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Queen Of Hearts



Synopsis

On the prairies of Canada during World War II, a girl and her two young siblings begin a war of their own. Stricken with tuberculosis, they are admitted to a nearby sanatorium. Teenager Marie Claire is headstrong, angry, and full of stubborn pride. In a new strange land of TB exiles she must "chase the cure," seek privacy where there is none, and witness the slow wasting decline of others. But in this moving novel about fighting a way back to normal life, it is the thing that sets back Marie Claire the most—the demise of her little brother—that also connects her with the person who will be instrumental in helping her recover.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #526,895 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Canada](#) #46 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada](#) #375 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness](#)

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Queen of Hearts is a beautifully written piece of historical fiction that quite simply blew me away. I had to read it straight through because I was so engaged by the wonderful characters, and was simply mesmerized by the author's ability to so firmly capture a time period and setting. Although this book takes place in Canada during World War II, readers will easily recognize that the wartime themes are universal. You have young men eager to enlist and serve their country, mothers who are heartbroken when their sons never return, and young girls eager to give their hearts to young soldiers. In the midst of all this you also have tuberculosis, a mystery disease that strikes the young and the old, disrupting the lives of Marie Claire and her entire family. There is a lot going on in this

story, and it's a testament to the author's incredible talent that she is able to handle so many aspects of the tale with such skill in so few pages. The book has an epic feel to it, without the length. Every piece of dialogue and turn of phrase seems delicately placed to draw the reader in to this story of love, grief, loss and even romance. Marie Claire is incredibly strong and her ability to retain such a firm sense of herself and to hold on to hope in the midst of her tragic circumstances was inspirational. Her relationships with her parents, her roommate, and her boyfriend were all well done and realistically portrayed. There is no room in this story for over the top drama or sappy endings. This is a great recommend for teen and adult readers. Although it is classified as historical fiction, the characters will appeal to fans of other genres as well. I will not be surprised to see this one show up on a few award lists this year! Don't miss it.

What a sweet love story!!! Jay and Rachel were such sweet and compelling characters. It would be lovely if Radclyffe would consider expanding this short story to a full novel. It would be a very good story on its own accord. Well done!!!

This was a very good book to read and I just got done reading it. The book is only two hundred and eight pages. I wish it was longer and there was a series of books. The main person in the book is Marie-Claire and its set in the 1940's. Marie-Claire ends up getting TB and going to the hospital. While there she as grate loss and also makes a life for herslef. I found myslef wonding if the story was true but its not.

When I selected 'purchase' I knew the short story would not be part of Radclyffe's, Honor's Series or even one of her First Responder's novels. I knew this story would be short, sweet, and to the point. And it was. It was a sweet, heartfelt, coming of age story. Thank you Radclyffe, for the fifteen-twenty minute reality break, but I was disappointed when I flipped to the last past and the story ended. I wanted more...

I want to know what happens next that is a five star rating. I want a sappy, happy ending in my reads and that's a five star rating. Those wanting to read for the good outcomes in a story then go for it.

I don't know when the last time I read a book set in Canada. Honestly, the only thing that comes to mind is Anne of Green Gables. So when these book called to me from the shelf I gladly picked it

up. I felt that the book started a little slowly and that there seemed to be some superfluous information, but it really picked up after a few chapters. I'm really glad that I stuck with it. I didn't really like Marie-Claire as a protagonist initially; her character kind of confused me. But as her illness progresses and she gets angrier about it, the more I liked her. (Which is a very odd sentence to write.) I really adored the character Signy. She was my favorite, even though when you first meet her character, she comes off as a little annoying and eager to please. I just loved her, and thought that her character was a great juxtaposition to Marie-Claire's. The love story was really great too. I loved that it grew and evolved. Ultimately, this book wasn't so much about an illness, or "chasing the cure" it was about hope and the importance of having people who care for you in your life. It was a short book, and it was easy for me to get through in an afternoon. It was a great book to start with coming off my reading hiatus. My only real complaint, is an odd one. I wasn't crazy about the cover. It's cute, and goes well with the title, but I didn't really make a connection with the book itself until near the end. It's very scene specific. I greatly prefer to paperback edition's cover

Readers can feel the bitter cold of a war time Canadian winter in this tragic yet hopeful and inspiring slice-of-life story of sixteen year-old Marie-Claire who, along with her two young siblings, contracts tuberculosis and is confined to a sanatorium for many months to "chase the cure." Readers will come to know the devastating facts and effects of tuberculosis and the havoc it wreaks upon people and families, and cheer on Marie-Claire as she reacts without compliance to her circumstances. Marie-Claire's relationship with her roommate, Signy, is heartbreakingly poignant. Each and every character is well-portrayed in this seemingly low-pitched but galvanizing story.

Martha Brooks has skillfully blended the emotions of a TB patient, the medical details of treatment, and the backdrop of the WWII-era. I have interviewed three women who spent significant portions of their childhood and teenage years in a tuberculosis sanatorium. This book is their surrogate memoir. Although Brooks' biography says that her own childhood interaction with patients at Ninette Sanatorium was limited to chatting through open windows, it's clear that she soaked up their hopes and fears. She has honored those people with this book that may be classified as fiction, but serves as their biography.

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