



# The Little Queen

*Meia Geddes*

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When her mother and father pass away, the little queen must figure out how to be a little queen. And so she begins her adventures, journeying away from her palace and into the world to determine how she should go about going on. The little queen soon encounters numerous folks who teach her a thing or two: the book sniffer, the dream writer, and the architect of silence are just a few. Along the way, the little queen finds friendship, love, and meaning in being a leader in her world. *The Little Queen* is a magical exploration of self-discovery, vocation, community, and home.

## The Little Queen Details

Date : Published August 1st 2017 by Poetose Press

ISBN : 9781945366666

Author : Meia Geddes

Format : Paperback 110 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Little Queen for online ebook

### Kelly says

DNF at 44%.

Once upon a time there was a little princess who became a little queen when both her parents died unexpectedly. Grieving, lost, and confused, the little queen decides to embark upon a great adventure, traveling the world to learn more about her subjects - and perhaps persuade one of them to take her place. She is not quite sure what a queen does, but whatever it is, she does not think it for her. And so she comes to meet the book sniffer, the dream writer, the sawyer, and the foreshadowing artist, and ... well, I'm not sure what happens next, because I gave up right around this point.

It's not that *The Little Queen* is a bad book. The writing is lyrical and whimsical and has a dreamlike quality to it. I like the idea of a little queen getting out there and doing her thing, and I love that all the people she meets - from architects to librarians to artists - are women. And the various occupations are pretty darned creative. But.

I had a hard time determining the intended audience for this book. The style of writing makes it feel like a kids' fairy tale, yet there are a fair number of Jeopardy words sprinkled throughout. It feels quite young, until it doesn't.

Perhaps more importantly, I simply couldn't get invested in the story. There isn't much plot to speak of, and the little queen as a character is one-dimensional. I just didn't care about her much, one way or the other.

That said, I notice that several reviewers have marked this as a f/f fairy tale, so perhaps it's worth a second look.

*(Full disclosure: I received a free electronic ARC for review through NetGalley.)*

<http://www.easyvegan.info/2017/08/07/...>

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### Emily says

When The Little Queen loses her parents, she becomes The Little Queen. But she's not sure how to be the Little Queen or even if she wants to be. So leaves her palace and goes on an adventure to see what she can learn from other people.

This is the story of how a little girl finds herself, finds love, and grows into a woman. It was highly allegorical, told almost like a fairy tale. Definitely not your typical YA novel. I never felt connected to the thoughts and emotions of the main character; she seemed distant, like watching from a tower rather than walking with someone. It worked for this story, but I prefer to have a stronger connection between myself and the main character. The language of the book is simple, and the book is short, making it seem more like a middlegrade novel. But I'm not sure that middlegrade readers would be able to understand all the allegorical elements. I'm not even sure I caught every hidden meaning.

Almost the entire story is allegorical. There is a little girl who is a little queen who goes on a literal journey to discover who she is. All the people she meets are not called by their names but by their professions - weird

professions like The Book Sniffer and The Dream Writer. Each woman The Little Queen meets has a profession they chose and are passionate about, and The Little Queen learns from each of them and to value each of their interests. She also learns about grief, love, and caring for others. She overcomes her insecurities and finds confidence in herself and her profession. This book was clearly intended to teach readers the same things The Little Queen learns, through story.

It was difficult to figure out the genders of the characters since their names were never mentioned, but I don't remember any male characters except The Little Queen's deceased father. Everyone was female, including the person The Little Queen fell in love with and married. As important as I believe it is for women to interact with and teach other women, I believe there needs to be somewhat of a balance of genders. I did not like that there were no living, active men in this story.

I enjoyed this story somewhat because of the innocence, the positive message, and the simple, fairytale feel. But I did not like how the author's message took over the story, how All the characters were female, and how disconnected I felt from the characters. I doubt I will recommend it to my friends irl.

I received a complementary copy of this book. All opinions are my own, and I did not receive compensation for writing this review.

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## Joseph says

The Little Queen by Meia Geddes is the author's second book. Geddes is also an artist, folding intricate paper cranes. She sometimes binds her own little booklets complete with her own watercolor birds. Her previous book Love Letters to the World is a collection of lyrical letters written as poetry. Geddes is also working her way to becoming a world-class librarian.

I usually don't read contemporary fiction, especially if it is written as a fable (think children's story). Fables seemed to be a major source of the stories I heard when I was growing up. These relatively short stories held the reader's (or more importantly the read to's) attention and presented a moral or lesson at the end of the story. I haven't seen many new versions of these stories since my childhood. They seem to have fallen out of favor to video and interactive media.

