



## The King's Equal

*Katherine Paterson , Vladimir Vagin (Illustrator)*

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**The King's Equal** Katherine Paterson , Vladimir Vagin (Illustrator)

A dying king makes his son his heir — on one condition: the vain Prince Raphael must marry a woman who is his equal in beauty, intelligence, and wealth. A search throughout the kingdom appears to be fruitless until the lovely Rosamund appears at the palace. She is intelligent and wealthy, as well as beautiful — certainly his equal, Raphael thinks. But what does the mysterious Rosamund think?

## The King's Equal Details

Date : Published September 1st 1992 by HarperCollins Publishers (first published January 1st 1992)

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Author : Katherine Paterson , Vladimir Vagin (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review The King's Equal for online ebook

### **Karen says**

The kids and I enjoyed this one. A short story but they wouldn't go to bed until we finished, ha :) Lot's of comments and thought provoking things in this book to talk about...krb 2/2/18

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### **Roya says**

My mom first read this to us when we were waiting in a restaurant. I ended up being more excited about the ending than dinner, which when you're that young, is a sure sign of a good book. Highly recommend. Extra points for the beautiful illustrations.

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### **Adelle says**

A lesson on humility, taught by the king to his son, who will one day inherit. A great example of how someone in a leadership position can influence an heir to be a great leader.

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### **Anna Murdock says**

I read this to Lydia. It is a really short, nice little Fairy Tale.

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### **Lisa says**

Sweet fairy tale. Quick read. Good read aloud for 2nd and 3rd graders.

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### **Sara says**

They made the arrogant king take care of goats! Hooray!

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### **Loralee says**

Short and sweet, we listened to it twice back to back and loved it.

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## **Kayla says**

We really enjoyed this newer fairy tale and the illustrations.

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## **Erin says**

This story is a sweet fairy tale. It is a quick and easy read (took me about half an hour while running between different errands with lots of starts and stops) about a selfish and arrogant prince whose dying father blessed him to inherit the crown to the kingdom only when he finds his equal in wealth, beauty, and intelligence.

At the same time Rosamund, a poor but kind shepherdess, finds out that she has been blessed to be a king's equal. Can she convince Prince Raphael of that fact and help right the wrongs his selfishness has wreaked upon the kingdom she loves?

I made some connections to different parts of the Bible with the story, such as the prodigal son, patriarchs blessing their sons before death, and, most of all, the Widow of Zarephath. I don't know if those allusions were deliberate or not. Most of all though, this reads like a fairy tale. This story could have been passed down through the ages, rather than authored in recent years. The tone and style fit a fairy tale perfectly in that way. And who doesn't love a good fairy tale?

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## **LMS says**

This beautiful fairy tale tells the story of a woman who is wise enough to be content with having very little, brave enough to stand before the arrogant prince in order to save her country, and compassionate enough to take pity on him.

**Reviewed for Exodus Books.**

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## **Betsy says**

A lovely little fairy tale. Short and good for beginning chapter book readers.

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## **Josiah says**

"Isn't it better for us to share the last that we have and die as friends than to tear each other apart and die as enemies?"

—Rosamund, "The King's Equal", P. 28

"Isn't it better for us to end our lives with a song on our lips than to die in sorrow?"

—Rosamund, P. 29

I would definitely give this book three and a half stars.

Katherine Paterson has summoned all of her legendary writing powers to create this rare picture book gem, one of the best of all the picture books that I have ever read. Even the breathtaking illustrations done by the amazing Vladimir Vagin almost seem to take a backseat to this sparkling jewel that bursts with honest resonance and incomparable magic.

"The King's Equal" is a tremendously wrought tale of love, hope, courage, compassion, bravery, humility, and above all the willingness to live kindly for the sake of others, and for the sake of love. It is one of Katherine Paterson's best books among her volumes that I have read, and in my opinion is most certainly her greatest picture book. I would earnestly recommend "The King's Equal" to any reader that loves excellent literature.

"Isn't it better to share hunger with one you love than to feast alone?"

—Rosamund, P. 24

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### **Diane says**

"You will become ruler when I die," the old king said, "For that is the ancient law that cannot be changed. But you will not wear my crown until the day you marry a woman who is your equal in beauty and intelligence and wealth." So begins the story of Prince Raphael, a spoiled rotten prince who searches his country high and low for a queen. Finally, with the help of a wolf, he is able to see what his life has been missing.

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### **Laura says**

Awards and Recognitions: Katherine Paterson won the Hans Christian Anderson award – 1998 and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award – 2006.

On his deathbed, the king gives his son, Prince Raphael, a blessing; though Raphael will rule when the king dies, he will not wear the king's crown until he marries a woman that is his equal in all things: beauty, intelligence, and wealth. King Raphael sets his councilors the task of finding a princess as beautiful, as intelligent, and as rich as he is, but none of the princesses are good enough. Meanwhile a poor farmer's daughter, Rosamund, makes friends with a wolf who tells her that she must go to the king and present herself as his equal. In this modern fairy tale, an arrogant prince must learn the meaning of true beauty and intelligence. He must also learn that true wealth does not come in the form of money. Black and white illustrations complement the story. As a classroom read-aloud, this story has broad appeal up through 6th grade, but for independent readers it is probably most appropriate for 8 to 10 year olds, so it skews to the younger end of upper elementary age children.

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### **Shannon says**

A charming little story, perfect for our fairy tale unit, as I have a group of sensitive boys who would never admit they are sensitive boys who I think will enjoy this.

### **Josh says**

What is wealth? What is happiness? My wife has had this book since childhood and we read it with our daughters. Good message about being content. The girls enjoyed it.

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### **Michelle says**

The Kings Equal follows a greedy prince as he readies himself to take the thrown from the dying king, there is only one problem, the dying king has declared that his son may not take the crown until he has found and married his equal! Well, the prince does not believe any girl could be his equal, but he commences the search. Meanwhile a lowly farm girl sets out to learn humility, and then to teach it to the prince. This book is not written or drawn in a style that will capture most young children's attention. While the story is interesting it is very wordy, with several pages in a row dedicated to text and devoid of pictures. The few pictures that there are, are beautiful in an old French courtier style (Meaning it looks like the paintings of French courtiers from the 1700s). The story feels very much like a classic moralistic fairy tale, complete with princes, farm girls, and anthropomorphic animals out to teach humans a lesson.

While I would not, as I said, use this book with younger readers, I would use it with teens and young adults. It would be especially helpful to use as a supplement while studying myths, legends, and fairy tales. There are oftentimes in English classes, when looking at stories like Beowulf, that something like this book would come in handy in teaching where and how such stories are developed.

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### **Carla Freeman says**

Good fairy tale with a deeper meaning

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### **Christine says**

An excellent read for your young readers. Dan will be reading this one soon.

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### **Mack Fontano says**

It was very good. It was pretty short, I read it in ten minutes. I would reccomend it to everyone. It had a good message. It was definitely short, and super straight forward and to the point, so you had to imagine a lot of the story, but it was good. Read it more for the message and less for the story. But, for a super quick, learn a lesson book, it was great.

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