

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

# The Queen's Assassin

Written by Melissa de la Cruz

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Published by PDF Site

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# The Queen's Assassin

By Melissa de la Cruz

## The Queen's Assassin Read Online

Caledon Holt is the Kingdom of Renovia's deadliest weapon. No one alive can best him in brawn or brains, which is why he's the Guild's most dangerous member and the Queen's one and only assassin. He's also bound to the Queen by an impossible vow--to find the missing Deian Scrolls, the fount of all magical history and knowledge, stolen years ago by a nefarious sect called the Aphrasians.

## The Queen's Assassin Pdf

Shadow has been training all her life to follow in the footsteps of her mother and aunts--to become skilled enough to join the ranks of the Guild. Though magic has been forbidden since the Aphrasian uprising, Shadow has been learning to control her powers in secret, hoping that one day she'll become an assassin as feared and revered as Caledon Holt.

## The Queen's Assassin By Melissa De La Cruz Pdf

When a surprise attack brings Shadow and Cal together, they're forced to team up as assassin and apprentice to hunt down a new sinister threat to Renovia. But as Cal and Shadow grow closer, they'll uncover a shocking web of lies and secrets that may destroy everything they hold dear. With war on the horizon and true love at risk, they'll stop at nothing to protect each other and their kingdom in this stunning first novel in the Queen's Secret series.

## The Queen's Assassin By Melissa De La Cruz Read Online

Perfect for fans of Sarah J. Maas and Red Queen, this is the first novel in a sweeping YA fantasy-romance duet about a deadly assassin, his mysterious apprentice, and the country they are sworn to protect from #1 NYT bestselling author Melissa de la Cruz.

just like every other YA fantasy that has the phrase the queens X in the title, this story feels recycled. its not terrible by any means, its just nothing new. this is perfect for those who really love this kind of story but, for me personally, its a bit old.

this also has a very juvenile feel to it. yes, this is YA, but YA can mature and complex. just because the target audience is teens does not mean a book needs simplistic storytelling, especially when the story is about an assassin! there is just like every other YA fantasy that has the phrase "the queens X" in the title, this story feels recycled. its not terrible by any means, its just nothing new. this is perfect for those who really love this kind of story but, for me personally, its a bit old.

this also has a very juvenile feel to it. yes, this is YA, but YA can mature and complex. just because the target audience is teens does not mean a book needs simplistic storytelling, especially when the story is about an assassin! there is literally only one scene where we see cal the assassin at work - his profession is completely glanced over/played down. and the overall tone of this is light and innocent - it completely contradicts what the story is about. i dont need tons of bloodshed, but more details about the life of an assassin isnt an unreasonable thing to want.

that being said, i did enjoy this. its a quick and easy read and i found myself rooting for the characters. for someone new to the genre and/or this kind of story, i think its perfect. but for someone like me, who has read countless of similar and more detailed books, it definitely on the mediocre side of things.

â† 3 stars ...more

## The Queen's Assassin Wiki

I'd rather say "Voldemort" a thousand times before reading one more book with the word "queen" in its' title.

I received this book from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Spoilers and swearing follow.

It has been a while since a book has earned a not-so-coveted position on my "wtf is this shit" shelf. However, this book earned it by around page 30. In fact, the only reason I didn't DNF this book was train wreck syndrome. A part of me kept hoping that it would get better. de la Cruz is such a prolific writer that this book can't be this bad is what I kept telling myself. Oh, my friends, it is that I received this book from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

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Let's talk about why this book is horrible, shall we?

1) It has ridiculously inconsistent characterization. Shadow acts one way for half the book, then she magically changes into like an entirely different person. No rhyme, no reason. Her personality just changes on whims. Cal, on the other hand, has zero personality. Even in the chapters he narrates, there's nothing. You could replace the character with a piece of wood and no one would notice the difference.

2) So, this book is told in alternating perspectives. Which I love. I love knowing how both (or multiple) characters are feeling or what they are thinking. What doesn't work is the fact that Shadow's chapters are told from first person POV and Cal's chapters are told from third person POV. It is very jarring to immerse yourself in one character's thoughts or feelings and then to turn the digital page and suddenly be referring to the character de chapitre by their damn name. Every time it happened, I was thrown out of my reading headspace and had to re-acclimate myself. And it happened a lot.

