

## A Court of Thorns and Roses

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Feyre's survival rests upon her ability to hunt and kill – the forest where she lives is a cold, bleak place in the long winter months. So when she spots a deer in the forest being pursued by a wolf, she cannot resist fighting it for the flesh. But to do so, she must kill the predator and killing something so precious comes at a price ...

Dragged to a magical kingdom for the murder of a faerie, Feyre discovers that her captor, his face obscured by a jewelled mask, is hiding far more than his piercing green eyes would suggest. Feyre's presence at the court is closely guarded, and as she begins to learn why, her feelings for him turn from hostility to passion and the faerie lands become an even more dangerous place. Feyre must fight to break an ancient curse, or she will lose him forever.

## **A Court of Thorns and Roses Details**


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Author : Sarah J. Maas

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Romance, New Adult

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## From Reader Review A Court of Thorns and Roses for online ebook

### Emily May says

**2 1/2 stars.** Maybe my rating comes as a surprise or even - if you care - a disappointment, but let me assure you: no one is more surprised or disappointed than I am.

I've had this book on my TBR ever since it appeared on Goodreads without a title, cover or description. I started reading it as soon as it became available and the array of positive reviews from my friends and strangers alike made me feel sure I would love it. But I didn't. It is possible I expected all the wrong things from A Court of Thorns and Roses, and maybe my review can prevent others from doing the same.

**Here's what I expected:** an intricate fantasy world, supernatural politics and alliances, fast-paced action, a sensual romance - perhaps similar to Cruel Beauty and other *Beauty and the Beast* retellings, and a flawed but likable heroine.

But this book is, if you ask me, nothing more or less than **softcore erotica**. Which is fine, if that's what you're looking for.

I personally thought that the fantasy aspect felt like trimmings around a story that was all about a romance between Feyre (the narrator) and Tamlin (a High Lord of the Fae). There are some titillating scenes where Tamlin bites Feyre's neck and they have sex - undoubtedly the best bits of the book and I won't pretend I didn't feel a little hot under the collar myself. But the "ancient wicked shadow" promised in the blurb is only really a source of more romantic angst for Feyre and Tamlin.

However, I *do* like a good romance as much as anyone, so there are other reasons this book didn't quite work for me. In order to express what I mean, I'm going to compare A Court of Thorns and Roses to Cruel Beauty, which is, in my opinion, a better book.

In CB, I felt the chemistry between Nyx and Ignifex as soon as their loaded banter started to fill the pages. They were sexy together, Ignifex was an evil ruler (which was a real problem for their relationship) with blood-red eyes, and the supernatural part of the book was creepy, weird and completely unique. Despite enjoying the actual non-PG scenes in A Court of Thorns and Roses, I never felt any real chemistry between Feyre and Tamlin or any realistic challenge to their relationship.

**What makes *Beauty and the Beast* such a compelling romance?** One that demands to be told over and over again in so many different ways? I'll tell you what it is: it's the obstacles, the challenges, the improbability... *how can a young woman come to love an ugly beast?* We ask. *I'll prove it's possible!* The author replies. That's why readers fall in love with the beast again and again, even when he is furry and has horns like the Disney version. I loved the Disney beast. (view spoiler)

**Tamlin is not a beast.**

*"Even as he bit out the words, I couldn't ignore the sheer male beauty of that strong jaw, the richness of his golden-tan skin."*

Oh my, how could a poor young woman ever love a pretty-faced, golden-haired, completely not evil Fae prince? How weird.

Maas is a good writer and the beginning - before Feyre is taken to the Fae world - made me believe a great

book was on the way. When Maas writes action, she writes action **really** well. But there was far too little of it in this book. It came in behind the descriptions of beautiful Fae men and the Fae palace.

In short: **It just wasn't nasty enough.** In truth, this felt more like an extended Cinderella retelling than what it was supposed to be. A girl lives in poverty and looks after her rather annoying sisters until one day she is swept up by a prince who takes her to his beautiful palace (after about three chapters). I just find it hard to recommend this when I think *Cruel Beauty* is similar and yet so much better.

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## **Kat O'Keeffe says**

SARAH J MAAS HAS DONE IT AGAIN! An enthralling blend of fairytale elements in an awesomely original world with characters you can't help but fall in love with! A new favorite!

Full booktalk here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4HXA...>

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april 2017 - reread in prep for acowar!

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## **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

Clearly I'm in the minority here. DNF at 30% because I just got fed up with things moving at a snail's pace and NOT MAKING SENSE AT ALL. This was one of the most un compelling versions of *Beauty and the Beast* that I have ever read. The writing is nothing outstanding, there was nothing that moved me. I felt *Cruel Beauty* among other B&B retellings I've read this year and last have done a far superior job at moving me emotionally.

