



# Queen of Tomorrow

*Sherry D. Ficklin*

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## **Queen of Tomorrow** Sherry D. Ficklin

Sophie—now Catherine, Grand Duchess of Russia—had a tough first year at Imperial Court. Married at sixteen to Grand Duke Peter, heir to the throne, and settled in their own palace, things are finally looking up. As a new day dawns, she thinks only of securing her future, and the future of their country, during one of the greatest political upheavals of her time. Fighting desperately against forces trying to depose the Empress Elizabeth and put the young Prince Ivan on her throne, Sophie soon finds herself in the middle of a war brewing between her beloved Prussia, and her new empire. But even as she navigates the fragile political landscape, she quickly realizes that she has only begun to discover the tangled web of deceit and infidelity woven over the lavish court of Oranienbaum Palace.

When a strange and delicate alliance forms between the young couple, she glimpses a future of happiness, only to see it lost in a moment at the hands of those who still seek to end her life—and prevent her reign. Out of favor with the empress and running out of options, Sophie will have to sacrifice her own innocence on the altar of Russia if she is to save the nation, and herself. To survive, she will have to do the unthinkable, betray those closest to her and become something greater and more dangerous than she ever imagined she could be... a queen.

## **Queen of Tomorrow Details**

Date : Published July 14th 2015 by Clean Teen Publishing (first published July 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9781634220705

Author : Sherry D. Ficklin

Format : Paperback 280 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Romance, Fantasy

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# From Reader Review Queen of Tomorrow for online ebook

?LEAH? says

**Gone is the innocent girl named Sophie...replaced with the ever evolving Catherine...**

Book Title: Queen of Tomorrow

Author: Sherry D. Ficklin

Series: Stolen Empire #2

Genre: Historical Fiction, Older YA

Source: Own Kindle E-Book

?My Pick for Book Theme Song: I Will Not Bow by Breaking Benjamin --For Catherine (Sophie), because she's sooo ready to kick some ass.

## **Ratings Breakdown**

Plot: 5/5

Characters: 5/5

The Feels: 4/5

Theme: 4/5

Flow: 5/5

Backdrop (World Building): 5/5

Originality: 5/5

Book Cover: 5/5

Ending: 4/5. Cliffhanger: more or less

Will I continue this series? Yes!!! I even requested it from the library, and they purchased it like three days later.

4.7/5 STARS

## **My Thoughts**

First off...I'm not going to lie, I really missed the video's that book One had. That being said I was totally blown away by book Two. I love this intriguing and imaginative tale of Catherine the Great. How much this follows the real and actual story of her life really doesn't matter to me. I believe this is touted as being based in truth with embellishments along the way to fill in the blanks, or something like that...My only real complaint is the length of the book, I wanted it to be a little longer.

Sex Factor: This has some scenes that are graphic (but not too graphic), but, they are a part of the story and it wouldn't have had the impact on me that it did without them.

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## **Melissa (The Reader & The Chef) says**

I never thought Queen of Tomorrow, and also it's predecessor Queen of Someday, would be so brutal to my heart. It's been a couple of days since I read them back-to-back and I still can't quite recover. I'm stunned, repulsed, heart-broken and in awe at the same time. Both books were incredible reads, but Queen of Tomorrow was what sealed the deal for me to truly fall in love with the series.

Queen of Tomorrow continues the tale of young future queen of Russia, Sophie-now known as Catherine-as she carries on her new married life with Prince Peter. There's no love or intimacy between them, product of Peter's wrath against her because of her secret relationship with one of his best friends. But although Sophie is alone at court, constantly suffering at the hands of her husband and harsh rule of the Empress, she strikes back with all she's got in this war of beauty, power and betrayal.

Sophie (she will always be Sophie to me) is such a strong character. It amazes me how, despite every awful thing or difficult situation that she goes through, she manages to rise out of it stronger and wiser than ever. I'm not saying she's a perfect person. She has many faults and sins, but in comparison to everyone else at court, I think she has the best heart of all.

But the best thing about this book is, hands down, how complicated life at court is. It's not that I love it for how awesome it is (because it's not) but one can certainly appreciate all the trickery, backstabbing and complicated plotting. It constantly made my head swim and cringe non-stop. It also made me realize that, if I had lived in the time of Catherine the Great, I would NEVER have survived this kind of life. It's just too much and not worth it.