3) The huge plot twist at the end of the novel? Isn't a plot twist for anyone who's read a YA fantasy in the last 5 years. Also, comparing this book to Maas' work is an insult of the highest caliber.

4) The love story between Shadow and Cal just doesn't work. They have zero chemistry together. Honestly, the story would have been a lot better if it not be included and let these two be epic bffs or something.

5) There's just something off about the entire novel. The pacing is super weird; ridiculously fast in some spots and then maddeningly slow in others. There's random inserts of history and stories about Renovia in the middle of the novel that really throw off the pace (really, de la Cruz, you couldn't have figured out a better way to work those in?).

This book just doesn't work. I know I'm one of the first negative reviews on this book as it doesn't get published for another 6 months, but I know I won't be the last. Look, I love cheesy YA fantasy/love stories. But there are better ones out there. Save yourself the headache and stay far, far away from this one. ...more



## The Queen's Assassin Amazon

1.5 stars

Fantasy novels come in all different types. If you've read enough, then you know which ones stand out and which ones are basic as hell with no substance. The Queen's Assassin is one of the basic ones.

From the beginning to the end, The Queen's Assassin read like a basic fantasy novel with little to no intrigue on the world, characters, and plot progression. The potential was there from the beginning to be a somewhat decent fantast novel, but the more I progressed with the story, the more 1.5 stars

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The Queen's Assassin takes place in a world where magic was taken by a group who hoarded the magic of the land and caused several disputes in the kingdom. Several years later, fragments of the group are still around and have ulterior motives for the next queen. Our two protagonists, Shadow and Cal, are caught up in a whirlwind of magic and conspiracies.

All of that sounds good on paper, it's the execution of if that was done poorly. Half the time I didn't know if this wanted to be a romance story or a fantasy story. Couple that with Melissa's constant need to add extravagant moments, the plot was lost.

There is a plot that involves a lot of political conspiracy involving magic and matricide. But that is put on the backburner in favor of Shadow's and Cal's "relationship." It honestly felt like I was reading two different stories at once. One that has magic and intrigue while the other is a romance. A romance, I might add, that has no chemistry.

Shadow as a character was all over the place. One minute she's acting like this the next her emotions and thoughts are completely different than that of who she is. The constant changes in her mood and thoughts made her a rather dull and annoying character. Then there's Cal and all I can say about this guy is that he's boring as hell.

With these two boring characters comes a romance that is about as romantic as watching a fish rot in the sun. There's no chemistry between them, they spend most of the 2nd half of the book bickering.

## The Queen's Assassin

One thing I notice in a lot of Melissa's books is that she has the need to write extravagant parties. From her Blue Blood series to The Birthday Girl, extravagance is always a reoccurring thing in her books. She can't go one book without there being an expensive party that could literally pay two years' worth of rent when I was living out of town for college. What I found irritating about this is that when Melissa writes these types of scenes, she goes so much into it that the plot is almost forgotten until something or someone brings it up. Enough with the extravagance.

There's something I should mention about the plot as well. Aside from being boring, it's also forgettable that if you were to put it down for a day, you would most likely forget what happened in the last 50 pages. I'll give you a perfect example. I've been playing Fire Emblem Three Houses for a good while and recently, a DLC was released for it and it was around that time I was reading The Queen's Assassin. I played who knows how much of FE3H that when I went back to read, I forgot what the hell happened. Thankfully I remembered, but if a book does not capture my interest long after I've read it, then there's something wrong with how the plot was presented.

Will I be continuing the series? Maybe. If I can get my hands on the audiobook of the next book, then I can try to get through it. It's only a duology so it should be easy to finish.

The Queen's Assassin is basic as hell. That's the only way to describe everything about this book. Basic. ...more

3.5/5 â••

"Of course", Cal's father would say, "this is just a story, and stories are always a little bit true and a little bit false; we just don't know which is which."

