



## All's Fair in Vanity's War

*Elizabeth Marx*

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## **All's Fair in Vanity's War** Elizabeth Marx

A powerful vate and the last in her line, Keleigh denies the potent magic singing through her blood because she wants to be Ordinary.

Keleigh has the ability, but not the training, to save her parents from slaughter by beasts most only see in horror movies. But after they perish, her mother reaches out from the OtherWorld, freeing Keleigh from her oath never to practice magic and imploring her to find an ancient relic powerful enough to destroy this realm.

Keleigh, no longer able to deny her true calling, begrudgingly turns to her sworn enemy for help. Locke is a damaged druid whose family is entrusted with keeping witches cloaked in the Ordinary world in Salem. But Locke has a mission of his own, one that might not align with Keleigh's.

Can the two come together to find the ancient artifact in time to save each other and the world from plunging into compete chaos?

This fairy tale is about to become deadly because all's fair in vanity's war.

## **All's Fair in Vanity's War Details**

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Author : Elizabeth Marx

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## From Reader Review All's Fair in Vanity's War for online ebook

### Missy (Missy's Reads & Reviews) says

I want to start by saying that after reading this book (which I did a while ago but had to wait for the blog tour to post my review), I knew this could be one of those books where people would either understand it and fall madly in love with it - or they'd just get confused and give up. I've seen both and can understand both sides. Fortunately for me, I fell madly in love with it.

This book is chock full of history, mythology and plot. Add to that it's written from the point of view of the Seer and not necessarily one of the main characters the book focuses on (Keleigh/Locke), you have the potential to be overwhelmed. I think I can safely say this book is not meant to be read quickly or skimmed through - it's intended for those that can sit down and fully immerse themselves in the rich details written on page upon page. If you have that sort of time, then you definitely won't regret it.

There was an amazing cast of characters starring in this book. Keleigh is the sort of girl that just tries to blend in with everyone else, when she truly stands out no matter what she does. Locke is a wild spirit that I honestly can't pin down with just a few words because he is truly everywhere with his personality and emotions. Both Keleigh and Locke's best friends are amazing supporting characters, full of charm and loyalty. Over all of the characters though, I think the Seer was the one that struck me as one of the most intriguing. Perhaps it was because the book was from her POV mostly, but her personality and wit really added another level to the story. It was strange to read the story from a secondary character's perspective, but it also added something unique to the story that I don't think would have been present had the POV from the story been from someone else. And even though the story is told from her POV, the Seer is still something of a mystery that keeps the element of intrigue that isn't necessarily quenched by the end of the story - making it impossible not to want to read more about her.

All's Fair In Vanities War has everything that I could ask for in a great read and I cannot wait to read more. If after reading my review, you're not in the least timid by this book... then I would wholly recommend checking it out.

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### Sarah Wright says

This is a good read for adult or young readers. The characters are well written and the description puts you right in their scene.

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### Nicholas Vela says

This book was quite good. I would love to have part 2 come out as soon as possible.

What will Balor do??

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### Deanna says

What was not to like about this book? Really? I loved it. It kept me captivated from start to finish. I will definitely be awaiting the sequels release. This book is a brilliant action-packed fantasy adventure filled with humor and shrouded with mystery. It has three realms, the Ordinary, ExtraOrdinary and OtherWorldly. They're are Elves, Fairies, Boggarts, Leprechauns, Seers, Druids, Witches, Demons and Gods.

In Salem, ExtraOrdinary are everywhere. Where anything can happen and it's not out of ordinary or in the slightest shocking, unless you're a human. The ruling milesians princes were the most powerful Druid, Vate, and Bard, they were ExtraOrdinary already, but their children made up the three most powerful lines that have carried the Order down to us today.

I loved all the characters. This book was well paced with their growth in my opinion. I loved the Seer. She has such a personality and has plenty of snark. Locke is a Druid. His character is filled with a mix of personalities as the story progresses. He is handsome, loving, loyal, funny, powerful, begrudging and spiteful at times. I really liked watching his growth throughout the story. Wiz is Locke's best friend a total computer geek. He is a great supporting character.

