



## The Fairy's Tale

*F.D. Lee*

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Bea has one week to find a Happy Ending - that is, if she isn't arrested for treason first...

Enter the world behind the stories, where 'Happy Endings', 'True Love' and 'Rags To Riches' are all just a means to an end – and a promotion. Here we meet Bea, a cabbage fairy who dreams of being so much more. She wants to be a Fiction Management Executive (godmother division), but no one at the General Administration will take her seriously – until now.

One day a strange, solemn Plotter pulls Bea into his office and offers her the chance to make her Dreams Come True. All she has to do is finish a straightforward story by getting a poor girl married to a rich man. Simple. Easy. It practically tells itself. Except Bea soon realizes that the heroine doesn't love the hero, and the so-called ugly sister is much more important than the Plot suggests. Plus, she's pretty certain that there's an actual, real life villain in the mix – and why is it so important that the Plots always stay the same, anyway?

Bea soon discovers there's something rotten behind the simplicity of the stories, and suddenly she is faced with a choice, and it seems whichever option she picks will be wrong: Will she commit treason by changing the story and saving her characters from their endings, or follow the Plot and save herself from the sinister Redaction Department?

After all, what kind of fairy godmother really cares about true love?

## The Fairy's Tale Details

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## From Reader Review The Fairy's Tale for online ebook

### Samantha Corkin says

This book started off with the main character Bea watching plots as a job, she was secretly changing them to what she thought was better without thinking about the consequences of being caught. The plots are the main storyline of a book, they are what cause the characters and others to believe. The more belief there is within the world the less likely the mirrors will break. But it isn't just that simple, there are antis who don't believe in the plots and are determined to make them go wrong so there is no happily ever after within the stories which cause the mirrors to break, or at least what we have been told.

But Bea's life is changed when she is called in for a meeting after handing her latest plot back. I'm not going to go into too much detail about the meeting because it slightly spoils the main part of the book which was really interesting to read.

The start of the book was quite slow in my opinion, and felt quite basic. By basic I mean I felt that the writing style was for a younger person and wasn't too advanced, this book is aimed at young adults I believe, but I'm thinking more early teens rather than older teens. This wasn't such a bad thing it was just not my usual writing style I read, as I'm more older teens.

Once the start had been fully described and more depth of the characters had been discovered I felt that I was more connected to the book. But I did take a break before I got to this part. I read the first 33% but I just felt like I wasn't enjoying it as much as I could have been and I was feeling myself to going into a reading slump. But I started again when I was struggling to find something to read I didn't bother going back to the start as I remembered everything that had happened and I eventually finished it this morning after 9 hours of travelling on a train.

The main part of the book was excellent and Bea and her friends had been developed a lot, I started to understand why they were doing the actions that they were doing, mainly it was just down to their personalities and their past experiences.

The story itself was quite interesting, to have someone watch over these fairy tales and have an insight of how they work is quite good whether this would actually happen I'm not sure, but it was something different and very believable, which made it enjoyable to read. The twists that were included was amazing I wasn't really expecting them to happen but it made the whole book a better read in general.

I felt sorry for Bea as she wasn't certain that she was doing the right thing at times so was asking her friends for help and advice but never followed it. Which is exactly what I do. But at times I do listen when I am seriously stuck. So Bea was my most relatable character, I'm not too sure she was my favourite though as I'm currently on the border with her and Melly. I'll decide by the end of this review who my favourite character was.

Some of the characters in this book I wasn't a fan of especially Seven and Maria Sophia, I found both of these to be very selfish, stubborn and really annoying! At times I did like Seven but my overall opinion of him is that I don't like him. He was helpful at times and allowed Bea to have an insight of a different opinion on the mirrors but he seemed to push his beliefs and opinions on others.

The ending of the book was also another twist. Not something I was actually expecting but it was a well

deserved ending, in a way the more I think about the ending the more it actually fits in with the style of book.

I'm looking forward to reading the next book in the series which should be very shortly.

I'd recommend this book to anyone who likes twists, fairy tales, love stories, and sly characters.

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### **Ami says**

This fairy's tale is a wild combination of fanciful whimsy and dystopian terrors with a large dose of badly bent fairy tales. The book started a bit slow but I am so glad I continued reading as it turned into a wonderfully wrought romp with compelling characters, most of whom I love, and a world that was so well developed I held my breath a few times through the tense moments. I also laughed out loud at the fractured fairy tales mixed throughout. There are a few grammatical errors but they did not stop my enjoyment of reading this delicious story. I highly recommend it and hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Disclaimer : I received a copy of this ebook from the author and this is my honest and freely given review.