Thank you so much to PRH International for providing me with a free ARC of this book in exchange for an honest opinion!

When I read this book contained assassins and royals, I knew it would be one made for me. And it really was. This was my first book by Melissa de la Cruz and I really enjoyed reading this story although I have 3.5/5 â••

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tend to do. It did not however take away my enjoyment for this story.

The Queen's Assassin follows Cal and Shadow using two different POV for the narration. Whereas Shadow's voice could be followed with the first person POV, Cal used the third person POV and I really liked this aspect. It brought a little bit of originality to the writing. We are introduced to Shadow, an girl thirsting for adventure who accidentally gets lost in a forbidden place. After nearly getting killed by a traitor of the crown, Shadow is saved by none other than the infamous Queen's Assassin, Caledon "Cal" Holt. Shadow runs away before he could recognize her and when she hears Cal gets imprisoned for a terrible crime, she decides she will go to his rescue and become his apprentice.

I do have one little criticism to do and it's that we are told repetitively that Cal (who quickly became one of my favorites) is the deadliest assassin in the kingdom, I thought we didn't see it enough and the book lacked hardcore action or that some of it was brushed off a little bit too fast. I would have liked to see more brawls and more assassin activities but I still have high hopes for that with the next book. That ending quite literally killed me. I need book two now!

Shadow was a very interesting character. She is reckless and her following her train of thoughts was a really fun adventure. I liked her determination to have what she wants, and trust me, she knows exactly what she wants. Cal, as I said, was my favorite in this book. The both of them have a purpose they want to achieve until they realize there may be more between them than they realized. I really liked reading their banter and seeing their evolution around each other.

Plotwise, I really liked the idea behind the whole story. I don't think I can say more than this as I could quickly enter spoiler-zone so you will have to see it for yourself. The pace was both slow and fast at times, which could be a bit disconcerting as I mentioned earlier but it did not alter my enjoyment of the book.

To conclude, if you like royals, secrets and assassins, then this is definitely one for you. There were quite a bunch of twists in this book and the relationship between the characters was truly interesting and made me root for them really hard, even more than I actually realized.

Can I have book 2 now please?

My Bookstagram [...more](#)

## The Queen's Assassin Synopsis

There are a few spoilers in this review, but it's probably better than taking the time to read this book...and I can't even be sorry.

Giving this book a 2 instead of a 1 for casual inclusion of LGBTQ characters in positive relationships. Otherwise, this book was something else.

I'm shocked it's being published in 2020; this kind of book should have been left in 2012, when YA was still finding its feet.

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Shadow is a young noblewoman (I think? It's implied that she has to go live at Court and eventually marry someone, but it's never clearly explained), but all she wants is to be a member of the Hearth-something Guild, which I believe is a network of spies/assassins working for the Queen of Renovia (again, I think? There were a lot of big names being tossed around, it was so hard to keep track of them). When Cal Holt (between this and "Shadow" the naming system of this book confused me) is arrested and poses as a prisoner after assassinating a traitor to the throne (given that Cal is the Queen's ASSASSIN, it was very confusing as to \*why\* he would be punished for doing his job, especially given that this is the only time throughout the book that he actually does his job), Shadow breaks him out of prison and poses as an apprentice sent by the queen.

So, Caledon and Shadow set out to the land of Montrice (the capital of which is called Mont for reasons I cannot comprehend) to...I honestly can't remember at this point. I think they were trying to uncover a secret plot against the crown? Maybe. Here's the first problem with this book: There are TOO many things going on. There are evil monks who want magic and also want to depose of Queen Lilliana and her family, but Queen Lilliana is actually of Dellefiora (or something, and I have no idea what that's supposed to mean to me); Shadow and Cal are assassins but they spend the entire book being "spies" (quotation marks included because all they do is attend parties and hunts and the "spying" activity consists of them breaking into one (1) office); Shadow has every power under the sun, I guess; Cal is also trying to retrieve from Scrolls that were taken from the queen he serves and she needs them back so desperately that she made his father swear a blood vow that he would retrieve them, but Cal's father died so the vow passed to him? Again, this book is trying too hard to being so many things and in the end it accomplishes none of its goals.