The only thing I'm not sure about this book was the romance in it. I really did not feel anything, I didn't fall in love or root for someone, but maybe it's because I'm still mourning for the loss of her first love. Also, Queen of Tomorrow realistically portrays how poorly women were treated back in the days, abuse and raping, so that may have been another reason why it didn't feel like a romantic read.

Overall, Queen of Tomorrow is a read worthy of your time if you enjoy reading historical fiction. I'm looking forward to read the final book and find out if Sophie will be having a sort of HEA or not. I hope she does, but something tells me I shouldn't hold my breath.

\*This review can also be found at The Reader and the Chef. Thanks go out to tour host & author for the eARC copy in exchange for my honest opinion.\*

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## **Keren Hughes says**

Oh my word, this book is amazing. I had thought that Sherry needed to go a long way to top book one

because I was so swept away by it, but this book tops it and then some!!

I am deeply in love with Sergei and I hate Peter with a vengeance. He is a despicable, deplorable excuse for a human being.

Truth be told, this book is one of my favourites in a long time. Everything from the plot, to the characters, to the pacing is just perfect.

There wasn't anything that felt too rushed or too slow. There wasn't anything I didn't enjoy, save for one scene that I will leave you to discover for yourself. And even then, the scene needed to happen to make the story what it was.

I think Catherine is one of the strongest lead characters I have come across. She takes so much in her stride. Things that would break any ordinary person do not break her, they only strengthen her resolve. She amazes me.

The Empress, as ever, is a wicked, wily bitch who would sell her own Grandmother (a British saying if ever there was one). She is deplorable in ways unimaginable.

Sherry Ficklin has blown me away with this book. The fact I know nothing of the historical characters she describes matters not. It's her version of the characters I am interested in. From the good guys to the utterly detestable, she writes them truly marvelously.

A beautifully executed story, with plot twists and turns that keep you on your toes, Queen of Tomorrow will keep you entertained to the last.

I am dying for the next book and know that whatever she has in store, Sherry will deliver it in style.

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## **Lola says**

### **First book : Queen of Someday**

Sherry D. Ficklin sure showed audaciousness with this sequel. No more sweet and lovely innocent Sophie. She gets vicious and bolder and triumphant in her velvety gowns. But few are easy on her and she, unlike in the first book, does not know who to trust anymore. It seemed as if deception and treason cornered every chapter. Hats off to the author for the impossible to predict twists and turns!

### A sequel that will surprise.

If I had to compare this series to another YA one, it would definitely be The Winner's Curse. If you remember, the first book is filled with romance or the illusion of it. Well, same went with Queen of Someday (however, to a slightly different level). BUT, book two, The Winner's Crime, was darker and intriguing in all its political aspects and so was Queen of Tomorrow! There was conspiracy, forbidden love and drama all set in a royal historical setting.

*“What are you going to do?” He asks, catching my arm as I pass.*

*I tug myself free gently.*

*“What I was born to do, rule.”*

It was crazy how even the most despicable characters – Empress Elizabeth, Peter, Sophie's mother, Elizavetta – had this type of cruelty and villainy in them that strangely only made them more interesting. **I enjoyed hating them.** They frustrated me indeed, but I couldn't imagine this series without them. (Except Peter – he was *too* awful, phony, selfish and self-centered.)

The slow-pacing was still present in this continuation, so that might not appeal to everyone. Regardless, the

slow-pacing helped set a realistic ambience to the story, which was very needed due to the fact that there was a pretty intense plot in this story and the scenes needed to be believed. Also, that way, the focus on the writing was possible and, let me tell you, it was BEAUTIFUL. **The author never used cliché or overused metaphors, comparisons. Well done sensory details, very well done.**

I must confess that there were a few...things happening in this book that came too fast. Which is strange, I find, because of the unhurried pacing's presence. Indeed, people came and went, unfortunate events happened and, yes, they added unexpected and welcomed fascination but were also, sometimes, limit absurd. I am not an expert in history or anything related, really, so the detail was missing to convince me of some alliances and disunions set in place.

*Don't wound anything you can't kill.*

Every time I tried putting this book down, I couldn't and I definitely do not say this mildly. There was this NEED for me to know what will happen to Sophie, her lover and let's not forget the entire dynasty and country! Because Sophie is important and she will either rise or fall. Which, I do not know but am eager to find out.

