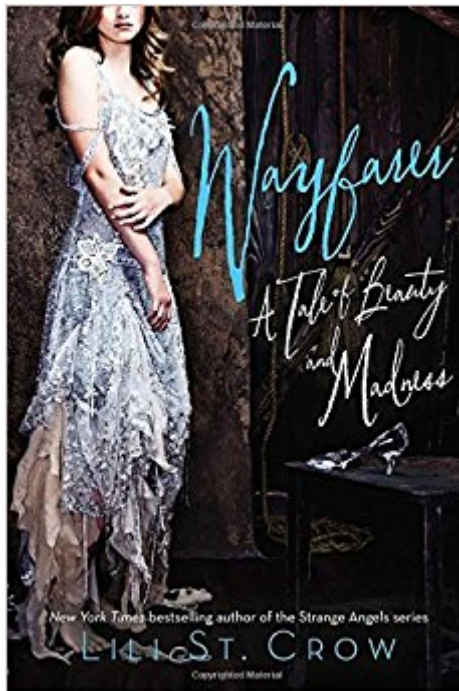




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Wayfarer: A Tale Of Beauty And Madness (Tales Of Beauty And Madness)



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Lili St. Crow thrilled legions of fans with her dark paranormal series *Strange Angels*. Now she has created a stirring romantic, deliciously spooky update of *Cinderella*, the alluring second volume in her trilogy *Tales of Beauty and Madness*. *The Charmer's Ball. Midnight. And one glass slipper...* Newly orphaned, increasingly isolated from her friends, and terrified of her violent stepmother, Ellen Sinder still believes she'll be okay. She has a plan for surviving and getting through high school, which includes keeping her head down and saving any credits she can earn or steal. But when a train arrives from over the Waste beyond New Haven, carrying a golden boy and a new stepsister, all of Ellie's plans begin to unravel, one by one. Just when all hope is lost, Ellie meets an odd old woman with a warm hearth and a heavenly garden. Auntie's kindness is intoxicating, and Ellie finally has a home again. Yet when the clock strikes twelve on the night of the annual Charmer's Ball, Ellie realizes that no charm is strong enough to make her past disappear...In a city where Twisted minotaurs and shifty fey live alongside diplomats and charmers, a teenage girl can disappear through the cracks into safety--or into something much more dangerous. So what happens when the only safety you can find wants to consume you as well? Lili St. Crow is the author of the *Strange Angels* series for young adults and the *Dante Valentine* series, among others, for adults. She is also the author of *Nameless*, a companion book to *Wayfarer*. She lives in Vancouver, Washington with her family. Visit lilistcrow.com to find out more.

Book Information

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Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Paranormal & Urban

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

In this intricately imagined and lushly written take on Cinderella, a sequel to best-selling St. Crow's *Nameless* (2013), it's not just the prince who's charming. Almost all the characters are charmers of one sort or another, and here that means they're talented at producing magical charms, which end up in buildings, doorknobs, clothing, and, of course, shoes. Ellen Sinder, a particularly talented 16-year-old charmer, has a decidedly miserable life: her beloved mother is long dead, her loving father is missing, and she's stuck living with a truly wicked stepmother "who exploits the teen's talents for her own business" in her father's house, where she believes she must stay in order to keep her scholarship to prestigious St. Juno's Academy. Between the emotional and physical abuse heaped on poor Ellie by her vicious stepmother and the prevalence of powerful magic, this fully developed and compelling alternative world is brimming with intriguing details and intense emotional stakes. For all the complexities, however, St. Crow's fantasy world is easy to enter, thanks to the combination of classic story elements and contemporary touches to the characters. A finely crafted, stirring riff on a classic. Grades 9-12. --Francisca Goldsmith

Lili St. Crow is the author of the *Strange Angels* series for young adults and the *Dante Valentine* series, among others, for adults. She is also the author of *Nameless*, the first book in the *Tales of Beauty and Madness* trilogy. She lives in Vancouver, Washington, with her family. Visit lilistcrow.com to find out more.

This retelling of Cinderella mashes it up with a smattering of Hansel and Gretel, and does a lovely job handling the too often overlooked realities of abuse, and how it effects its victims. A bit slow off the jump, but well worth sticking around for the interesting fantasy world, engaging characters, and novel magic system. Reading the previous book in the trilogy is help but not required.

This is YA, but good story telling is a good thing wherever you find it, and this IS good story telling. I have read all, or nearly all, of Lili's books, and this rates as one of the very best. A welcome read today, and one I will revisit in the future.

I just can't get enough of Lili St. Crow's stories and when I found this book I was thrilled to find Cami and Nico back in the picture. Like I said before, reading Crow's work is like reading action-packed poetry. I actually have to stop and re-read a lot of her work just to get the full impact of it because it's complicated and thought-provoking. On the other hand, they are remakes of stories from my past, only a lot more exciting and romantic. Lili St. Crow is a genius with words and I've read all of her work and can't wait for the next book, hopefully about Ruby next time and more stories with Cami and Nico. Ellen is the star in this story, a young girl beaten down by an evil step mother, looked after by her two best friends Cami and Ruby and followed by a beautiful boy named Avery. Filled with magic, torment and romance, this story will capture your heart right at the start. Read "Nameless" first for a good flow into this story.

Typically great writing by Lili St. Crow. This book took a common fairytale and wove it into an amazing new world.

Interesting take on the classic tale. Even the cover art is awesome.

I loved this book I'd read it over and over again.

I had wanted to read this series from the first moment I found them, they are fairytale retellings and who doesn't love a good fairytale retelling. Wayfarer is the second book in the Tales of Beauty and Madness series by Lili St. Crow. This is a Cinderella retelling (with a dash of another fairytale) that is all dark and twisty and good. There is still this twisty world as it is in Nameless (book #1), where things are so similar to our own world but twisted into something magical. There are famous bands that sing about witches and spells, booths on the streets that sell actual charms (magic), minotaurs wreaking havoc on the streets, cars have anti-theft spells and the supernatural is everywhere (think vampires, witches, wolves, jacks and more). This picks up not too long after Ellie and Ruby save Cami, Ellie is the main character and her father has just died leaving her with her evil step-monster (if you read the first book then you know what I mean). Ellie is a powerful charmer (think witch) and her step-mother (Laurissa) has been abusing Ellie even more. We are talking very dark themes in this one. In Wayfarer there is physical and mental abuse, drug usage, murder plots and more. An old school mate of Ellie's (Avery Fletcher) shows up one day and he is boyfriend material. Ellie tries to push everyone away because of the danger she is in but her friends and

Fletcher refuses to give up on her. The problem with Ellie is that she thinks of herself a less, she feels like if Cami or Ruby or anyone, does something nice for her then she is a charity case, and she can't stand that thought. Like a lot of abuse people Ellie doesn't tell anyone what's really going on. Cami and Ruby knows some of it but she even keeps the extent to how bad it really is from them. If she just asked for help and stop thinking of herself as a charity case then things might have been better before they got as bad as they did. However, even this dark and twisted fairytale has a good ending (after everything Ellie's been through it could really be a happy one just yet). Overall I really enjoyed Wayfarer but I have to say that Nameless is still my favorite. The first book focused on Cami (Snow White), a friend of Ellie and the final book in this trilogy is Kin and it focuses on Ruby (Little Red/the Wolf) the third in this trio of friends and I cannot wait to see her story. I have a feeling in this one Ruby saves herself, maybe even with a little help from her friends.

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