Readers are expected to believe that Shadow is the Coolest because she is Different from other girls,

## The Queen's Assassin

and this means that she is apparently a very skilled fighter, spy, and mage, and also she isn't aware that she's beautiful and all of the boys want to dance with her. There was a time and a place for this kind of character, and I think it's safe to say we're all grateful that we left this Mary Sue trope behind for the most part. Unfortunately, this book seeks to bring that trope back. It goes a step further by declaring that Shadow is *actually* Crown Princess Lilac in addition to being a martial artist/mage/spy. It all comes across as extremely manipulative of the reader, given that Shadow spends the entire novel knowing that she's the princess, and while there are supposedly "clues," they're so quick to be brushed over that they get lost amongst the millions of plotlines that appear once before being dropped (shapeshifters, evil monks, scrolls, spying, there are witches suddenly, magic is gone but some people still have it, etc.). The twist seemed to think it was much smarter than it actually is, and I didn't see it coming from a mile away because Shadow's only redeeming feature was that she wasn't royalty.

Additionally, there was absolutely no personality for me to get attached to, nor did there appear to be any character development beyond her new love/attraction for Cal. The title implies that there would be some assassinations occurring throughout the novel, therefore opening the door to Shadow's struggle with morality, but the title is incredibly misleading because neither the Queen's Assassin NOR his apprentice actually do any assassinating.

The same can be said for Cal; I had absolutely no reason to care about him. In fact, I began to hate him, not only because of the use of third person present for his POV (I've never seen it in a book before, and I hope to never see it again, it was completely jarring), but also because of his consistent (disgusting) internal commentary about women's bodies, and how much he dislikes women (but not their bodies) unless they're Shadow, whom he frequently alludes to wanting to impregnate. He waxes poetic about Shadow (mostly her physical features, mind you), but is disgusted by the advances of the duchess, even though he reciprocates her flirtation. Both he and Shadow frequently refer to the duchess as "dumb" or "stupid," yet they spend perhaps half the book in her home.

I have NO idea why they were there in the first place, or what they were attempting to uncover, only that they eventually deduced that the duke was evil. We received a quickie explanation as to how this fits into the novel's beginning, with Cal murdering the traitorous crown prince, but not only is it an info dump that fails to clear up the 42852389 questions I still had, it doesn't explain why we spent so much of the novel being dragged through chapters and chapters of absolutely no plot. That's maybe my main gripe with the novel. The pacing is so incredibly off; mass reveals take up approximately 2 lines, but you could skip about 70 pages at a time and all you would've missed is Shadow and Cal pining for each other and lacking any semblance of communication skills, therefore sending them into the predictable (and horrible) pit of YA angst that most authors are trying to distance themselves from, on account that it's a complete snore-fest and actually insulting to teenagers (who, arguably, never know what they're doing at any given time).

The book also suffered from the perplexing addition of the laziest form of plot and world-building: journal entries from however long ago. The only time I've ever seen journal entries actually work in a manner that isn't contrived and lazy is in Claire Legrand's FURYBORN, as they're short snippets that

## The Queen's Assassin

allow for a greater understanding of the culture and tone of the world. TQA, however, plopped journal entries into the book as an introduction and, later, explanation of events that never fully connected with the plot at hand (although I never really knew what that was in the first place).

