



Tear You Apart

Sarah Cross

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If you want to live happily ever after, first you have to stay alive. Viv knows there's no escaping her fairy-tale curse. One day her beautiful stepmother will feed her a poison apple or convince her on-again-off-again boyfriend, Henley, to hunt her down and cut out her heart before she breaks his. In the city of Beau Rivage, some princesses are destined to be prey.

But then Viv receives an invitation to the exclusive club where the Twelve Dancing Princesses twirl away their nights. There she meets Jasper, an underworld prince who seems to have everything—but what he really wants is her. He vows to save her from her dark fate if she'll join him and be his queen.

All Viv has to do is tear herself away from the huntsman boy who still holds her heart. Then she might live to see if happily ever after is a promise the prince can keep. But is life as an underworld queen worth sacrificing the true love that might kill her?

Tear You Apart Details

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From Reader Review Tear You Apart for online ebook

Kayla says

This was a really great read but it wasn't as good as the first installment. I really loved what the author did with the story and how she combined the fairy tales into one fable and it was just great.

Nasty Lady MJ says

To see full review with gifs click [here](#).

Disclaimer: I received an digital review copy via Netgalley this did not change or influence my opinion of this book.

I'm a huge fan of Snow White. When done right. Unfortunately, more often than not the fairytale gets sort of short sided (cough, having a movie with you're starring character being portrayed by K Stew is never a good thing, cough). So anytime there's a YA retelling of Snow's slightly demented story I'm game just like a demented dwarf is game to let in an extremely stupid princess into their house.

Even if it's by an author whose previous work I was less than thrilled with.

Yeah, I'm talking about the first retelling in this so called series. Not that great. But after reading this installment, I think the fact that it involved a different character and wasn't so much of an origin story helped it immensely.

It didn't mean it was free of problems though.

Oh, I still got annoyed with this one and it's five million plot holes and lack of sensitivity, but after much thought I'm still giving it an average rating because it wasn't that bad.

And man, I hate saying it. It wasn't that bad.

It's almost like, well, I really have nothing nice to say so I'm just going to say it wasn't bloody murder inducing awful.

So, I'm going to try to focus on the good. I liked the mish mash of fairytales it made this one a little bit more exciting. Sure, the two main villains had sort of a lot to live up to if you watched Once Upon a Time (especially since the stepmother has the same exact name as the Evil Queen on that show), but they held up well enough. Though I have to admit I was sort of unhappy with the resolution of Regina's arc. I know it was realistic, especially considering everything she did...but I just hoped.

And I guess that's a good thing, that I felt things for these characters. With the prior installment I just thought. Idiot. Idiot. Idiot.

And while I felt that occasionally here, it wasn't as bad.

While the romance played a role in the book, it took a backseat to all the fairytale drama and that was nice. Honestly, Henley and Viv were just sort of meh to me. Not terrible, but not great. So, I was sort of okay with them. It was the secondary love interest I had a problem with.

Man, does Cross like to make the loser in a love triangle a psychopath. And unmemorable too, since it's really his daddy who has to take the role of the psycho since this guy is just weak. Weak to the point of being a psycho.

Though, given the fact a lot of these characters had violent mood swings I can't be that mean to him.

I think with this book if you take with you that it's going to be deeply flawed, you'll be able to tolerate it. The characters aren't that great but if you love fairytales this one is a good quick read. It's better than the first book. While the main character is a bit of an idiot, she isn't as big as an idiot as the prior heroine. The male lead is also a lot more tolerable. But it's no Cinder.

Mitch says

Not sure what I just read...

Liviania says

EgmontUSA may be shutting down, but at least they're releasing their 2015 slate. The first one I just had to read is *TEAR YOU APART*, the companion to *KILL ME SOFTLY*. The first book introduced Beau Rivage, the town where descendants of faerie-human unions are forced to live out curses, curses worse than living in Mississippi for the rest of your life.

One of the big differences between *TEAR YOU APART* and *KILL ME SOFTLY* is that Viv grew up in Beau Rivage. She knows exactly what story she's living, and she fears it. She is Snow White, which means the Huntsman Henley will either kill or save her. If he saves her, her stepmother Regina will keep trying. Once Viv loved both Regina and Henley. But when Regina betrayed her true colors and Henley was cursed, Viv decided she couldn't trust anyone. She can't keep herself from Henley, but she can't bring herself to trust him again either.

