

Name: Anonymous
School: Brea Olinda High School
Grade: Freshman
Book Title: Cinderella Is Dead
Author: Kalynn Bayron
Rating: 3.8/5
Reviewer Username: Anonymous

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Rate 1-5 (1-Lowest to 5-Highest) – 3.8/5

Recently I read the novel Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron. It's about a girl named Sophia, who is living in the world of Cinderella, 200 years after her death. Every year, teenage girls are forced to attend an annual ball, from which they must line up for suitors to be chosen from. Being 16, Sophia has to go. She would much rather marry her best friend, Erin, who refuses to run away with Sophia. At the ball, she manages to run off into the woods, where she runs into Cinderella's mausoleum and her step-sister's last living descendant, Constance. Together they both work to take down the evil government, along with finding out facts about the story of Cinderella that Sophia thought she knew.

So, my thoughts on it. I really loved the concept of it, and new, fresh takes on old fairy tales in general. The main character, Sophia, is a pretty strong-willed person, and has that sort of determined aura. However, I feel like that was the only thing that stood out about her. I don't really think that Sophia went through much character development. I love seeing characters change and grow, and yet I feel like the only things that actually grew were her romantic feelings for a character. As a matter of fact, let's discuss more about that type of genre in the book. Constance was to say the least, a pretty bland character. I feel like her only character trait was being Sophia's "love" interest. Overall it was pretty frustrating and sometimes boring.

I loved all the different twists and dark secrets, despite a few of them being a little bit out there. In spite of that, I also thought well of the idea telling people to stand up for what's wrong and humanly immoral. I also give the author points for the wonderful diversity of characters. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about LGBT people, and how they would react to such an injurious system, along with the main character being a POC. I definitely have various mixed feelings for this book, and I would recommend it to people that like those types of novels that are based on old stories and have a whole new backstory to it, or to people who are looking for books with good representation.