Geddes brings back the magic of storytelling with The Little Queen. A young princess suddenly finds herself ascended to the rank of queen after losing her parents. In an attempt to find herself, or trade her position of queen for something she can understand, she goes on a journey. Her journey introduces her a variety of people who would have typically have been wood cutters and candle makers in the past. The people she meets have received creative updates in job titles and descriptions. Each offers a bit of advice or discovery to the Little Queen and as in all fables, the young queen also finds love which develops in a very innocent manner.

The Little Queen is a charming and likable story. It is well written, and Geddes shows her cleverness and imagination in the storytelling. This fable is also wonderfully illustrated by Sara Zieve Miller. Although it is not my usual reading, I enjoyed it very much. It is rare that something outside of my normal reading holds my attention like The Little Queen. Extremely well done.

Available August 1, 2017

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## **Madalyn (Novel Ink) says**

This review originally appeared on Novel Ink.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

I hadn't previously heard much about *The Little Queen*, but I stumbled across it during one of my Netgalley requesting sprees recently (come on, you know you've gone on those) and saw that many of my friends had read it. I discovered an adorable, fluffy novella that also wove in some deeper themes. Head up, this is probably going to be a short review, because 1.) it's a short book (~100 pages), and 2.) this book is whimsical to the point that it makes it almost impossible to describe.

Netgalley classifies *The Little Queen* as poetry, which I... don't understand. While the prose is incredibly lyrical and lovely, it's decidedly still prose. Also, I'm having a crisis trying to classify the age range of this book. I believe both Goodreads and Netgalley list it as YA, but it reads in the style of a children's fairytale and contains the whimsy of a middle grade novel. Regardless, I think it does have some crossover appeal for YA readers who don't normally pick up middle grade books, and vice versa.

The story follows the titular character, the little queen, immediately following the death of her parents (it wouldn't be a fairytale without dead parents. sigh.). She sets out to see the world, get to know people who live differently than she does, and hopefully find her purpose in the process. She meets a fascinating array of characters throughout her journey, each of whom teaches her something she takes back to her kingdom with her. She also finds love along the way— *The Little Queen* features an adorable, innocent f/f romance, which, as you can imagine, warmed my lil queer heart. Though on a surface level this book reads like a children's story, it deals with some heavier topics like processing grief, becoming your own person, and the way that the people we meet throughout our lives shape us irrevocably as people. These themes were subtly woven into the narrative. Overall, I think this was a cleverly written book.

Another thing I enjoyed: in addition to the f/f romance, all of the characters the little queen meets are women! Literally, every single one of them (except the little queen's father, who is only briefly mentioned). I also loved the illustrations, done by Sara Zieve Miller— the writing conjures vivid imagery, so I enjoyed seeing these images on the page in illustration form.

Ultimately, though I found *The Little Queen* enjoyable, I think it just didn't explore the deeper themes that were touched on thoroughly enough. It felt pretty frivolous at times. I also don't do well with ultra-whimsical books like this one, which is not this book's fault. Just a personal preference.

Overall, though, I'd recommend this novella to anyone looking for a quick, fairytale-like read that incorporates lots of diversity!

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## **Maé (readwithmae) says**

I was provided a copy through Net Galley in exchange of an honest review.

This was a quick and absolutely delightful read. We follow the adventures of a little queen who just lost her parents and don't know how to be a little queen.

This is a story about self-discovery, friendship, grief, love, and everything that makes us human. The poetic writing kind of reminded me of *The Little Prince*, stating deep thoughts about humans, relationship, life etc

through simple sentences. The writing was absolutely amazing.  
This is the kind of book that sets you in a good and philosophical mood.  
Also I was greatly surprised to find an f/f romance! It is finally time that we include queer relationships in children books.  
I highly recommend this book.

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### **Karina says**

Rating: 4.5 Stars: ★★★★★ 1/2

The Little Queen reads very much like a timeless fairy tale~ The writing is simple, but delivers magic & wonder with each page~

This was a beautifully written +feminist/female-driven & diverse fantasy novella!

We follow The Little Queen as she travels across her kingdom when she finds herself unsure of whether she can even be a queen! Along the way she meets new friends & learns more about life, her world, and where she is meant to be!

There's also an f/f romance that develops near the end which was written so beautifully~

The plot itself was really unexpected, because along the way you are transported into this fantasy kingdom and meet so many unique characters along the way!