TEAR YOU APART weaves together "Snow White," "The Twelve Dancing Princesses," and "Rumpelstiltskin" in a darkly romantic tale. Viv can be an utter spoiled brat, but getting out of her comfort zone and talking to people really forces her to take measure of her life. And even when she's in spoiled brat mode, I admire her dedication to her own survival. I liked the romance between her and Henley, but liked that she takes a chance when her prince Jasper shows up. Even more, I like that she grows into being her own rescuer (as much as she can).

TEAR YOU APART will satisfy fans of fairytales who aren't afraid of some rather large liberties and some of the darker endings remaining in place. Fans of *KILL ME SOFTLY* will enjoy that the cast of that novel makes cameo appearances. Also nice: a reoccurring character is confirmed as a lesbian and there is a

princess and princess couple that no one remarks upon. Little details like that help the updated fairytale concept really work.

Anne says

I'm not giving this 2 stars because it's unreadable or unbelievably boring.

I'm giving it 2 stars because I couldn't find many redeeming qualities in the characters or the story.

I really enjoyed Cross' first book in this world, Kill Me Softly. It was darker than most of the fairytales I'd read, and I thought the world itself was very cool.

Viv was a minor character from that one, and I wanted to see what happened to her.

Yeah, now I'm wishing I hadn't.

Viv is living under a Snow White curse. She and the people around her are destined to play out some form of the Snow White story. Her stepmother was cursed to be evil, and her best friend from childhood (now her boyfriend), Henley, has been cursed to be her Huntsman.

So.

Either he will eventually give in to her stepmother's wishes (and kill her), or he will let her escape (and lose her to her Prince Charming). He swears he will never hurt her, but Viv lives in fear of what will happen when he's faced with that choice.

Alright.

sigh

If their relationship is one of those "*We shouldn't be together, but our love is strong enough to overcome anything*", kind of things?

Yeah. I could get behind that.

However, this was, by far, the most toxic relationship I can ever remember coming across in a young adult novel.

Viv is constantly doing and saying *horrible* things to Henley throughout the book.

She makes out with boys he has no interest in just to hurt him, and then within hours runs back into his arms. She knows she's being selfish and terrible...but, darn it, she just can't seem to let him go.

Mmmmm. See, if one of my boys run into a girl like that, my advice would be this:

Run, don't walk, as far away from this person as you can get.

Yes, I know you want to help them, to fix them...

You can't. Nobody, not even a trained psychologist can unless they commit themselves to getting help. This person will drain you, drag you down, break your heart, leave you bleeding on the side of the road, and then twist it around until you think it's your fault.

And, quite honestly, I don't want to spend the rest of my life in jail for strangling your psycho girlfriend.

Poor Henley, right?

sigh

Yeah, not so much.

Wanna know what he did when he saw her making out with some random idiot?

He takes a shovel to the guy's car in a fit of blind rage. He's so scary, that Viv doesn't dare to approach him.

And this is the guy we're supposed to be rooting for?!

Are we expected to look past this kind of behavior...because she **made** him do it?

Hi, Girls!

This is your mother. If at any point in your relationship with a man, he displays jealous and/or violent tendencies?

GET THE FUCK OUT OF THERE!!!

Again, Mommy doesn't want to end up in prison...

The rest of the story?

It mostly held my interest, but it wasn't awesome enough to overcome the above-mentioned flaws. Boys and Girls, you will *not* get your Happily Ever After with a person who acts like Viv or Henley. And I'm more than a little angry that this book seemed to promote the idea you could.

If you loved this one, GREAT!

But the only reason I didn't 1 star it, was because it truly wasn't badly written.

Thank you NetGalley!

Faye says

There are some things that I'm just a complete sucker for in books. One is fairytales. And *Tear You Apart* is a medley of many different fairytales, but unlike some books, it manages to work very well.

This wasn't a bad book, but could definitely use some explanations.

