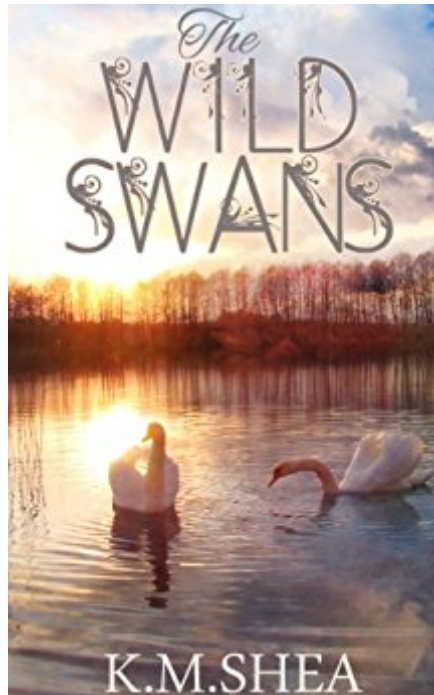


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The Wild Swans (Timeless Fairy Tales Book 2)



Synopsis

Elise is the foster-daughter of the King of Arcainia, a mathematician, and the country's treasurer. She is not a hero. But when her step-mother, a wicked witch, curses Elise and seven foster-brothers—the princes of Arcainia—and turns them into swans, Elise is the only one who can save them. To break the curse, she must knit seven shirts made of stinging nettles, but there's a catch. She has to complete the shirts without uttering a word, and if she doesn't finish the task, Arcainia and her foster-brothers will be lost. THE WILD SWANS is a retelling of the German Six Swans fairytale and the Dutch Wild Swans fairytale. It is a story of humor, love, adventure, and magic, and it is part of the top selling Timeless Fairy Tales series—a series comprised of loosely related adaptations of your favorite fairytales. All Timeless Fairy Tales take place in the same world and can be read all together, or as individual, stand-alone books.

Book Information

File Size: 1120 KB

Print Length: 237 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Take Out the Trash; 1 edition (April 26, 2014)

Publication Date: April 26, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00JZ7GMF6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #22,169 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #3

in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Country & Ethnic #43 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Adaptations #59 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Adaptations

Customer Reviews

To be honest I haven't really liked other books I've read by this author, but when I saw the story was based on the Six Swans, which is one of my favorite fairy tales, for 3 bucks I decided why not. I really was enjoying the story, until the ending. I liked Elise, it was nice reading about a princess who was practical and smart like she was, and not wishing for romance and adventure and all that. Her brothers were interesting, they all had unique personalities that were fun to read and unlike other books with that many siblings, I had no trouble telling them apart. The love triangle was a bit weird in my opinion, but I could have accepted it. The problem was that the story ends with a choose your own ending. Aagh!!! I turned the page and there were two links, one if you wanted Elise to choose one of the love interests, and one for the other! That really took away from the characters for me. It made any feelings they may or may not have had for each other a lot less real, and it takes away the importance of the choice Elise should have had to make about her feelings. The ending just ruined it for me, and I don't think I'll be reading the next one.

I really liked this retelling of the Wild Swans, and I've really enjoyed K.M. Shea's other works as well! I would have given it five stars if only she hadn't left it as a "pick your own ending" wrap up for the story. The way that the other stories are going as of right now in this series points to some big battle royal type of story eventually, and with the way this story ends, it seems as though you won't see Elise and her chosen hero unless the author just picks one anyway. I actually wouldn't mind that though. Miss Shea, please pick one and add them into another story! I would love to see how you would've really chosen the story to end!

Let me just say I have loved every book written by K.M. Shea that I have read. And the Wild Swans is no different. With the Timeless Fairy Tales series, K.M. Shea is re-telling old classics but with unique twists and great story-telling. In the Wild Swans, Elise is the adopted daughter to the king and queen. She loves her family and works hard to prove she is worthy of being adopted into the royal family but does not always feel loved. Her loyalty is put to the test when a curse is cast against her adoptive brothers, turning them all into swans and only she can save them. *Spoiler Alert* Of course Elise rises to the challenge. She protects her brothers and practically cripples herself in sewing together the clothing for the brothers using poisoned nettles. But with the curse, she is able to speak in the evenings for the time in which her brothers can again become human. A slight twist upon the classic. It is during this time that everything she thought was true about her family changes. When she thought her brothers hated her it was in fact the opposite. Two are madly in

love with her and want her to be their wife. A third showed her un-kindness due to threats from his older brothers that are in love with her. She is thus scared and confused by all she learns. K.M. Shea tells the story so well and you fall in love with all the brothers as well. The only reason I gave this 4 stars instead of 5 was because she gave the readers 2 endings and let you choose which brother Elise loves and marries. While many probably like this because they get to see both options and pick what they prefer, I think she should have made a choice and told the story with what really would have happened. That is just my opinion and many probably like the ability to pick, but I prefer the author to tell the full story and what choice Elise really would have made since she knows the character to very well.

I absolutely loved it but it doesn't get 5 stars because I really didn't like the choose your own ending. Ms. Shea should have just picked one. She shouldn't have kept it even between the two, she needed to pick one and keep him as the main love interest the whole time. Two is too many. But other than that, the storyline was fantastic, I fell in love with ALL the characters, especially the boys, and cracked up so many times. I love everything by this author. Make sure you read the other two books in the series (Beauty and the Beast and Cinderella and the Colonel) 100% clean.

Elise is a heroine worth reading about. She's loyal and dedicated, even at the face of her brothers' annoying behavior. I cheered for her while reading this story. I first picked it up because it was a fairy tale retelling, and I enjoy that genre of stories. But I've re-read and bought other K.M. Shea books because I like the writer's storytelling style and voice. While the book has a definite happy ending, there is some unpredictability considering that Elise has two love interests. Because of this, I liked that as a reader, I got to choose the ending of the book (Team Falk, all the way!) While I had an obvious bias of who I expected Elise to end up with, I understand that some readers may disagree with me, and I would have been really disappointed if I had been forced to accept the alternate ending option I chose to ignore.

I greatly enjoyed the tale...until the ending! Elise = It was quite refreshing to read about her journey. Elise is such a smart, sensible, and determined young woman. As a foster child to the king, she is constantly trying to prove herself worthy, oblivious to how much she means to her family and the kingdom. The Brothers = Their interactions with each other are both hilarious and entertaining! It was possibly my favorite part of the story. *possible spoilers* The Endings = I was beyond disappointed with how the author chose to end the book! Not only is it a "choose your own ending" situation

(horrible in itself), the resolutions of the love triangle both seemed forced. Though I did like the light-hearted tone of the Rune ending better, each epilogue was lacking. Both endings were quite abrupt in Elise's profession of love, rather than delving (even a little bit) into her feelings changing from sisterly to romantic.

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