Many found similarities between the TV show Reign and this series. Well, if I had not seen that one before, I will definitely now. Clueless is how I feel about what the final book will contain, but I'm positive the content will, as always, provoke...reaction, thoughts, and a considerable amount of deep feelings.

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## **Ayah says**

?I received a review copy from Clean Teen Publishing in exchange with an honest review.

I didn't know that I will end up loving this book. I wasn't a big fan of the 1st book, but this.... It is incredible!

I repeat what I said about character development in the 1st book, but Sherry takes it to a brand new level.

The plot thickens in Queen of Tomorrow ! Sophie grows a thicker skin, and faces the consequences of doing so.

Peter, well.... I went from hating him , to feeling sorry for him, and the circle keeps on spinning.

If you have read the 1 st book , and weren't sure if you want to continue the series, I highly recommend you to do so.

I really enjoyed this, and I give it 4/5 stars.

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## **Aditi says**

*"Power changes everything till it is difficult to say who are the heroes and who the villains."*

----Libba Bray, *an American author*

Sherry D. Ficklin, an American author, pens her next book in the *Stolen Empire* series that accounts the journey of Sophie- a young Duchess of Imperial Russian Kingdom, called *Queen of Tomorrow*, where Sophie portrays the young Catherine the Great. Being a Duchess is not an easy thing when the smell of death and threat of murder lurks at every corner of Sophie's life.

### Synopsis:

*Sophie—now Catherine, Grand Duchess of Russia—had a tough first year at Imperial Court. Married at sixteen to Grand Duke Peter, heir to the throne, and settled in their own palace, things are finally looking up. As a new day dawns, she thinks only of securing her future, and the future of their country, during one of the greatest political upheavals of her time. Fighting desperately against forces trying to depose the Empress Elizabeth and put the young Prince Ivan on her throne, Sophie soon finds herself in the middle of a war brewing between her beloved Prussia, and her new empire. But even as she navigates the fragile political landscape, she quickly realizes that she has only begun to discover the tangled web of deceit and infidelity woven over the lavish court of Oranienbaum Palace.*

*When a strange and delicate alliance forms between the young couple, she glimpses a future of happiness, only to see it lost in a moment at the hands of those who still seek to end her life—and prevent her reign. Out of favor with the empress and running out of options, Sophie will have to sacrifice her own innocence on the altar of Russia if she is to save the nation, and herself. To survive, she will have to do the unthinkable, betray those closest to her and become something greater and more dangerous than she ever imagined she could be... a queen.*

This book opens right where the first book ended with a cliffhanger, thus putting the readers' mind at ease. Oranienbaum Palace is now Sophie's home where she represents herself as the Duchess of Russia. Leaving behind her world in Prussia was not an easy decision but it surely turned Sophie into an one hell of a kick-ass princess who is brave enough not only to withstand her husband, Peter's infidelity and his taunts, but also singlehandedly manages the politics and the deception going on around the palace to throwout the Grand Empress, thus putting her young son to the throne. Will Catherine be able to handle everything as she is supposed to like a queen?

Well, well, can this book be anymore perfect!! Perfect heroine, imperfect surroundings, perfect ploy against the queen, perfect setting and perfectly challenging twists- these all sum up and can make any reader to give a 5 star rating to this book. And once again, the book cover manages to allure the minds of it's readers thus compelling them to read the book from cover-to-cover.

The writing is once again pretty perfect and this time things have matured and violence and back-biting and agenda to kill the queen is everywhere with some adrenaline rushing action scenes that have been described with keen detail. The pacing is really fast and there is enough drama that will keep the readers engaged till the very end. The narrative is engaging and free-flowing.

This time there is an air of grandeur hanging by the palace walls. From beautiful gowns to enchanting feats to fairytale style balls will steal away a reader's heart and mind with the vivid descriptions. Once again, the author have strikingly and elegantly painted the Oranienbaum Palace in Russia. The timeline will give the readers a feeling like they are indeed on a time-warp.

The characters from the first book and some new characters introduced in this book are all very strongly developed. Especially, Sophie's characterization is done brilliantly as Sophie becomes a mature and a calculative as well as a calm and brave princess and any reader will easily feel intimidated by her powerful demeanor. Prince Peter is as hopeless as he was in the first book. The female characters are all very fiery and are shining with real powers.