So first off, there's Vivian. She's actually really annoying at the beginning. She's like a huge sorry-not-sorry type of person, but with her beauty. I'm supposed to not look pretty so my stepmother won't be jealous, but I can't HELP looking so pretty! She's really stubborn, and the Henley, who's the only guy that really really cares for her-she's always pushing him away and toying with him. Vivian has character development throughout the book, but at the beginning, I really wanted to slap some sense into her.

I loved seeing characters from [book: Kill me Softly} make appearances in this book as well. And although this may be something small, it really pissed me off-Mira, the main character of the last book, just had a few filler lines, and those lines were actually rather annoying.

And on a sidenote, if Sarah Cross decides to write another novel in the Beau Rivage world, she should write one with Rafe and Layla, because I have a thing for bad boys in books.

There were also some things that I really liked-the mystery of the underworld was really interesting and I liked the huge reveal at the end.

The story was also well-paced, and the story overall was very readable.

Even though some things could have been done better, I love the creative world and this book is still recommended.

mith says

I'M DONE. A miracle.

I didn't like it as much as the first. Not even close. I was so very detached from the characters so I couldn't like any of them. So very disappointed. I don't even want to bother with a review for this one.

I absolutely *loved* Sarah Cross' *Kill Me Softly* so I had to remind myself to stay calm when I found out this book.

The only reason I didn't squeal or cry out OH MY GOOOOOOD when I found out NetGalley approved this for early review was because its practically 5 and everyone's asleep but me.

But OH MY GOD I GOT THE BOOK I AM SO HAPPY YOU HAVE NO IDEA.

Dana says

This retelling of Snow White has not managed to enamour me to the genre of modern fairytales. The concept was interesting but I did find it hard to wrap my head around at times. There was also a lot of fairy tale characters in this novel and the author assumed that the reader knew every tale, therefore not bothering to explain a lot of their stories.

I found the main character Vivian to be an annoying spoiled brat who treated her on again off again boyfriend like shit. I found it hard to feel any sympathy towards her and she acted so entitled all the time. I loved Henley(the huntsman and her love interest), he was way too good for Vivian and because of this my view of him dimmed a little when he started becoming a doormat.

There was also some weird plot holes involving the curses that I can't explain without spoiling the story.

Overall decent read but I would suggest picking this up from the library rather than buying. If you are a fan of retellings though you will probably enjoy this more.

Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to The Fantastic Flying Book Club, Egmont USA, and NetGalley.)

"There really is a monster after me, you know. The Huntsman. He's supposed to cut my heart out."

This was a really good fairy tale story, and it even had a bit of a darker side!

I really loved Viv and Henley in this, Viv actually loved her step-mother, and was upset by the way she

treated her, and had suddenly turned against her, and I felt really sorry for her.

“She said ‘One day I’ll send you into the forest, and send a man after you to make sure you don’t come back’”

Henley was totally head-over-heels for Viv, and you could see how much it hurt him that she had pulled away, and that she didn’t trust him to save her. This pair just seemed meant to be, and it was hard to see them fighting.

“And what am I supposed to do? What am I supposed to do while you’re figuring out if you want to date this guy?”

The sick feeling rose up in her again. Leaving Henley – choosing someone else – meant losing him.

“Whatever you want,” she said. “I don’t own you.”

“Yes, you do, Viv. You know you do.”

I even liked Jasper, Henley’s rival for Viv, especially the way he flirted with her when he first met her, and tried to get her to be his princess!

“I don’t get it.” She gestured to the crowd of dancing princesses and princes, and the twelfth princess in particular. “Don’t you have a princess already?”

“The twelve dancing princesses curse isn’t mine.”

“Then... what is your curse? Why am I here?”

“Why are you here?” He leaned in, so close she could see the silver flecks in his dark grey eyes. “You’re here because I got tired of waiting for you to die.”

The storyline in this was really good, and I liked how many different fairy tales were mentioned! I loved the 12 dancing princesses,

the girl who was forced to be silent and knit nettle jumpers to save her brothers who had been turned into swans,

the girl who coughed up flowers and jewels every time she spoke, and even Rumpelstiltskin!

