did seem like her control went from none to great more quickly than it should. Oh, and I did find it bit awkward when the others characters seemed to randomly refer to Wilona by that name and by the name of Etta somewhat randomly after the reveal of her past. It became more defined later, that some characters would refer to her as one or the other, but this could be more refined earlier.

All in all, this was a very fun read that I would recommend to anyone that is of a younger age (maybe 13-18) or even older lovers of fantasy who want a bit of a break from more complicated reads, but still want a great story and well written characters. I can't wait for more from this new author

Amy Leigh says

I absolutely loved this book! It was everything you can ask for in a fantasy young adult novel! It's medieval times with sorcerers and a girl who never knew she was royalty but was thrown into it. There's romance, battles and suspense. I will definitely be reading the rest of this series!

Wilona is 17 years old living in a small village. She has been raised by her grandmother and never really had any friends. She's been sheltered her whole life. She helped her grandmother with her job as a seamstress but was also taught to read, write and the Gallic language.

The only thing she had from her parents was a pendant she wore hidden under her dress around her neck. It wasn't until the day her grandmother was murdered did she find out what it actually meant.

Now she find out her true name and is drawn into a world of sorcery, all the while wishing she could go back to the cottage she shared with her grandmother. That can never happen.

An evil sorcerer is the king of Illaria but he isn't meant to sit on that throne. Wilona is only at the beginning of her journey and self-discovery.

This book was given to me by NetGalley and the publisher for a fair and honest review.

