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A Forest Of Wolves (The Uprising)



Synopsis

Prague, 1610 – In a few short weeks seventeen-year-old Mila has gone from being Ludmila Novakova, pampered daughter of the High Chancellor of Bohemia, to becoming a traitor escaping the palace at midnight in her wedding nightgown. Her country is in chaos, an army is marching from Austria, and revolution is a breath away. – Mila is caught in the middle, between the man she loves – Marc, the son of a blacksmith and a leader of the rebellion – and the murderer the Church calls her husband. Even as she flees with Marc into the heart of the resistance, where the suspicions of angry citizens make her every palace-born habit a danger, she knows he hasn't told her everything. – But Mila is keeping the biggest secret herself: she is the heir to the throne, the daughter of embattled King Rudolf and Princess of Bohemia. The truth will turn the fury of both sides against her, leaving Mila alone to win her country's freedom – and her own . . . – “A realistic historical novel with a fairy-tale feel.” – School Library Journal

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

4.5 stars "I was walking in my mother's rebellious footsteps. I would finish what she started." This book starts right where the first one ended. We start with Mila being on the run with Marc and some of the protestant Rebels, as they try to get far away from the city in order to regroup. Once Mila and the rebels finally make it to where they will be staying we finally get to meet Marc's father and one of his Uncles. We see where Marc gets his kindness from and why he was chosen as the leader of the rebellion. Of course some of the people distrust Mila because of who she is and what she believes. "People are waiting for us there. Allies. Peasants. Protestants. Defectors of the Crown and the Catholic Church. It's the headquarters of the rebellion." Rebellion. This was it. I'd officially joined the Protestant rebellion. As Mila starts to get used to rebel life she is also expected to do household things in order to provide for herself and Marc so they have a nice place, but she doesn't know how to do any of these things. The person chosen to teach her is one she doesn't exactly have the best history with, but they make it work kind of and Mila starts to appreciate what she had, while still being determined to make it outside. "You seem like a nice girl, but remember, you're a long way from Prague Castle. Life is different out here. It's not safe. And the Crown isn't the only thing you should be worried about." Throughout all of this time though Mila is keeping a secret that will not only most likely get her killed, but one that could change the whole of Bohemia if she lives. "There was a difference in keeping my identity hidden for safety and keeping it hidden because I was embarrassed by who I was. I wouldn't be ashamed." When a present from the castle comes for Mila though, everything changes and the war has just begun. She starts to see what she has really done, and what her father is doing to the people of Prague in broad daylight now. With no one willing to stop him besides the protestants. "Now he could kill whomever he liked whenever he wanted. And the entire Kingdom of Bohemia, the Holy Roman Empire, the Hasburg dynasty, and the Catholic Church were behind him." Overall I enjoyed this one even more than the first one. I did still think Mila made some questionable decisions, but I can't say that I might not have made them as well given how sheltered she was in the castle and how much was hidden away from her until her eyes started to open and see what was truly happening around her. Mila grows so much in this book, and she really starts to understand the choices that she makes and the power that she has could change everything and will affect everyone. Not just the people around her, but the people in the whole country and maybe beyond. I can't wait to see what happens in the next book! (No idea if there will be one or not but it leaves everything open so I'm assuming there will be some sort of another part.) "How would I run a kingdom? What would I decide? Would I grant religious freedom or rule with an iron fist? Could

either side truly be happy? Or would they always be at war?"

A Forest of Wolves is the second book in the Uprising series by Chelsea Luna. In the first, *Lions in the Garden*, Mila found out that there was a plan for her to marry a baron almost three times her age so she decided to run away from the castle where she met Marc, the son of blacksmith and a Protestant. There was unrest between the Protestants and the Catholic led royal court with rumors of an uprising being planned. Now Mila is considered a traitor after escaping with Marc and the other Protestants. In hiding and on the run Mila has found out that the father she always knew was not her real father but the King himself so now Mila is threatened from both sides of the rebellion from her claim to the crown. I have really been enjoying this historical series. *A Forest of Wolves* brought me right back into the lives of Mila and Mark and even included enough details to remind me of just where the story had left off in the first book. I did however find this one seemed to take a bit of time to really get going in the story. There's a bit more of a love triangle-ish relationship trying to develop in this one but not sure just where that will go. I think maybe too because it's the middle book of the series the action seemed to slow down a bit as the story builds. But it did have an exciting cliffhanger ending to lead into the next book. Overall, 3.5 stars for this historical read. Excited to see how this series continues in the next installment. I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The Rebellion in Bohemia has begun and Mila is on the run with her beloved Marc. He rescued her from the castle and the clutches of her murderous husband (at least in the eyes of the Catholic Church), only to find herself in the midst of poverty and untrusting peasants. It's a harsh reality for Mila but this is only the beginning. A letter from Ludmila's mother reveals a shocking secret: she is the sole heir to the throne. She confides in Marc's brother (Henrick) and he promises to protect her with his life. Her friendship blossoms with Henrick and when Marc confronts her about it, she's torn. But everything comes crashing down when old enemies threaten everything Mila holds dear (including her life). Who cares about the future when you're in the fight of your life? While this is darker than *Lions in the Garden*, I understood why Luna set the tone of the book in bleary shades of grey. It's a revolution and Mila is at the heart of it. We get to feel her loneliness, isolation and grief. So much death, so much torture, so much blackness. The torture and graphic detail of beatings were a touch excessive for me. I had to skim over those scenes, so be forewarned. Luna did her research and history is bleeding from these pages. If I

didn't know any better, I'd say I was reading an autobiography. The war between Catholics and Protestants was one of the bloodiest in history yet many believers have no idea. I'm telling every Christian to read this book because it's that important. I loved the tenderness between Mila and the two brothers. There's an undercurrent that I hope Luna expands on in the next book. Yes, there's a book three and I can't wait to read it! I'm hooked on these characters and have to wait patiently for the next installment. Thank you to Netgalley and Lyrical Press (Kensington Books) for giving me a copy in exchange for my honest review. Favorite Quote: "It was officially hunting season on anyone who considered themselves to be a Protestant. The Crown was no longer doing their evil deeds in private; they were now blatantly displaying their hatred for all to see. We had finally reached a point at which both sides would not, and probably could not, turn back. The audacity of the warning infuriated the men. What did this person do other than be a Protestant that would warrant such a cruel death? Who would do such a thing? I could name a few." -Mila My Rating: 4 stars

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