This is also a very female driven tale! With practically an all-female cast, there are many women the Little Queen encounters who have some sort of magical ability or talent that contributes to some aspect of the Little Queen's world/community~

As mentioned above, the magical and fantasy elements, while present, are delivered in a way where its read in a very subtle/quiet but enchanting way! Where you could practically sense the magic through the page! I loved that about this novella so much!

Additionally, the writing itself is simple, but so descriptive which not only transports you, but really gives this novella the feel of a classic and timeless fairy tale. I honestly would love more books from the Little Queen's world, there were many moments reading this novella where I could just picture the vastness of the world.

My only minor issue was that the ending did feel a bit rushed~

Female-driven, lush writing, immersive storytelling, we follow a young queen's journey as she finds out more about herself and what it means to be queen. The Little Queen is a delightful novella which reads very much like a timeless fairy-tale!

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### **Siavahda says**

Well, that was beautifully, dreamily weird.

In the simplest of terms, this is a story about a Little Queen who wanders her kingdom - and the world - after her parents die, in order to learn what it actually *means* to be a Little Queen.

But as a summary, that really does the book no justice. The Little Queen - who is never named - meets such people as the Tree Masseuse and the Book Shouter; she travels around the world with a woman made of string, and falls in love with the Digital Sounds Collector. Everyone she meets is engaged in some beautiful, odd - career? Hobby? Calling? There are Fish Rescuers and Sleep Soothers and Dream Writers, Plant Whisperers and Season Painters and Animal Singers, all of them women and all of them with something to say about some aspect of life or humanity, about joy and being yourself and figuring out who that *is*. It's not so much a fairytale - because it doesn't really have a clear plot until the very end - as a happy, unhurried wander through the weird and wonderful. It's a book to read when it's raining outside or you're curling up to sleep; I can imagine reading it as a bedtime story to anyone of any age. It's a book without *pressure*; there's no unstoppable drive, no action or plot as such, nothing that has you frantically turning pages to find out what happens next. It's so much gentler than that, slow and dreamy, inviting you along to write poems on rose petals or build houses out of books and colours.

I'm sure that in the wrong hands, this book could be called boring, aimless, or badly bizarre. But the right reader will find it a small and exquisite treasure that will stay with you long after the final page, and I for one am very happy it found its way to me.

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### **Keira says**

The Little Queen is a slightly confusing, but rather brilliant story about a little Queen who is left to rule the country and goes on a journey travelling throughout the world she lives in where she meets a variety of people from people who walk all the way around the planet to people who make windows and she questions who and what she wants to be. Not only does the character go on an actual journey, but she makes a personal and emotional journey throughout and Meia Geddes' lyrical writing style makes the short book a very enjoyable read.

I would definitely recommend for people who are a fan of magical realism and more flowery writing!

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### **Olivia Chanel's Galaxy of Books says**

*Thank you, Poetose Press and NetGalley, for my eARC of The Little Queen. I really appreciate the chance to read and review it early.*

The Little Queen by Meia Geddes starts with two simple sentences that lay the basis for the entire story: "*On a little world, upon a little hill, a little tear fell down a little face. A little girl was now a little queen.*" The story follows a little queen who lost her parents and is now trying to figure out how she can be a little queen, and if it's something she can be. She is filled with insecurities and a bit of sadness too. To figure it all out, the little queen goes on several adventures and meets a lot of different women that teach her lessons about life and about who she is. Along the way, she even falls in love with a girl.

*"Each of them admired the other's ears and eyes and smiles, and in that moment both of them knew that they had fallen in love."*

The Little Queen is a book I truly want everyone to read. It is basically the sapphic fairytale everyone deserves in their life. Not only is the story suitable for everyone, both young people and the old, it is also a story I feel will bring light and warmth to everyone who reads it. The story is simple, pure and just beautiful. The Little Queen is a novella, unlike anything I have read before which is also why I fell in love with it. I can

with confidence recommend it to everyone who likes fantasy books, to people who love it when a book reads like a fairytale and to everyone who loves a story that is both unique and adorable. The Little Queen is the fairytale we all deserve, one written by a woman of color and is about girls loving other girls. Meia Geddes is definitely on my radar from now on. I want to buy a physical copy of this book just so that I can read it to my children one day if I were to have them.