The love triangle in the first book still continues in this book too, although Peter's best friend, Sergei is depicted with lots of depth and his indifference towards Sophie feels less surreal. The chemistry and the passionate love scenes are described with lots of emotions and at times can make the readers feel like it's bit graphic.

Overall, *Queen of Tomorrow* is little bit more intense and darker than the first book and once again this book signs off with a cliffhanger. I'm eagerly waiting to read the last book in this series.

**Verdict:** *Completely must read YA series that has history, passion, fantasy and danger!*

**Courtesy:** *Thanks to YA Bound Book Blog Tour for the review copy.*

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## Cocktails and Books says

This review was originally posted on Cocktails and Books.

Most of you know that I previously read and reviewed *Queen of Someday* by Sherry D. Ficklin last year. And how much I absolutely loved it. When I hopped on Goodreads to see if book two had been released I was thrilled that Sherry herself left the email address to her publishing company so fans of Book One in the *Stolen Empire* series could ask for an AEC of book two. And email I did! I deliberately waited about a week, a long and agonizing week, until I knew I would have the time it would take to devour *Queen of Tomorrow*.

Picking up exactly where book one leaves off we have Sophie, the newly named Catherine the Great, still very much loathing her new husband yet completely eager to wear the crown. She is pleasing to look at and has a personality that makes everyone around her eager to bask in her glow. Yet she is absolutely humble and rules her little piece of land justly and with honor. Shortly after the book begins we find Catherine and her husband summoned to the queen's side. Naturally, her husband's mistress tags along irking both Catherine and the queen herself. Upon arriving Catherine is rushed to the queen's physician due to her having been ill. Although she believes it is simply due to stress and overexertion it is discovered that Sophie is pregnant. Leaving his mistress completely in the lurch, Prince Peter now acts as a doting husband to his "little mother", however Sophie cannot wait to share her wonderful news with the true love of her life.

After an unfortunate accident sends Princess Sophie defending a stone staircase face first and suffering a miscarriage, the queen demands she and Peter try again. Tragically Peter instead develops an illness that threatens everything Sophie has worked so hard for and she is sent back to the Winter Palace to try to produce an heir "by any means necessary".

To accurately review this book I have to first describe the incredible writing style Ms. Ficklin possesses. With each word she draws you in to her oh so believable characters and their development. Sophie is no longer the sweet and innocent girl from book one. Court politics now demand that she become as ruthless as



the Empress and even more cunning. It is so easy to see Sophie as she walks through the halls or mingles with guests at parties thrown specifically to enhance her status as future Queen. Without graphic detail Ficklin creates a romance that is tasteful and aching beautiful proving that you do not need a million sexual adjectives to accurately portray what love is.

I'm eagerly awaiting book three "Queen of Always" when Sherry will bring the story if Catherine the Great to a close and most likely bring me to tears.

\*NOTE: I received the book as an ARC from Clean Teen Publishing in exchange for an honest and unbiased review. This book was reviewed by a member of the review staff at Cocktails and Books. The name of the reviewer can be found under the post categories.

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### **N.N. Light says**

Better than the first one in the series! I'm addicted to this series and can't wait to read the next one.

My Rating: 5 stars

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### **Hannah ?Reader in the Rough? says**

4.5 stars.

*When he leaves my office, I return to my window, twisting my wedding ring around my finger. As it moves across my skin, I swear it tightens like a noose around my neck.*

Sophie's husband Peter grows madder and more violent, the Empress becomes more devious (and malicious), Sergei remains ever-loyal and passionate, and Sophie begins to act and think like a queen.

Loved it.

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### **Kelly Gunderman says**

Check out this and other reviews on my blog, Here's to Happy Endings.

Rarely have I come across a second book in a series that is even close to being as good as the first. This is one of those cases where I actually enjoyed the second book better than the first.

I read this book in less than a day, I loved it so much.

The story picks up where the previous one ended (just a few months later), and does so seamlessly. It picks right back up on the action, the love story, which isn't so much of the love square that it was in the previous book. Actually, it seems more of a forbidden love story between just Sophie (now Catherine), and Sergei. A lot happens in this book (and I hate to say too much because I don't want to mention any spoilers, especially if you haven't read the first book), and there isn't a dull chapter in the entire thing.