Keleigh has only lived in the Ordinary (human) world. She was brought up as a human. When her parents were killed she was sent to live with the Cavanagh's. Locke is their son. As the story progress Keleigh starts to figure out the puzzle pieces of who she is and what her family really is. I won't go on because I'll let too much slip. I really loved the back-and-forth-banter between her and Locke. Madi is Keleigh's best friend, she is straightforward and very opinionated. She's my kind of gal. I loved her.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Marx for allowing me to read her book and review it. :)

These are just a few of my favorite quotes from a scene that Keleigh had lost her temper and caused quite a stir.

Keleigh slapped at Locke's chest."No, Like, I gave her gianormous ancient horns. They might belong to someone else."

Madi "You should worry. I was with the big bad Vate in the bathroom, and she bestowed Ciara with fricken horns."

"Crap," Locke said, eyeing the mesmerized crowd. "I told you things like this could happen if you weren't prepared."

"I promise to be a better Seer, if he lets me live."

"I mean, lets us all live. My feathers twitched nervously. You might think I'm silly, but imagine God looking for one of his sheep that you'd accidently made off with. Yikes."

Cernunnos ~ "Those horns, are abducted so often now, I've had to resort to OGPS," be bellowed. "Which one of ye took them?"

"OGPS?" Wiz asked

"OtherWorldly Galaxy Positioning System."

"I'd like to see that super computer," Wiz said.

"Central computer station," he tapped his right temple.

## **MJ says**

Lock Cavanagh is a bad druid. In the bad boy kind of way! I loved this book it was very well written and kept me interested from the first page. I will definitely be waiting for the next one in the series!

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## **Pamela says**

Although Keleigh is aware magic exists, she'd promised her mother that she wouldn't use magic nor would she remove a necklace that cloaks the real her from Ordinary people. But after receiving a message from her mother, whom she thought dead, from the OtherWorld, she is charged with locating and protecting a relic that neither her nor Locke know how to find. And they only have a limited time in which to locate it.

With the help of the Wyrd Sisters (the maiden, the mother and the crone) she is taught as much as possible about who she is and how to harness her magic. And between her, Locke, Madi (her best friend) and Wiz (Locke's best friend) they search for information that will help them in their quest.

I really enjoyed the magic and the mythology in this book. It's choke full of adventure, mystery, suspense, and a bit of romance. And plenty of magic!

The characters are great! There are so many characters in which to love and some you just can't help but hate. I love the interaction between Locke and Keleigh. Despite her best attempts at keeping Locke at a distance, Keleigh can't help but be drawn to him. And I love how cocky Locke is at times but yet, he's very sweet as well. Madi, Keleigh's best friend, is a fun character. She tells it like it is no matter who she's talking to. Plus, she can see and communicate with the Seer where Keleigh and Locke can not. There are just so many interesting characters in the book ... druids, vates, bards, cluricaunes, fairies, boggarts and other OtherWorldly beings. If you like paranormal and/or fantasy stories, I definitely recommend this!

Being that I never used to enjoy reading until a couple years ago, I really like reading a book that I feel I've learned something from it. With All's Fair in Vanities War I learned a lot! And not just about Celtic mythology either. I hate to admit it but there were quite a few words that I had to look up the definition of. LOL I don't know whether that would turn some people off or not but I certainly did not find the writing boring.

Now, I did actually find quite a few mistakes in the book. Maybe had there not been so many I may have actually given the book a higher rating. But I do feel that the story was interesting and exciting enough to make up for the mistakes. There were times, however, when I was a little confused because the story is told from the Seer's point of view and she's never named, other than being known as the Seer. So sometimes I would forget who's telling the story for a moment. But it was really just a matter of me remembering so that's my fault. :)

I'm definitely looking forward to reading the next book when it is released.

NOTE: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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## **carole says**

Such a beautifully written book! New. Favorite. Series. I need the next book, now!

All's Fair in Vanities War is a magical story about all things ExtraOrdinary. It's a story about love and hate, and being what others need you to be even when it's hard. I felt a strong theme is the book is expectations, living up to them and tearing them down. Accompanied with great pacing, a writer who is well versed on the genre and characters who are incredibly real this book is destined for greatness. And I haven't even mentioned the magnificent cover!

