



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

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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:

Randy Johnson:

The book *While Beauty Slept* can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave the great thing like a book *While Beauty Slept*? A few of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim which book can give many data for us. It is absolutely proper. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you could give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book *While Beauty Slept* has simple shape nevertheless, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can look the enormous world by open up and read a guide. So it is very wonderful.

Scottie Kelly:

While Beauty Slept can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away

because this reserve has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing While Beauty Slept however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

Clarice Johnson:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to your account is While Beauty Slept this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. That book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer use to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some research when he makes this book. Here is why this book ideal all of you.

Joyce Shryock:

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