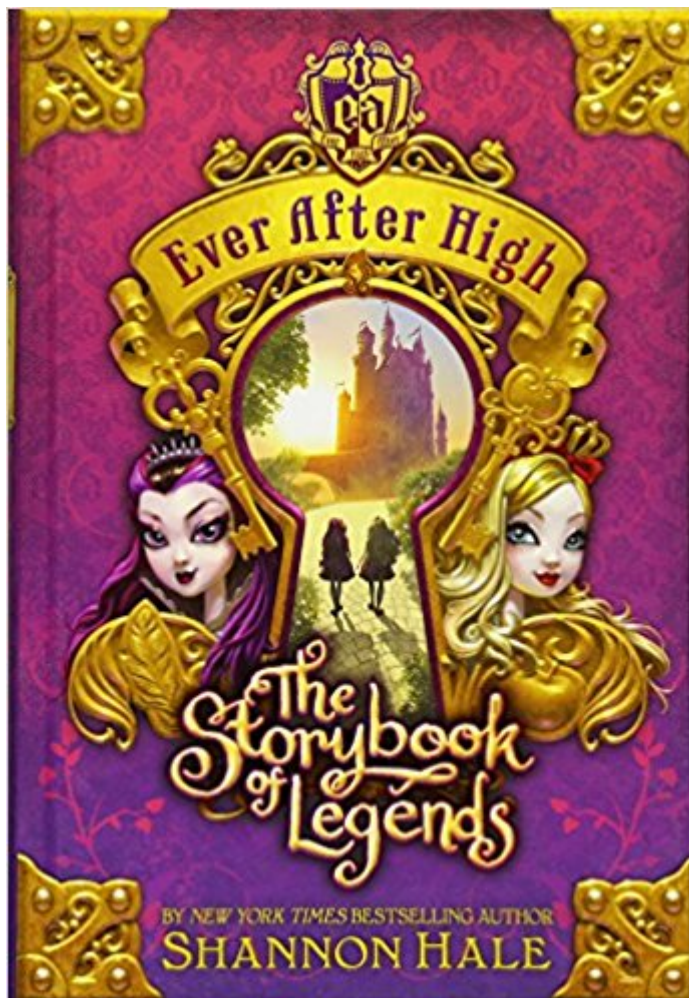


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The Storybook Of Legends



Synopsis

At Ever After High, an enchanting boarding school, the children of fairytale legends prepare themselves to fulfill their destinies as the next generation of Snow Whites, Prince Charmings and Evil Queens...whether they want to or not. Each year on Legacy Day, students sign the Storybook of Legends to seal their scripted fates. For generations, the Village of Book End has whispered that refusing to sign means The End-both for a story and for a life. As the daughter of the Evil Queen, Raven Queen's destiny is to follow in her mother's wicked footsteps, but evil is so not Raven's style. She's starting to wonder, what if she rewrote her own story? The royal Apple White, daughter of the Fairest of Them All, has a happy ever after planned for herself, but it depends upon Raven feeding her a poison apple in their future. What if Raven doesn't sign the Storybook of Legends? It could mean a happily never after for them both.

Book Information

Series: Ever After High (Book 1)

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Customer Reviews

Skeptics of books tied to toy lines will have to rethink their doubts when they read Hale's series of Ever After High books, linked to a line of dolls by Mattel. Rollicking and filled with puns, one character refers to her bad schedule as a "major fairy-fail" and incorporating an imaginative plot that assumes readers are fluent in folklore, this first in a new spin-off series, The Storybook of Legends, is a fun read. Milton Grimm, headmaster, expects students to sign an oath that they will agree to stick to their assigned plotlines. Raven Queen, however, is having doubts. She doesn't want to follow in her evil

mother's footsteps and become the nemesis of her generation Snow White she deplores being typecast. But if she defies tradition, will her story simply disappear along with herself and her story mates? Unexpected plot twists lead to an ending that, unlike a traditional "happy ever after," promises continued intrigue in new outings. This is a good bet for those who can't get enough of fractured and retold tales.

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: The toys are popular; thus, the books should follow suit. Cross promotions with Mattel should keep this in front of all the right eyeballs. Grades 4-7. --Karen Cruze

Praise for Ever After High: Storybook of Legends: "What's a girl to do when her mother is the fairy-tale world's worst evil queen? Follow in her footsteps? Never! At the beginning of this series opener, it's the first day of school at Ever After High, where the offspring of famous fairy-tale characters begin their second year. For these students, Legacy Day beckons, at which time each will sign the Storybook of Legends and take the pledge to replay their parents' roles. Once they ink their names, the stories they spring from will be safely preserved, but if one does not, rumors have it that the tale-as well as the student-will vanish in a posthaste "poof." Most are all aflutter to fulfill their requisite destinies, but Raven Queen, the daughter of the exquisitely wicked Evil Queen, doesn't have an evil bone in her body. If she signs, she is duty-bound to poison Apple White (Snow's daughter), but she wants to create her own future. When Raven discovers that two fairy-tale sisters long ago broke their pledge, she enlists the sleuthing skills of her wacky roommate, Madeline (as in Hatter), and Apple herself to unravel the sisters' ultimate fate. Hale has created a delightfully revamped, newly fashioned cast of fairy-tale characters (and in hipper clothes no less-unsurprising, as the book introduces a new line of Mattel dolls) and gives readers a terrific protagonist to root for. Magic and humor abound, and fairy-tale wordplay flies. Royal good fun." Kirkus Reviews "Rollicking...a fun read...Unexpected plot twists lead to an ending that, unlike a traditional "happy ever after," promises continued intrigue in new outings. This is a good bet for those who can't get enough of fractured and retold tales." Booklist

My 6 year old likes Monster High but I haven't shown her the videos or read the books because I think there not appropriate for her age (even though all the 1st grade and kindergarten girls are crazy over them). When I heard about this new spin off I decided to get her the book and dolls for Christmas. She loves them. She wanted me to read the book all the time and we finished it in a week. Now a week or so after finishing it we've started it again. She can't wait for the next book to come out. What I like is that the topics are still about being yourself but there's very little boyfriends,

gossip, and popularity. It's more about making your own choices and being who you are, mixed with fairytale fantasy. She also likes that the girls are modernized.