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### **Vicki Orton says**

Really enjoyed this high fantasy book with an intriguing concept surrounding the writing (or rather the making sure they play out 'correctly') of fairy stories; what if the heroine doesn't want the classic happy ending of marrying the prince?! Absolutely loved the main character Bea, a cabbage fairy wanting to aspire to being a Godmother, and the accident mishaps she found herself in throughout the story, she was fun and I could definitely sympathise with her a few times. I do however wish we could have found out a little more about her past as clearly there's a fascinating tale in that. The diversity of fairy story type character was brilliant, ranging from witches, to fairies, to genies; basically you name it, it appeared or was referenced. I particularly enjoyed the range of strong female characters, which is always refreshing to see in high fantasy. Really enjoyed the sweet aspect in the main ending, even if it was a little bit predictable, although slightly earlier there was a twist I did not see coming. Definitely an enjoyable read and I look forward to diving into the sequel.

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### **Paul Arvidson says**

Funny, clever and exciting. This is the start of a brilliant series about a bewildered cabbage fairy in a steam punk universe. She's out of her depth and way beyond her skill set but she still wants to do the right thing, even if it's going to get her killed, or worse - redacted. Get out your story books and your editing quills and don't plan on getting any sleep any time soon. This one's a page turner!

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### **Kerry says**

I am someone who enjoys fantastical literature. My tendencies lean towards darker urban fantasy species (vampires, werewolves, witches etc), but with this book I decided to challenge myself to try something

different.

After reading the first couple of chapters, I was still concerned this wasn't going to be for me. The writing is very simple; almost writing-by-numbers in places, which puts me off as I start to look for literary techniques my children are being taught at Junior school. The feel of it is also very light and sugary, which is just not normally me.

But I decided to stick with it as it isn't a difficult read, it is proper escapism from the real world, plus, although I found the writing simplistic, the grammar and spelling was fine meaning I wasn't entirely put off. I have to say that by the end of the book I came to enjoy it; to warm to the characters; to want to know what happened to them. I also felt the writing improved throughout, though I can't tell you on what basis I made that judgement. Having said this, I don't 'care' enough to rush out and read the next in the series, despite meaning I will never know whether the Teller gets his comeuppance, which I suspect is where the series as a whole is heading.

Overall, there is a lot to like about this book, if you like fairy stories and happy endings.

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### **ClareT says**

This book had it all. Fairies, witches, heroes and heroines, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella, but all twisted together in unexpected ways.

Bea, a cabbage fairy, longs to be a godmother, but despite watching many plots, to make sure everyone lived happily ever after, and making a few tiny alterations along the way, no one recommends her and she keeps on waiting. But, the world as the Fae know it is heading for trouble and Bea is offered her own plot. She just has to get Sindy to go to the Ball and marry the king. But, it all goes wrong almost as soon as she starts. Now she has to battle against the mysterious Seven and make the plot work while worrying about the Redactionists who, if they know what she's doing will empty her head.

This is a different take on fairy stories, with likeable characters, and a plot that gallops along, it has a few typos, but I'm quite picky and they didn't spoil the read for me. It's not a very dark plot, but has its moments. To be recommended to anyone who likes Fairy Tales.

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### **Marjorie says**

I surprised myself by enjoying large sections of this book, I have read a few of the subverted fairy tale genre books now and some work better than others. Fortunately this falls in to the latter category. Clearly a lot of though has gone in to world building and the reader does get a fleeting sense of Bea's world and the land where the fairies (as a general catch all term for all magical creatures as opposed to the fae) are working to create belief. That was one of the issues I had with the book, I never really got a full sense of either world so instead of imagining the action taking place in these settings I was very much reading it.

The set up for the story is a Snow White / Cinderella mash up, just as The Teller whocaresforus would have it - after all there is no room for anything away from the predetermined plot. Well, there shouldn't be but Bea can't help but try to make things better and the characters can't help but be off script. Bea should only be plot watching - as a lowly Garden Fairy she has no chance of becoming a Fairy Godmother but that doesn't stop her wanting - but she still manages to interfere. This leads to the mysterious Mistasinon, the Plotter, giving her a chance at her very own tale - it should be straightforward but this is Bea and she doesn't disappoint.