All's Fair has a unique plot and some amazing characters. The Seer is our guide and narrator, and her story is one of heartbreak. It's a story that requires your full attention. The reader sees everything unfold through the Seers eyes and sometimes that can be confusing, but if you follow closely it's really well written and thought out. It's not the kind of book you can read quickly or skip around in, it requires thought and has many small details that are easily missed.

Locke is a disgruntled beast, he's scarred and feels undeserving of the role he should be playing in the story, but he still manages to be cocky and arrogant. Totally hot, right? I mean who doesn't love The Beast from Beauty and the Beast?

To complete our cast we have Keleigh she is our light in this journey and her story is one of hope, call her Belle if you need. A lot of the future is depending on her acceptance of this crazy OtherWorldly craft, which she has had no part of before coming into Locke's life. But, he's handsome when you put aside his attitude and the mystery surrounding him draws her near.

Along with the wonderful prose and an onslaught of mystical and witty characters there is an ever revolving plot that is intriguing and captivating. Battle scenes, witchcraft, healing, a murder mystery, secrets and lies, and so so so much more that I won't mention in fear of ruining something.

I loved this world that Miss Elizabeth Marx has created and managed to get myself completely lost in the power that emanates from her words. It's an amazing journey, nothing like I expected and completely full of surprises. Like I said, New Favorite Series, check it out!

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## **Brianne says**

All's Fair in Vanities War is a well written story enriched with magical Celtic mythology mixed with American history from Salem. In the beginning we learn about The Seer, who has been sacrificed to watch and protect Keleigh who is a ExtraOrdinary. The Seer is torn over her duties because her former boyfriend, Locke (a druid and part of the order) falls for Keleigh.

All's Fair is an interesting story filled with mystery, action, romance, and humor. All's Fair isn't a light read, you need to give it all of your attention or you might miss something. There are many well written characters and I hope we hear more about the supporting characters!

Overall I rate All's Fair in Vanities War 4 out of 5 stars- I enjoyed the originality but the writing style did become a bit confusing at times. However, I did enjoy it and cant wait to see what Elizabeth Marx will write next!!

I was honored to receive an e-book copy of All's Fair in Vanities War via the author Elizabeth Marx in exchange for an honest review

## Constance says

All's Fair in Vanity's War by Elizabeth Marx is an interesting story about the "real" witches in Salem. The story includes normal clueless humans and the supernatural elements all around them, most of which hail from Ireland, so of course it includes fairies and leprechauns. It is told mostly from the point of view of one of those ordinary humans who dies and is chosen to be the Seer. The Seer is destined to follow her boyfriend and the girl who is immediately thrown into his life and watch out for them while learning how much the regular people don't know no matter how much it may hurt her to do so. I really enjoyed this story because it does not follow the typical teenage love story drama. Although it probably does still fall into the young adult fiction there is not all the sappy forbidden romance between two different types of peoples that seems to be all the rage right now. It made for a nice change, and the author made the storyline fairly easy to follow while still forming her own take on the world. Any parts that seem confusing because of her use of mythology are explained quickly enough so as not to lose your interest. This book also managed to surprise me more than once, when I felt I had the story all figured out as to what would happen next I would be wrong, and personally I love that in a book. I do not want to waste my time on something I figure out ten minutes in and I will admit I thought that this would be one of those in the beginning and it definitely wasn't. All in all I really enjoyed this book.

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## Bonnie says

I'm not placing a rating on this book as I don't typically give books a rating if I failed to finish.

I enjoyed the originality of this novel, but I found the world-building portion quite difficult to understand as much of it was simply stated and not explained. The narrator was the recently deceased girlfriend of the main character, Locke. She wasn't necessarily a part of the storyline but she would occasionally make a statement about something that was happening and it was extremely confusing. Since she was such a background character it was quite easy to forget that the narrator was actually 'there'.