My daughter and I read this together over several nights and I really enjoyed it. We had seen the cartoon and I was expecting it to be exactly the same. Silly, I know. It was the same basic concept and characters, but the story was great. It took us a few weeks to finish and we both were sad when it was over. I'm looking forward to getting the next ones. Spoiler alert...maybe? I really liked that they didn't make one or the other of the girls out to be "better," just different. I kept waiting for them to have some big argument or falling out and Apple to be the typical stuck up, popular girl. I was pleasantly surprised that even though she was kinda sticky sweet and froo froo, she was a good friend to Raven. It is always nice when stories have people who are obviously different, want different things, and aren't perfect but still manage to work together and be kind to each other.

It may not surprise some people that I love both the Ever After High and Monster High franchises. Call me a child if you wish but I don't care. Personally I feel both Monster High and Ever After High offer good lessons as well as fun characters and stories. So I was on board for this book since I first heard it was coming out. The fact that Shannon Hale was tapped for the writer made me even happier. I have read one of her previous works (Princess Academy) and enjoyed it so was excited when I heard she would be writing the books. And thank goodness my faith was well placed. In this first of a series we are introduced to our main protagonist Raven Queen who is naturally the daughter of the evil queen. I would say Apple White (the daughter of Snow White) is a protagonist too, and she is, but I feel this story is more Raven's than Apple's. Raven lives in a land where fairy tales are real and the children of these fairy tale icons are expected to follow in their parents footsteps. One of these ways is to sign their names into the storybook of legends to pledge they will follow their story. This is great for some like Apple White and Briar Beauty (the daughter of Sleeping Beauty), but for others like Raven Queen following in their parents footsteps is their happily never afters. For the rest of the review and rating please visit me at Musekicker's Reading Place.

Okay, now before I start, let me say, I have read all of Shannon Hale's other YA books and Goose Girl and Rapunzel's Revenge will always hold a special place in my heart. Admitting that, along with the fact I am a major Ever After High fan, I will now commence with my review. The book is centered around Apple White and Raven Queen, two students in Ever After High. For those of you not familiar with Ever After High, it is a high school where the sons and daughters of fairy tale

characters go. On their second year, every student must pledge to follow in their parent's footsteps. If a student doesn't take the pledge, then the story they are in and they themselves will cease to exist. Apple White is the perfect future queen, caring, smart, beautiful and kind. Her only perceivable flaw is the fact she is blonde (so the book says, multiple times). She is ready to take on her destiny as queen. Raven, on the other hand, is the daughter of the evil queen. All her life, people have been telling her to be evil, and expected her to be a horrible person. Raven wants to be able to change her fate. Raven and Apple are going into their second year at Ever After High, the year when they take the pledge. They are rooming together, and are very different people. Raven wants to choose her own fate, and Apple is trying to make sure that Raven stays on her path, so that the story will continue to exist and her own story will end happily ever after. The relationship between them is very Wicked Galinda-Elphaba. Neither really understands the other at first, but they gradually become friends, despite the fact that Raven will someday have to poison Apple. Awkward much? I really didn't like Apple. Although she is just a pawn, she is very self-centered. When Raven confides in Apple, telling her how she wonders why everyone can't look past who her mother is and just be her friend, Apple thinks, "You are supposed to be evil, Raven. It's not wrong for people to see in you your true nature" (Hale). Fine, she is "supposed" to be evil, but being told you are evil doesn't make exclusion hurt any less. Apple has been adored her whole life, she really has no right to judge Raven, even if it is just silently. Saying that, there are some characters and parts of the story I adore! Maddie is my favorite character, followed by Raven. Cedar Wood and Cerise Hood are pretty cool to. And Dex, OMG, he and Raven are so cute together! I love how Maddie Hatter can communicate with the narrator, because she is mad herself, it makes the story seem almost second person perspective, the reader is so involved. I love how everyone is not how they first appear. Again, it's very much like Wicked. Everyone expects Raven to be bad, but really, it could be argued her cause is much more noble than Apple's. This book is chock-full of magic and plot twists, very Wicked meets Harry Potter meets Gossip Girl. I don't want to give too much away, so let me end with this. When buying the book, I would have liked to know more about when it ends. The descriptions were kinda vague about that, just going up to legacy day, which, in all fairness, is the climax of the story. Also, I would love to get inside the faculty's mind, to see what people other than the students and the narrator are thinking. Would I read this book again? Yes. Would I recommend it to a friend? Yes. Would I like to know more about some other characters and their motivations? Yes. Would I change the story? No. Overall, I really loved this book, the plot was really intricate, if a bit predictable and the writing and characterization were phenomenal! I am even bigger fan of Ever After High now, and I am anxiously awaiting the sequel! :)

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