Look, I'm sure by the end of the book, all the things tie together and everything's just dandy and things will make sense, and I'd be like "ooooooh, so that's why \_\_\_\_." Me, I don't care. Ain't nobody got time for that. I have so many questions and I'm just fed up. This is not a retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*. This is a book about a girl who gets to live an easy life with a guy who's implied to be a gorgeous Fae underneath his mask.

The original story makes sense: here's roughly how it goes. Handsome prince is cursed to be ugly unless he gets a chick to fall for him. Flash forward, there's Belle's dad. Belle's dad wanders into Beast's castle and touches his stuff. Beast doesn't like the fact that Belle's dad touched his stuff. Beast is going to kill Belle's dad unless he gets Beast some pussy. Belle's valiantly steps in to save dad, Beast is as nice to her as much as a hairy ugly, self-conscious, socially ostracized monster can be. Belle is treated like a princess because Beast really, really fucking needs her to save him and his people before the curse runs out!

There's a reason Belle is treated like the queen! Things make sense! They have to learn to trust one another. Things are slowly developed and built over time. There is a hideous beast who is scarred emotionally, and a

beauty who needs to look past the exterior. There is a point. Not so with this book. **Things are far, far too easy with this book.**

Now here's this version of Beauty and the Beast, **a retelling that tries to be bad-ass and fails completely**, from the little that I have read.

There's **Feyre** who has a pretty crappy life with an absentminded, worthless, spineless dad, and two of the most bitchy, ungrateful sisters in the entire world. She slaves for them, she hunts food for them, she works her ass off for them. Without her, their family would starve. They don't care. I feel some pity for her, but she acts like so much of a martyr that there's only so much I can take.

While hunting one day, Feyre kills a wolf, well, surprise, surprise, that wolf turns out to be a Fae in disguise. In return for this kill, Feyre is taken by a wolf (who's a Fae in disguise) away from her family.

*“What is the payment the Treaty requires?”*

*His eyes didn't leave my face as he said, “A life for a life. Any unprovoked attacks on faerie-kind by humans are to be paid only by a human life in exchange.”*

**A life for a life!** Oh, no! Is she going to die?! That's what a life for a life means, right? **WRONG.** Feyre is taken off to magical Fairyland to live in luxury for the rest of her life while her family is taken care of back in their little village.

*“Some would say it's unwise to insult a Fae in his home,” Tamlin ground out. “Some would say you should be grateful for me finding you before another one of my kind came to claim the debt, for sparing your life and then offering you the chance to live in comfort.”*

So what?! **Why?!** This makes no sense at all. **Feyre kills one of their kind. A beloved brother.** In exchange, there is **absolutely no punishment whatsoever.** She gets to live in a fantastically fabulous castle, waited on by servants. She gets beautiful clothes and delicious food.

*Another useless answer. I dug into my breakfast, savoring each rich sip of tea, and she slipped into the bathing chamber. When I was done eating and bathing, I refused Alis's offer and dressed myself in another exquisite tunic—this one of purple so deep it could have been black.*

Clearly there is some kind of a setup involving The Treaty, since there seems to be a lot of secrecy between the Fae...**but wait, whatever information she wants, the Fae reveals...they're revealing their own weakness to Feyre, who is constantly plotting her own escape.** It doesn't make any sense!

*“There is ... a sickness in these lands. Across Prythian. There has been for almost fifty years now. It is why this house and these lands are so empty: most have left. The blight spreads slowly, but it has made magic act ... strangely. My own powers are diminished due to it. These masks”—he tapped on his—“are the result of a surge of it that occurred during a masquerade forty-nine years ago. Even now, we can't remove them.”*

Over and over and over, **the Fae reveal their secrets to her, including one that might help her escape.**

*“So there are faeries who will actually answer any question if you trap them?” Maybe they'd know how to free me from the Treaty's terms.*

*“Yes,” he said tightly. “The Suriel. But they're old and wicked, and not worth the danger of going out to find them.”*

And then pretty much the next chapter, she goes out AND IMMEDIATELY FINDS THESE MYSTERIOUS

CREATURES. WHAT THE FUCK.

I do not like it when things come so easily to a main character, and everything comes easily to Feyre. There is no consequence whatsoever to her actions. There is no punishment to her deed of killing. The Fae are supposed to hate her...it doesn't feel like it, because she is "inconsequential." In fact, they're more of her playmates than her wardens. The Fae seem to have no other things to do besides play with her and hunt with her.

*"My morning work was postponed," he said. Indeed, his usual tunic was off, the baldric gone, and the sleeves of his white shirt had been rolled up to the elbows to reveal tanned forearms corded with muscle. "If you want a ride across the grounds—if you're interested in your new ... residence, I can take you."*

And teach her how to read and write...because Feyre cannot read or write, an ironic twist to the Disney Belle's love for reading.