Then there were the two main characters: Locke and Kaleigh. Kaleigh is Locke's mothers, cousins, daughter. By my calculation that would still make them related... correct? That whole 'we're related' thing totally got swept under the rug because partway through the book Locke is seeing Kaleigh for the first time after a few years and all of a sudden she's smoking hot and he's attracted to her. And then there was the comment 'Strawberry Bewitched sorbet. That's exactly what she'd taste like' and I was pretty much done.

My other issue with this was that even though I understand that this may be a self-published novel, to me that still does not excuse glaring spelling and grammatical errors. These appeared quite profusely throughout this especially large novel and definitely threw me off a time or two.

*What exactly is Keleigh really? "An ExtraOrdinary Vate, a Celtic prophetess." "But there are rumors she might be more like us, between ExtraOrdinary and OtherWorldly." Finny added. Tristan shot Finny a narrowed look and said, "All you need to know is that she's an aspect of the AllPower."*

And that's where she lost me. There were aspects of fantasy and magic, there were touches of Celtic mythology, and then we even had fairy tale aspects thrown in. To me? This was chalk full of simply 'too much'.

## Persephone says

I totally love this book even though I had to re-read certain scenes to understand what was going on. Especially in the beginning. That being said, it was a really great read.

I usually do characters first because there is a necessity in knowing who drives the story forward but the most important thing about this novel (at least for me) was the mythology. Did I learn a lot about Celtic mythology and then some. One of the shocking factors for me was the use of the witch bottle. Witch bottles are created by people who want to drive away a witch that is afflicting them and it basically causes the witch pain until the spell is taken away but I had no idea that a witch bottle could be used as a love spell. What the hell, that is totally new to me. The witches bottle become a very important part of this novel. The Celtic mythology consisted of hellhounds, banshees, druids, seers, leprechaun, fairies, boggarts, Boudicca, and learning stories about the goddess Fir (resembles mother nature) and multiple other deities. Plus, we have three Wyrd Sisters (Maiden, Mother, Crone). It was fascinating to read the stories and see the Gaelic names of mythological creatures. I love the inclusion of Cerunnos. Really funny situation about his horns being stolen.

Now let's talk characters. At first, I was really annoyed with all the characters because they were all very concerned with physical appearances. The Seer who died and records events; when she dies, she is more concerned about throwing up on her dress than being dead. Although, she did admit she was vain enough to say that so she was okay. We have Keleigh who has this enchanted necklace that hides what I will be her true beauty. She promised her mother that she wouldn't take it off ever and constantly shies away from her own beauty. There is Locke who is physically scarred by the accident that killed the Seer. He tries to get Keleigh to take off the necklace and she reminds him of his scars. There was so much emphasis in the first 20 pages about physical appearances that it irked me.

However, at the end of the day, it was interesting to see the characters move beyond this stage and watch them mature. The vanity of appearance play a real strong role in the final battle and is really insightful. What appears to be annoying characteristic is actually an in-depth look. The scars that Locke has are important for a reason. I really liked how the Seer eloquently put things in perspective as well as Madi (who is Keleigh's best friend). Funniest character ever. The romance between Keleigh and Locke slowly developed. Keleigh was the one denying the attraction because she didn't accept her ExtraOrdinary powers and just wanted to be Ordinary (without powers). All of a sudden she is drag into the world she has been vehemently trying to avoid. It forces her to see what she is, the daughter of a prophetess and someone who has power in her own right. The love triangle between Locke, Keleigh, and Lynx for me fell a little flat on Lynx's side simply because Keleigh wasn't really into him. She was constantly moving away from his touches even though they were in open relationship. It was much interesting to read the blossoming relationship between Locked and Keleigh.

Marx did an excellent job in creating a world that is infused with mythology. We have Ordinary, regular people without powers, and ExtraOrdinary, people with powers. Leylines run all over Salem which act power sources for Extraordinary. Colloquy of Elders that keeps the existence of the ExtraOrdinaries a secret. ShiningOnes which apparently as not as nice as their name sounds. The OtherWorld which is a parallel world where mythology's creature live. I know, it seems like a lot to take in (and it is) but I swear, it only adds to the experience of reading the book. All the "societies" are distinct from each other so it's not hard to keep track of.