If you thought poor Catherine couldn't get a break in the first book, this one is even worse. She has to endure a ridiculous amount of hardships and such horrible treatment from not only the empress, but also from Peter, her own husband. She has come a long way since the last book, and her maturity and growth as a person really shines through. I love reading a book series that allows you to see how a character really develops, and Queen of Tomorrow does not disappoint. While all the hardships and abuse she has to endure keeps her kindhearted and loving throughout most of the book, the end of the book is quite a surprise, and I honestly didn't expect it.

If you enjoyed the first book, Queen of Tomorrow, this book is a must-read. It's every bit as amazing as the first, if not better.

I honestly have no negative comments about this book. It was an amazing read, and the cliffhanger at the end really makes me look forward to the final book in the series, Queen of Always.

Note: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sherry Ficklin says**

This is my book, I hope you all enjoy it and I appreciate you taking the time to read and review it (even if it wasn't your cup of tea!)

XOXP

Sherry

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### **Rachel (APCB Reviews) says**

Initial Thoughts:I loved this one so much! Catherine navigates through Russian court attempting to keep her safety and power. The stakes get higher and higher and twists and turns attack from all sides. Book #2 in the Queen of Someday series does not disappoint!

Read the full review @ A Perfection Called Books

Historical fiction is quickly becoming a favorite genre of mine. I love the attention to detail, the decorum, and the speech. The sequel to "Queen of Someday," a historical fiction novel on the early life of Catherine the Great captivated me once more with a dazzling story of love and politics.

In book two of The Stolen Empire series, Catherine adjusts to her new life as a duchess, heir to the Russian throne. She's managed to find some semblance of happiness in her dreary, tragedy-riddled life. She's at peace with her husband until something horrible spins everything out of control. Something that forces Catherine to

take drastic measures that will change her forever.

I love Ficklin's writing style. It's as elegant and graceful as the setting and time period. Her writing is both succinct and descriptive all at once. There's no pacing problems, the light and dark scenes well-matched. The dialogue was authentic to the time period as well (that's one of my bookish peeves). So many unexpected things happened in this novel, we're left reeling after each and every revelation.

I truly admire how wonderful the characterization of this series is. It's fascinating seeing Catherine grow from the doe-eyed innocent to the strategic, shrewd woman we know her as now. In this book we see her deal with problem after problem and watch her change a bit each and every time. We meet a few new characters and lots of interesting things arise. Peter is such a complex character, and we learn more and more about him as the story progresses.

The court politics is easily one of my favorite parts of the novel. The gossip and the decorum and the parties, I love it all! If you enjoyed the first book, you'll enjoy this stunning sequel that raises the stakes even higher.

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### **Ari Reavis says**

\*ARC received from Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review \*

What a book!!! I was hoping this one lived up to the 1st book and I was not disappointed. The Grand Duchess Catherine is my freaking girl!!!!. She went through so much in this book, but instead of letting it all crush her, she used it to fuel her revenge. She became such a strong and wise young lady. I would like to give her a round of applause for her scheming, manipulating, and just down right bad ass-ness throughout this story. (CLAPPINGGG) And the romance.... heart be still. She literally had to fight to have anything for herself, including love, and although, at times, she lost sight of the light at the end of the tunnel, she always pulled herself together and found a way to turn things to her advantage. There were so many twists and turns in this book, you just couldn't see certain things coming at all and I loved it. Awesome, awesome book.

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### **Jood Hooligan says**

<http://www.platypire.com/j-hooligan/q...>

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I've been waiting for this since I finished the first one. I needed to get back into the story and see how Sherry Ficklin was going to portray Catherine next.

Time has passed a few months since the end of Queen of Someday, but Catherine has definitely grown as a person. It's clear she's becoming a powerful force with the way she handles situations.

I had to fight myself to interact with my family I hadn't seen in a while, because I didn't want to put this down. I had to literally hide my kindle and phone from myself. Even then, I felt like an addict who needed her fix that entire night. I can't remember the last time I felt that way while reading something.

Much like the first, I was totally engrossed in this book. The author has a way of writing that grabs her readers and doesn't let go until the book is over. Then they're left waiting for their next fix and with one hell of a book hangover. The more I read from her, the more impressed I am.

I am eagerly awaiting Queen of Always.

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### **Kathy says**

Enjoyed. Can't wait for the next book!!

Some sexual content nothing graphic but talk of mistresses, plotting to create an heir. Violence/abuse but again not overly graphic

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