*"I could help you write to them, if that's why you're in here."*

Feyre is irreverent, ungrateful and insulting to her wardens...in a way that gets her no punishment whatsoever.

*"Do you ever stop being such a prick?" I snapped back.*

*Dead—really, truly, I should have been dead for that.*

*But Lucien grinned at me. "Much better."*

As I said, I'm sure this book improves in the end, but from what I've read, this book makes no sense, the writing is emotionless, the characters are flat, the main character unrealistic, and I do not care to continue.

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**Regan says**

OOOoOOOOOh soooooOOooooo goooooOOOOooooddd

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**Val...Shameless.Skanky.B\*tchy. says**

**2.5 Stars**

Once again, I find myself the odd man out when it comes to a massively popular book...

I went into this really excited and *really* wanting to love this thing.

After seeing this book and its successors paint my feed with its courts and thorns and wings and ruin, I knew there was a lot of hype surrounding this series in general.

And this first installment just didn't live up to it for me, sadly.

There, there, Court Thornians...

Quite frankly, the first 60% of this book dragged like a U-Haul trailer with no wheels.

Nothing really happened and the things that did didn't even make sense until after the book was over.

And I'm just not a fan of that. I like to enjoy books *while* I'm reading them, not only for the last 25-35% when everything that was murky throughout the whole book becomes clear.

I also found myself WAY more interested in Rhysand than the actual love interest, Tamlin. Whoops!

THAT SAID.

I *did* enjoy the writing and the ending.

And while those things aren't enough to prompt me to rate this thing any higher, **I AM going to read the second book.**

I trust my peeps and all of you are saying that, while the first book drags, the second book is "OMG amazeballs." And I have faith in ya'll.

Plus, I am getting it free from the library, so why not, no?

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## Wendy Darling says

**4.5 stars** Tamlin is going to set your loins aflame. Phew! My cheeks are still flushed.

I'm also fairly confident this book is going to help change the face of new adult fiction. How awesome to see gifted writers shaping non-contemporary stories that have the coming of age/youthful perspective and vibe of YA books and combine that with the freedom that writing for an older target audience affords them. If you liked the mood and romance of (the excellent) CRUEL BEAUTY but perhaps mourned the missed opportunities of such a seductive premise, ACOTAR more than satisfies. (view spoiler)

Plus stunning action and gorgeous imagery and interesting characters, including a fascinating anti-hero I'm looking forward to learning more about. Serious Darkling vibes, my friends.

Maybe more of a review closer to release. If I can calm my racing pulse before then.

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## Christine Riccio says

Really enjoyed this one! Here's my booktalk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pLYC...>

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### **Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says**

SPOILER FREE REVIEW: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsIs2...>

\*Reread April 2016

Took me centuries to reread this but it was worth it!

TEAM TAMLIN

THIS WAS FABULOUS

s j maas can do no wrong i swear to god

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### **Sasha Alsberg says**

wow. Just wow. Sarah has done it again! This book was amazing! The romance was borderline new adult which I loved but it was also greatly paced. The plot was so well thought out and executed as well. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND A COURT OF THORNS AND ROSES!

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### **Jesse (JesseTheReader) says**

This was a solid start to this new series! I'm really interested to see where things go. I did find a few things to be a bit questionable, but I can't say what they are because HELLO SPOILERS. I'll be doing a full review/discussion on this sooooooon!

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### **Zoë says**

This is definitely one of my favorite books of 2015!

I am a huge Beauty and the Beast fan and was in the mood for fantasy, so those combined and written by one of my favorite authors was perfection!

I definitely recommend this book to everyone and can't wait for the next installment.

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### **Raeleen Lemay says**

This book is the result of Bella Swan being thrown into a fantasy world and trying to be Katniss Everdeen. She did not succeed.

OK MORE REVIEW:

I genuinely really enjoyed some aspects of this book, but I couldn't stand Feyre, or Tamlin... or anybody really, except for Lucien. I feel like Lucien was the only character who had an interesting back story, and he was just a much better presence than either of the main characters.

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BUT THE INSTALOVE. THE INSTALOVE, GUYS. IT KILLS ME. Also verrrry problematic scenes, like when it was Feyre's fault for almost getting raped? can you not? "GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM FEYRE BEFORE I DO SOMETHING BAD TO YOU" wow whoa really not cool.

On top of all that, I just found the plot to be incredibly boring. I started getting interested around the 200-page mark, but then it all just went back to being uninteresting again. I know in a status update I said that the book was slow, but what I should have said is that it was boring, because there is a huge difference. A book can be fast-paced and still be boring, and vice versa. I LOVE SLOW-PACED BOOKS. Have you seen how much I loved The Name of the Wind and the Game of Thrones books? THOSE ARE SLOW. BUT NOT BORING. THIS WAS BORING.