In the end, I'm giving it 4.5 butterflies. Fantastic use of mythology and great world-building skills. The

characters are funny and grow in the course of the book. The love triangle didn't work for me but it was somewhat nice. I'm looking forward to reading the second books because there are some unanswered questions that need to be resolved. Plus, I want to see Keleigh come into full acceptance of her powers and see what she can do.

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## Dani says

The world of All's Fair in Vanities War is one of the most interesting I've read about in awhile. Drawing heavily on ancient Celtic mythology and what we know of druidic tradition, Marx has combined this with the American historical accounts of the Salem witch trials to create a rich backdrop full of depth and context. For generations Salem, Massachusetts has drawn powerful magic to it creating a behind-the-scenes division between ExtraOrdinary beings and Ordinary individuals as well as a magical hierarchy of Druids, Vates, Bards, witches and many other magical creatures. Salem's magical pull comes from the Leyline that runs beneath it feeding the magical energies of the town's inhabitants. I became so curious about all the mythological elements that Marx used to craft her story, that I ended up spending a lot of time on Wikipedia to see just what was well-known lore and what was all Marx. I must say I'm impressed with how many mythological details she worked into her story to fit her own plot and how smoothly she accomplished it.

The two main characters of Vanities War are also extremely intriguing. Keleigh, the orphaned Vate and female protagonist of this story is a great character. She's someone who has lost much to this magical world and now wants only to live a normal, non-magical life. And yet, that doesn't appear to be her destiny. Keleigh is on a search for what she is – Vate or Ordinary – but even amidst her turmoil she has a confidence, strength, courage and kindness that defines the core of who she is. She also has a good head on her shoulders and a quick tongue, which makes her encounters with Locke all the more entertaining. When we first meet Locke, the good-looking, sweet-talking druid, he has lost his longtime girlfriend in a tragic car accident that has also scarred his beautiful face. Long vain and used to getting his way by using his looks, charm and innate power Locke must learn to discipline his use of magic, and begin to heal from the tragedy. Post-tragedy, he's still a very charismatic character and still makes good use of his charm. He's got an infectious confidence and an annoyingly endearing swagger. His accident does mature him and realign his priorities; his losses and mistakes have sobering him a bit... but not too much. The thing that really makes him so likeable is that under all the bravado, he really is a decent guy who really does care.

Another major character in the book worth mentioning is the Seer. Killed in the same accident that scarred Locke's face, she is reborn a Seer – one with the ability to traverse the nine worlds, witness to great events, and a keeper of secrets. She's of particular interest to me, because although she is omnipresent and the narrator of the story, she really is only a secondary character. The reader sees the entire story through her eyes (she is after all a kind of story keeper), but she plays a slightly less important role in this novel than Locke or Keleigh. It's an intriguing plot device, one that struck me as pretty unique, and, for the most part, it's a device that Marx utilizes well. The Seer herself comes across as a very lost character. In fact, we're never given her name throughout the entire book, a fact which adds to her mystique as well as plays to her uncertainty about herself. The Seer is unsure of her intended purpose. She's lonely. She clings to shreds of her human existence unwilling to shed it completely and embrace her new reality. I look forward particularly to more development of her character in subsequent novels.

Story. As I just mentioned, the unique narration style set this book apart immediately, as does the interesting relationship dynamic that is created as you begin to watch Keleigh and Locke's friendship develop, as you keep in

mind that the Seer was formerly Locke's girlfriend. It just creates some interesting moments and perspective. As far as the mystery goes, as Keleigh and Locke search for the relic, it is very interesting and well-paced, and Marx does a fantastic job of building tension throughout their search. The climax of the novel, in particular is pretty dark, gripping and terrifying. The villain is truly frightening, and the final showdown of the story is just as intense as the climax.

