

While Beauty Slept

By Elizabeth Blackwell

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“Elizabeth Blackwell is a story-telling genius. Her mesmerizing writing weaves a spell that will enchant you. *While Beauty Slept* breathes new life into the fairytale genre with a historical twist that will take your breath away.” —Meg Cabot, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Princess Diaries* and Heather Wells mystery series

I am not the sort of person about whom stories are told. Those of humble birth suffer their heartbreaks and celebrate their triumphs unnoticed by the bards, leaving no trace in the fables of their time…

And so begins Elise Dalriss’s story. When she hears her great-granddaughter recount a minstrel’s tale about a beautiful princess asleep in a tower, it pushes open a door to the past, a door Elise has long kept locked. For Elise was the companion to the real princess who slumbered—and she is the only one left who knows what actually happened so many years ago.

As the memories start to unfold, Elise is plunged back into the magnificent world behind the palace walls she left behind more than a half century ago, a labyrinth where the secrets of her real father and the mysterious fate of her mother connect to an inconceivable evil. Elise has guarded these secrets for a lifetime. As only Elise understands all too well, the truth is no fairy tale.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
In this magical reimagining of the fifteenth-century fairy tale, Sleeping Beauty's story is told from the perspective of Elise Darliss, a poor farm girl who finds a place in the castle as a maid. Thanks to a strong work ethic and her rare ability to read and write, she eventually earns the position of private maid to the queen herself. The queen is kind, and Elise comes to know her well, and when the legendary princess is born, she befriends her, too. The rest of the tale is famously well-known, but Blackwell treats readers to a retelling that makes historical fiction of the fantasy. And, while she relates what really happened at the castle, we also get to see Elise bloom as she grows from farm girl to respectable lady. The story is dark and enchanting, if a little contrived at times, and Blackwell's rendering of the medieval setting is rich and detailed. Following in the inspired footsteps of Gregory Maguire's fairy-tale twists, this debut novel puts a spellbinding new spin on a classic yarn. --Cortney Ophoff

Review
"Blackwell, previously a reporter and romance writer, makes her historical fiction debut with a gripping tale full of romance, secrets, and promises made and broken. This beautiful, original reinterpretation of a classic story is engrossing and often surprising." ---Library Journal Starred Review

About the Author
Elizabeth Blackwell works as a freelance writer. Her work has appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Ladies' Home Journal, Parenting, and the Chicago Tribune, among other publications. She lives in the Chicago suburbs.

Wanda McCaddon has won more than twenty-five AudioFile Earphones Awards, including for The Seamstress by Sara Tuvel Bernstein, for which she also earned a coveted Audie Award. AudioFile magazine has also named her one of recording's Golden Voices. Wanda appears regularly on the professional stage in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anna Lewis:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for us. The book While Beauty Slept was making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The e-book While Beauty Slept is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to get your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship together with the book While Beauty Slept. You never truly feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

William Perrotta:

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Margaret Honig:

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