I liked how we got lots of little twists in the story, lots of obstacles to overcome, and lots of evil people trying to stop Viv from getting her happily ever after!

The romance in this was just great! I loved Viv and Henley together, and even when they weren't being romantic with one another, their feelings shone through so strongly! You could just tell how much Viv wanted Henley, even though she knew she could never have him, and Henley's pain over losing Viv was just heart-breaking.

"He stroked her hair back from her face. Let his fingertips linger on her cheek. Waiting for something? But she gave him nothing. She didn't know what to give.

"Night, Viv," He said finally.

"Good night," she said.

His steps were softer as he left. He closed the door, and she touched her face where he'd touched it, knowing she wouldn't sleep for hours. Because he was gone."

The ending to this was so good! We got loads of action, loads of twists, several nasty fairy tale deaths, a wedding, and of course, a happily ever after ?

8 out of 10

Lindsay Cummings says

So fun!! literally read it in less than 24 hours! :)

This is my first Sarah Cross book. I had no idea what to expect, but I've seen some great reviews of her work in the past, so I was super excited to read TEAR YOU APART.

From what I've read on other reviews, this is sort of a "companion" novel to KILL ME SOFTLY. I hadn't read KILL ME SOFTLY, so I was a little worried that I wouldn't be able to connect to the characters in this one--but that didn't happen at all! I loved this book, I loved (and hated) the characters, and I am SO excited for this one to hit shelves.

Fairytales are one of my favorite things, but fairytale mashups, or "broken" fairytales, are even cooler! I recently read and loved STITCHING SNOW (by RC Lewis), as well as CINDER and the entire series by Marissa Meyer. I think readers who loved those will love TEAR YOU APART.

It starts out with our main character, Viv, who has a "snow white" curse. This means that, at some point in her life, she's destined to be murdered by the huntsman, or put to an endless sleep by her evil stepmother. In this book, the stepmother is seriously evil, and a little bit MILF-ish *yeah, I just said MILF), and it's hilarious! A perfect way to turn the evil stepmother character on its head. The huntsman is Viv's lifelong best friend and true love...which also creates some pretty interesting moments between the two of them.

When Viv is finally scared for her life that she's going to either die or be "put to sleep", she goes to the Underworld. This setting is awesome, because it's basically the typical Underworld setting that we know about from stories, but inside of the castle, there's a constant ball. The "dancing princess" fairytale is in here, and this is where Viv meets her Prince Charming. In the stories, Prince Charming is supposed to be...well, charming. But in this story--and I won't spoil it---I think readers will have mixed feelings towards him. And it's meant to be that way!

Overall, I won't give much away, because this book is full of lots of fun twists and turns and curses and secrets...but I loved it! If you're a fan of ONCE UPON A TIME, CINDER, or anything fairytale-esque, pick this one up!

Beckie says

My review can also be found @ Bittersweet Enchantment

At one time or another most of us have dreamt of being a fairy tale character in a book or movie. Whether you wished to be a princess in a tower awaiting your price to come and rescue you, or a evil queen bent on ruling the world. We all love the idea of having our happily ever after.

In the city of Beau Rivage fairy tales are real. The people of the Beau Rivage all are blessed or rather cused with one fairy tale or another. Vivian has the "Snow White" curse. We all know her story well. But what if the hired huntsman who is suppose to cut out her heart happens to be the love of her life. Hently and Viv have been friends all of their lives and now are in love. Hently knows what his curse says for him to do but is determined to find a way not to, for there is no way he could ever hurt the girl he loves.

Regina, Vivian's stepmother aka "The Evil Queen" is bent on killing Viv so she may be the fairest of the all. She will do whatever it takes to convince or force Hently to do what he is meant for, to cut out Viv's heart. Soon she becomes tired of waiting and decided to hire another huntsman to do the job for Hently. In the course of stopping the other huntsman from killing Viv, Hently disappears and is presumed dead. Viv is beside herself with grief and worry. Soon after an unexpected invitation arrives addressed to Viv to a underworld party which soon after lands her in a whole other world of problems. With turn of events, Viv now finds herself trapped in the underworld, like many others have come to be. Now Viv must find away to escape....but "someone" won't let her leave...