That's how I felt anyway, it's my opinion. If you weren't bored by this book, that's awesome. However, I will never lie to you about my opinion. So here we are.

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### **Jillian (bookishandnerdy) says**

INITIAL REACTION: WILL UPDATE WITH REVIEW LATER BUT KNOW I LOVED THIS. IT KILLED ME AND BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE Y'ALL.

#### **A REVIEW IN GIFs :**

Me when I received the book:

When I started reading:

When Feyre was introduced:

When Tamlin as introduced:

FEYLIN/TAMEY:

LITERALLY ME WHENEVER THEY SPOKE TO/LOOKED AT EACH OTHER:

THE PLOT WAS BASICALLY EVERYTHING I WANTED IT WAS...

THEN THERE'S CHAPTER 27!!! AND I DIED SEVERAL TIMES

Amarantha,

Also Rhysand:

**(more like get off my SHIP, am I right??)**

Feyre's character development was ON POINT:

BASICALLY THIS WAS ME AFTER READING IT:

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### **Chelsea Humphrey says**

This was so much better the second time around. I found I wasn't so concerned about rushing through to get to the next book; since I already knew what happens I was able to savor the details and carve out a tiny piece of my heart for Tam Tam (but not really because duh). On to the next one!

3.5 STARS

I am 100% embarrassed by how much I loved this book. Everything in the Humphrey household is going awry so it was wonderful being able to escape in Feyre's exciting problems and leave my own behind. There is nothing of substance to the book; it is fluffy, cheesy, and has been done multiple times over before, yet somehow I STILL was completely sucked in and couldn't put it down. I ate it up like candy and am looking forward to picking up ACOMAF.

Holy cow I fell for Rhys so hard and WHY DO I ALWAYS LIKE THE ONE THAT THE GIRL NEVER PICKS?!?!?!?! I found myself utterly bored and despising the scenes with Feyre's father and sisters. I know they were necessary, but I almost put the book down as a DNF early on bc I could hardly get through those scenes. Not sure what else I can add that hasn't been said already a million times over, but this is a reheated "Beauty and the Beast" with side dishes of Cinderella and Twilight. (I'm still thinking about Thanksgiving food-sorry guys). I might hold off on the next book until a little closer to May so I'm not left hanging. My inner teenage fangirl is looking forward to gobbling up more delicious fluff.

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### **Lola says**

**A richly imagined fairy tale retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*!**

If you're a lover of retellings mingling romance, danger, faerie mystical creatures and a heroine that shows a significant deal of courage throughout, then this is one title you will not want to miss out and will very likely considerably enjoy.

The world-building is inventive and detailed. The different Courts of faeries are an element that adds great originality to this story. At first, A Court of Thorns and Roses might appear similar to plenty of fantasy books already written out there but, the further you read, the more you come to descry its ingenious lines shaping the well-known classic sprinkled with beautiful themes and... **sensuality**.

What was missing for me was action. I wanted more of it, as well as some adventure and deadly dangerous situations, which we do get, in the first chapters, but otherwise not until a good part of the novel. The pacing is quite slow, for the author chose to take her time building the relationship between Feyre, Tamlin, Lucien and even Alis, a servant. Surprisingly, there weren't as many characters as I expected. The world-building being focused on distinct Courts principally ruled by High Lords and dwelt by lesser faeries, I thought, deceptively so, that we were going to be introduced to so many of them!

I have to say that Sarah J. Maas' writing is compelling. While she could have moderated her descriptions of paintings, for there were many of them and relatively long ones, even those didn't bore me. Feyre, the heroine, is both a huntress and painter. Never have I seen this mix of skills before in one person. Her strength won't go unnoticed and neither will her dauntlessness. There were moments in the story when I felt the need to growl at her, for her difficulty to obey orders – even if for her own protection – was bewildering!

It's true what they say, Tamlin *will* make you swoon... \*wink\*

**Recommended to fans of Cruel Beauty, East and Beauty.**

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2016/06/29: Rating upped to 5 stars after second read.  
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Well, well, what do we have here?

**Original, amazingly looking cover? Check!**

“Tamlin—one of the lethal, immortal faeries who once ruled their world.”

**Fairies? Check!**

“treacherous magical land she only knows about from legends”

**Magic + alternative world + some mystery perhaps? Check!**

“her feelings for Tamlin transform from icy hostility into a fiery passion”

**Love/hate relationship that, because it's Sarah J. Maas, will blow our mind? Check!**

“But an ancient, wicked shadow over the faerie lands is growing, and Feyre must find a way to stop it ... or doom Tamlin—and his world—forever.”

**DANGER. Brave heroine? *CHECK CHECK CHECK!***

Basically, it has everything to look for in a fantasy.

Please, do not disappoint.

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