*"When the little queen moved her hands through air and earth and swung her legs forward in long, steady strides, she felt a tingling. Lying in fields, she looked up at the sky and thought how the clouds looked like clusters of stars and how the stars looked like tiny suns."*

I love The Little Queen, the writing is both beautiful and lyrical and the book itself explores topics revolving who and what we are, where we belong in the world, and where we want to go. Moreover, when The Little Queen goes on a journey of self-discovery and love, you find yourself doing the same. The book is feminist and filled with strong women so sure of themselves and I think no matter your age or preferred genre, this book has something to give to everyone. **Don't miss it when The Little Queen by Meia Geddes comes out August 1, 2017.**

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### **Silvana [The Book Voyagers] says**

I was really intrigued by this though Netgalley marketed it as poetry which technically it is not? Still the writing is lyrical and has so many metas you will fall in love.

The Little Queen is about the little queen thinking she doesn't know how to be a queen in her kingdom, so she sets on an adventure throughout the world to meet new people. She grows from these encounters and learns so many new things. She finds many friendships and even love. I want to shout because I didn't know this was F/F? And IT'S AMAZING. The relationship is so cute and simple and just \*sighs in love\* you all.

Written by an author of color, I will recommend you all to support Meia! It's a short story where you will find that your time spent on this will be so worth it. You'll find beautiful art inside that will help you see how the little queen sees around herself. Plus I love the fact that throughout all her journey, the little queen meets female characters so I would like to think that it's a world where only-woman kingdoms exist and that's fabulous.

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### **Mona says**

I really loved this book! It's a very quick read but so beautifully written.

I'll write a more detailed review on my blog very soon!

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### **thai says**

Bless this cute f/f fairytale with incredible writing, so light and too adorable to handle. The world needs more books like this.

The Little Queen follows the little queen after she loses her parents and finds herself as the new queen of her kingdom. But she's unsure of herself, not confident she can fill that position, so she starts a journey to help her be a better little queen. In the road she finds more than what she wished for; new friends, love, cultures... it's enchanting to read.

This storytelling is so lyric and beautiful. It has that fable feel that I haven't read in a really long time, plus with some adorable art to illustrate the little queen's adventures. It's different from what I was expecting but that just made me enjoy it that much more.

*I received this book via NetGalley in return for an honest review.*

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## Catherine ? says

\*Thank you to Poetose Press and NetGalley for an eARC of this book. This review is my full and honest opinion.\*

**Actual Rating:** 4

*This book was so precious.*

Growing up, I listened to the same fairy tales as everyone else - Cinderella and Aladdin and The Sleeping Beauty - but they were never my favorites. My favorite was *The Light Princess*, a Scottish story about a princess who was cursed to be unaffected by gravity.

For some reason, this book brought me back - way back - to my childhood days, and *The Little Queen* had the same sort of nostalgia and sparkling innocence that fairy tales typically have. But it did feel more than that.

Something about this book also reminded me a bit of *The Little Prince* (and I'm sure it's not just the title). But both stories had a main character who looked at the world with a wondrous curiosity, and as a reader it was impossible to not feel the same warmth.

The writing was lyrical and beautiful, and the sketches in the book definitely added to the cozy atmosphere. This is definitely a book I think people of all ages could enjoy. I'll remember to read it to my own children fifteen years from now - and maybe it'll become *their* favorite.

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## Rie says

The Little Queen is one of the most beautiful books I have read this year. It also has a half-chapter turn on a poop joke. This dichotomy is one of the reasons I love it so much.

To start, we have a little queen, who loses her parents and sets out to find out who she is, what she's about, and how, in fact, to be a little queen. She learns much about being just about everyone else in the world--book sniffers, season painters, animal singers and other curious folks--but still, in the end, does not know how to be a little queen. Along the way, she circles the world, falls in love, and discovers, in fact, what all the folk of her little world are meant to do.

Geddes has such an original, poetic way of writing--phrases and ideas circle back on each others, weaving like song, and full of wistful ideas that unfold in second and third readings. The story is a poetic fairy tale for the ageless, in the tradition of *The Man With The Dancing Eyes* *The Man with Dancing Eyes* and *The Size of the World* *The Size of the World*, and ends with two women in love and making the little world a better place--what could be more delightful? With heart and soul, in a whimsical world come alive with art and philosophy (and with beautiful airy illustrations by Sara Zieve Miller), *The Little Queen* is a gorgeous read.

ARC received from NetGalley in return for an honest review. Review also appears on my blog, : *Friend of Dorothy Wilde*

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### **Lucille says**

[4,5/5 That was wonderful!!!!]

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