To find out who and if she finally has her happily ever after, read the book!

First let me say I adored Kill Me Softly when I read it the beginning of 2012. When I found out that there was going to be another book in the series I was ecstatic! I knew I NEEDED to read it and ASAP. There was without a shadow of a doubt that once again I would adore the next book in the series. It was everything and more that I was expecting it to be. There was romance, mystery, adventure, and good vs evil. Tear you Apart was beautifully breath-taking and oh-so magical! I feel in love with the characters, the storyline and the enchanting world Sarah Cross crafted so perfectly around them. There were twists and turns I never saw coming. I laughed, cried, and cheered on Viv for she most definitely deserved her happy ending.

One other thing I really enjoyed about the book was how the characters from Kill Me Softy all made cameos in this book, and for the most part played much larger roles in Tear Me Apart than I expected them to. I felt they all blended well into the Snow White storyline and how the ending pans out.

Tear You Apart was so far my favorite book of this year.

If you're going to read one fairy-tale retelling in 2015, TEAR YOU APART by Sarah Cross is absolutely the way to go.

Amanda says

3.5 stars

This was the first fairy tale re-telling I've ever read. This book exceeded my expectations. I really enjoyed the modern twist on Snow White and how other fairy tales were woven into the story. At times I found the writing a bit comical. This story has really peaked my interest in the Grimm fairy tales.

I found myself a bit annoyed with Viv at times. Her actions pissed me off a lot. I found her rather self-centered and spoiled. I feel as if she took Henley for granted and then expected him to be there for her. I don't think she treated him right, she doesn't deserve someone like him. Although he does have some anger issues of his own.

I also think that too many characters were introduced too fast. I had a hard time remembering who was who. I think that some of them were unnecessary and it would have made the story less confusing if there were less characters.

Overall I'm really glad that I read this, I enjoyed reading a modern re-telling of a fairy tale that was a little dark.

Summer says

I had to suppress the urge multiple times to roll my eyes throughout *Tear You Apart*. I didn't have a very good reading experience, and there's only so much drama and ridiculousness I can handle in a book before I lose it. Wayyyy too much girl-on-girl hatred, lots of selfishness, bad choices galore, and a retelling that isn't even that unique. Viv is an insufferable brat who constantly bathes in self-pity whilst I forced myself to endure her long-winded complaint sprees. Good lawd, if she is the "fairest in the land," imagine everyone else?

The only thing that's preventing me from one-starring this is that underneath the pointless drama and snobbery, there were some parts of the story that were done right. I can't exactly pinpoint what, but it's keeping me from full-on hating this.

Mauoijenn ~ *Mouthy Jenn* ~ says

NetGalley book review

You know the saying ... **LESS IS MORE!** Well, people need to remember that. This story was okay, it would have been better if it didn't have so much packed into it. Maybe cut a 4th of the action and it would have been an excellent book. Now this is my opinion and mine alone, but if you like twisted Snow White

stories this is for you.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

The second in the Beau Rivage stories is Liv's Snow White curse. The first book was Kill Me Softly and this book is probably easier to follow if you have read it. You get more of the why the curses exist if you've read the first one.

Liv aka Snow White is a spoiled little brat. She is so afraid of her curse that she treats her boyfriend (who has been her friend since a young age) like dog ca-ca. She wants him..she doesn't want him...she flirts with other guys to show him she doesn't want him. GAG!

She keeps thinking about how he is to kill her and her savior prince will come.

She got on my frigging nerves.

Her evil stepmother Regina. (Biggest stupid ass mistake giving her the same name as the OUAT character) has decided that Liv needs to die in order for herself to live.

The one I fangirl over is much, much cooler

So little stupid Liv gets an invitation to the Underworld where she meets her happily ever after prince. Um yeah, that's how it never works out.

The story does have several other characters involved and it is very readable..and for some reason I sorta like these books. I'll read the next in the series. I'm hoping it's Beauty and the Beast just because the Beast guy is one of the few with any sense..or Jack the Giant slayer (yeah baby)

If you enjoy fairy tale re-tellings you might like these books. Or you might not. I could just be drunk. You might just want to read them to figure how this guy plays in...

I received an arc copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.