Away from the main plot the book has, in true fairytale tradition, an awful lot to say about personal morals

and societal morals. Each land has it's own set of governances and challenges but it is in Bea's homeland that we really see state control and censure at it's worst - the Redactionists make The Child Catcher out of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang seem like a kind and gentle man. To be honest you could probably break the whole system of belief in the book down and write a very long thesis about it's symbolism. Not a bad thing as it does make you think.

The only other issue I had with the book was some of the linguistics. Some structures felt too convoluted to really grasp initially so there was a lot of reparsing sentences going on to bring concepts in to focus. I also found the naming conventions for the places to be very clunky on an English speaking tongue and every time I came across a place name I would jolt out of the story whilst my brain tried to figure out the best way to pronounce it.

I did come out of the book ready to continue in the world though and will, no doubt, purchase the further books in this series.

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### **Jude says**

I really got into this book and it's not my usual thing but I enjoyed this little romp and loved the references at the end. So now I know all about faires elves goblins etc

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### **F.D. Lee says**

Well, I obviously loved this book because I wrote it :-)

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### **Jodie Downes says**

The book held so much promise and yet was let down by a LOT of spelling and grammar errors. At first I skipped past them but by the end it was really grating on my nerves.

The story of Bea - the cabbage fairy, and the world of Plots and Godmothers was a great spin on the fairytales we're used to. It had an almost dystopian feel to it in the way the city and the way it's run is described. All Bea wants is to become a fairy godmother, but when the opportunity is thrust upon her, she realises it's not all it's cracked up to be. With plot twists going on in the fairytale she's managing as well as in her own life, it certainly made a fun, original read. However, it just didn't capture my heart like I hoped it would.

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### **starduest says**

Interesting premise in this alternate fantasy universe but ultimately it was just a bit too convoluted and slightly contrived in its attempts to be clever that it wasn't as convincing as it could be. I spent too much effort trying to figure out what the characters are meant to be in this alternate universe that I couldn't get into the story, and the ending was such a tease to get you to read the next book. Unfortunately I didn't enjoy this enough to be that tempted to read the second installment and it does make me sad to confess this. It could

have been a really good book. (PS: it's also false advertising to compare this to Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman though I can see what the marketing people were trying to go for.)

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### **Gemma says**

The story is interesting, i just couldn't get into it properly, because the jumping back and forth between characters was very abrupt. Took me forever to finish it.

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### **Andrew Wallace says**

Generously proportioned Bridget Jonesish fairy Bea dreams of a promotion to Fiction-Management Executive while drinking wine with her singleton Fae mates in a fantasy city ruled by the Big Brother figure of the Teller. Meanwhile, the mirrors that enable transit between the fae world and that of 'the Characters', who may very well be us, are breaking down. These failures result in a procedural clampdown and the release of the dreaded 'Beast'.

Bea is actually a bit of an anti-heroine to start with and the reader's sympathies for her are sometimes strained; her determination can come across as narrow-mindedness but that is possibly the point. Certainly her intrusion into the simple life of 'Sindy', who is meant to marry the King but really doesn't want to, has more than one uncomfortable moment that has you rooting for her rather than the fairy godmother... To Bea's credit she realises her error, ironically placing both her and Sindy in increasing peril. This is a complex, often dark but still comedic world that really comes to life when we meet the 'ugly sister' Ana, who is actually quite sexy, and the mysterious blue-tinged Seven, advisor to blokey what-ho King John. John's kingdom is under threat from a more powerful neighbouring Baron in much the same way as the Fae realm is under threat from the increasingly tyrannical machinations of the Teller.

The novel looks at issues of free will versus fate, represented both by the different worlds of the Fae and Characters and also the different social strata within each. It manages to avoid both post-modern tweeness and intellectual abstraction with its earthy characters and FD Lee's humour. She is a funny writer with Ana and Seven getting the best lines. Less satisfying are the 'subverted cliché' gags like 'it would be a sad state of affairs if the state couldn't interfere with your affairs'; these and a slightly exposition-heavy opening sometimes slow a narrative that is otherwise gripping and visceral.

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### **Amy says**

Really good book. It took a while to get into it but worth reading and I will redo read the next one x

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### **Nick Rippington says**

Cinderella has never been so dark and devious. Garden Fairy Bea has ambitions to be a Fairy Godmother and help bring about happy endings. Unfortunately, in a world run by the Fantasy version of Big Brother, things soon begin to go horribly wrong. Can Bea craft a perfect conclusion to a story running rapidly out of control? There are traces of Orwell, while the Men in White Coats ready to "redact" anyone who steps out of line

have echoes of One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest. Well worth a look

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