Another gripe I have: this book is fantasy romance. There is little substance beyond the romance, and even that is dry as plaster. But I am shocked by the aspect of familial romance. Cal and Shadow show up in Mont and pretend to be siblings (which is a very, very strange cover to assume when it's been clear since I read the synopsis that they're attracted to each other). This leads to a lot of awkward moments in which the court beholds a romantic moment between what they presume to be siblings, which Cal and Shadow laugh off at all times. Does it not make them uncomfortable that everyone *\*thinks\** they're siblings, and they're acting like horny kids whose parents aren't home? The only saving grace is that Cal and Shadow aren't actually related--or so I thought. At the end of the book, Shadow/Lilac drops this piece of information: "My aunt Mesha is your mother's younger sister." ???! Do I...do I need to even comment on this? This is a completely unnecessary addition to this book, and it only makes the "romance" between Cal and Shadow more cringey. (But it gets better). At the end of the book, Lilac aka Shadow finds herself engaged to a king, but she tells Cal that he could be her consort. This is a man who, supposedly, wants nothing more than to be free of nobility and to have a family of his own. Shadow is supposed to know this because she knows him because, mind you, they're in love. Cal leaves, because he's too good to be a queen's consort, he speaks with a person who is supposed to be dead (no, we don't get an explanation about how they've come back), who informs Cal that the Big Baddy actually isn't dead. Cal and this character leave to seemingly hunt the Big Baddy.

We flash forward a few months, and Lilac is moping around her castle, having married the king (but never actually consummated the marriage, which again confuses me - the king was described as being very attracted to Lilac? Would he not want to consummate the marriage? To be consensual, would he not want to at least attempt to woo his wife? Do they not understand that as monarchs they ARE expected to have heirs for the sake of their country?), when she hears a knock on the door that was supposed to belong to her consort. It is undeniably Cal, given Lilac's reaction and her declaration that this room is to be known as "The Queen's Secret." Which begs a million more questions, all of which go unanswered. If this is supposed to be a duology, I'm confused, because even though we're left with 6436783867845 questions, the end seems very much like a cold, hard conclusion????

Ultimately, no, I will not be recommending this book to anyone ...more

"Bound by fate, broken by love"

\*2.5 stars\*

ARC given to me by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

### Summary

Shadow has been raised to follow in the footsteps of her mother and aunt and become a high ranking member of the Guild. Cal is bound by a blood vow to the Queen, and must serve as her assassin until

The Queen's Assassin

his father's promise to return the Deain Scrolls is fulfilled. After a surprised attack, Shadow and Cal are brought together and must head out to hunt down a new threat to their "Bound by fate, broken by love"

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### Review

I wanted so, so badly to love this one. It has so many elements that I typically go for - assassins, royals, the sharing one bed trope, forbidden love. But it just fell flat for me in so many ways and was really disappointing.

The writing style was jarring. When reading from Shadow's perspective, it was first person present. Then when we read from Cal's perspective, it was third person past. This really threw me off, and didn't seem to serve a purpose to the story.

Do you ever read a book and just feel like.....it's only surface level? I was reading about what was happening, but it wasn't backed up by the characters behaving in that way, or previous world building, or anything. I felt like I was just being told what happened, and there was not previous groundwork being laid to logically lead to that conclusion. (view spoiler)[For example, we were told at the end of the novel that Duchess Girt was a witch, even though she had just been flirting with Cal the whole novel and we never even got a HINT or any sort of behavior that would lead to that conclusion. (hide spoiler)] The romance too just.....was insta love exemplified. There was no interactions that really led me to believe that these two characters were actually in love and willing to risk it all for each other.

In conclusion, I felt like the bones of a good novel were there, but the story was truly not fleshed out enough to make it enjoyable. ...more

The Queen's Assassin

## The Queen's Assassin Description

Rtc pleased tell me there'll be more!

I've been burned by this author a few times so here's just hoping she actually finishes this newest series ;P



# The Queen's Assassin Shadow

## THAT COVER

The Queen's Assassin is a story portraying loyalty, commitment, love and what lengths one will go through to keep those values alive. This theme takes form across multiple different characters throughout the journey of the book. The plot had multiple layers, which kept me interested in the story and the main characters were likable. The book was written alternating between perspectives but kept it easy to follow. There were several twists in the plot, some were easy to predict but the big twist was quite the surprise.

One thing that I really appreciated about this book was that Cruz gave the main girl a purpose beyond fulfilling what her "role" or "duty" to her kingdom was. The girl thrives for more than just being a beautiful princess and I think that is an important message to convey to the young adult community. In the same breath, I could have used a little less of the romance component because I wanted this to be more about defying her role than anything.

This book is kicking off a new series so the ending does leave you wanting a little more, but that is to be expected.

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