Though I thoroughly enjoyed All's Fair in Vanities War, there were just a few things that kept it from a full five stars. First, though I love the world Marx created, I wish that there had been a bit more clarity closer to the beginning of the book explaining the structure and rules of this world. Before reading this book, I knew next to nothing about the mythology and lore behind Keleigh and Locke's world. But it's almost written as if it's assumed that the reader has a cursory knowledge of Celtic lore. Don't mistake me, I love the world, I was just reading in a state of confused fascination for a bit there. However by the end when it all falls into place, I felt as though I had a pretty good handle on things worked. Second, I love that the Seer plays the role of narrator, and though she does add her own commentary from time to time, I wish that there had been just a but more of it – a little more insight into the Seer and more opportunities for character development. Third, not a fan of the "absent parent" device, but that's a personal preference, and Marx makes it work for her story. And finally, I don't normally make mention of this, but there are a few glaring grammatical and spelling errors. Not a lot, but just enough to jar you out of the story. So if that really bothers you, Dear Reader, just be aware. Also be aware that this is a truly great story, and should you decide to pass over this one because of a few errors, you're definitely going to be missing out.

Overall, with a complex, fascinating world based on Celtic tradition, fantastic characters, intriguing relationship dynamics, compelling romance and an exciting fast-paced plot, All's Fair in Vanities War is a wonderfully gripping paranormal read that has me eagerly anticipating the next installment.

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## **Bmquiram says**

The first thought that came to mind while reading this novel is, "Greek Mythology meets a creepy Halloween ghost story."

All's Fair in Vanities War: by Elizabeth Marx is most certainly a paranormal read. The variety and characteristics of the characters in the story remind me of "The Lord of the Rings" or an adult version of "Spiderwick". I do not mean the characters are the same, but that the characters are human like and that there are several different types of these human like beings.

The first third of this book is a little slow and complex. There are a lot of details about the characters and the setting. There is also some background explaining how the story came to be. Although this section was a little difficult to get through it is essential for the comprehension of the remainder of the story. The story really starts to take off just before the end of the first third of the book.

As I progressed through this story the characters face several mysteries. As they look for answers and a path to their future and to safety their stories start to intertwine in interesting ways.

The further I got in the book the more interesting it became. I absolutely love the second of this book. If you enjoy supernatural stories or stories about the craft you will love this book.

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## **Janus the Erudite Artist says**

All's Fair in Vanities War is beautifully created mystical world where magic is a common thing and almost everyone has special powers, except for humans that is. So if you turn someone's skin green and give them horns, they won't scream and go hysterical asking what's happening to them. And they won't sue you as long as you put them back to normal.

I'm not really a big mystery fan so I admit that I was a little impatient with the occurring events. It has also proven to be a challenge for me because I was completely unfamiliar with the culture this book has presented. The lore as well was another thing I wasn't aware of so there were a lot of things I didn't understand, thank goodness for the Internet! And thankfully Marx's characters gave a brief history or a clue here and there about what they were talking about.

Speaking of characters, I'd have to say Keleigh didn't strike as an outstanding protagonist at first. I guess I get the idea because she's still on the verge of discovering herself and her past seem to haunt her at times. Poor kid. Also she tends to try to blend in and in spite of the she-stands-out-no-matter-what sort she kind of lacked showing personality. Well at least until she begins to find out what she's capable of.

Locke on the other hand, was presented in a mix of personalities. At first he was all loyal and loving, then bitter and begrudging and then another whole lot of personality when he comes back home from college. I was really confused about who he really is and I totally get why Keleigh was reluctant about her feelings for him.

I absolutely love Madi and the Seer, Wiz as well. They make really striking supporting characters and I think they played their parts really well. Go Madi!

Moving on, I think the plot of this story is commendable. Despite it being completely foreign to me, it is also what I think made me hold on and keep reading. I really wanted to see how it would turn out. All the mystery and waiting was worth it when I got to the climax. Talk about an adventure! It was like watching National Treasure sort of movie with magical creatures. So awesome!

The ending still left me with a lot of questions but I am coaxing myself to wait until the next book comes out. \*Be patient, Janus. Be patient.\*

I'd like to thank Elizabeth Marx for the copy of All's Fair in Vanities War and letting me have the honor to read and review her book.

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## **Giselle says**

I only read 30 pages of this but I'm really not into it. Super confusing, not sure what is going on and as far as the reviews I have seen I just know this won't be for me.

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