

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin purple lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from dark purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming larger, more prominent clusters.

The Spinner of Dreams

Written by K.A. Reynolds

Published by sanmarco-sf

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The Spinner of Dreams

By K.A. Reynolds

The Spinner Of Dreams

Inventive, empathetic, and strange in all the best ways, *The Spinner of Dreams* draws from the author's own experiences to create a story that feels timeless and universal. As she did in her debut *The Land of Yesterday*, K. A. Reynolds thoughtfully explores mental health and crafts an adventure that fits right alongside middle grade classics like *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

The Spinner of Dreams

The Spinner Of Dreams Book

Annalise Meriwether--though kind, smart, and curious--is terribly lonely.

The Spinner Of Shadows Ddo

Cursed at birth by the devious Fate Spinner, Annalise has always lived a solitary life with her loving parents. She does her best to ignore the cruel townsfolk of her desolate town--but the black mark on her hand won't be ignored.

The Spinner Of Summer Tales Quest Wow

Not when the monster living within it, which seems to have an agenda of its own, grows more unpredictable each day.

The Spinner Of Dreams By K.a. Reynolds

There's only one way for Annalise to rid herself of her curse: to enter the Labyrinth of Fate and Dreams and defeat the Fate Spinner. So despite her anxiety, Annalise sets out to undo the curse that's defined her--and to show the world, and herself, exactly who she is inside.

4/5 stars ⭐️ ⭐️ ⭐️ ⭐️

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

The Spinner Of Dreams by K. A. Reynolds follows Annalise Meriwether ; a young girl who was cursed at birth by the devious Fate Spinner. While she does her best to ignore the cruel townfolk- her curse is growing more and more unpredictable each day, and there's only one way for her to rid herself of it; she must enter the Labyrinth of Fate and Dreams despite her anxiety and defeat the infamous Fate Spinner once and for 4/5 stars ⭐️ ⭐️ ⭐️ ⭐️

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This book honestly made me question why I don't read middle-grade more often! It can be hard for me as a 24 (going on 25) year old to connect with characters that are at least a decade younger than I am, but I really felt for Annalise as her anxiety and thought process seemed to be fairly similar to my own!

I loved everything about this beautifully written novel! The magic practically flows off of the pages, and I'll likely not forget any of the wonderful characters I met following Annalise's journey!

...more

The Spinner Of Tales Walkthrough

ARC provided by the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review (Thank you!)

The Spinner Of Dreams follows Annalise Meriwether, a girl with a curse shunned by almost everyone in her town. She decides to fight against her curse and find the Fate Spinner.

I loved the imagery the author created and I was so glad to see loving parents, in a healthy daughter-parents relationship. I absolutely loved all the characters and especially the cat and the fox.

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There were some parts that were perhaps a bit too descriptive for a middle-grade, but there isn't anything in this novel that I didn't find lovely, I wish I had read this as a child because this story has so much potential to encourage children to be pro-active and resilient.

Beautifully written, it is a lyrical story about unique friendships, hope, personal growth, and empowerment and it flawlessly portrays anxiety and depression in a very accurate mental health representation. Filled with symbolism and metaphors it offers us an important, meaningful message about finding your inner strength to go on and achieve your goals.

Annaliese's journey was wonderful, told in an eerie and whimsical tone and emotionally connecting the reader to her, creating empathy.

The fantasy and mythology aspects were intricate and unique, the worldbuilding was very creative and I'm sure Alice in Wonderland fans will love this. I will certainly read the next book this author writes.

Highly recommended for older children and adults, it was an amazing novel and I'll definitely buy the hardback (look at that super pretty cover!). ...more

I was so pleased when KA Reynolds offered me the chance to read The Spinner of Dreams early, as it was one of my most anticipated MG reads of the year! As it turns out, it was even better than I'd dreamed...

It's been really difficult to write this review, because I am so head over heels in love with this book that I keep getting a bit incoherent in my gushing. This is a magical fantasy tale that reads like a mash up of classic children's literature and traditional fairy tales and it has amazin I was so pleased when KA Reynolds offered me the chance to read The Spinner of Dreams early, as it was one of my most anticipated MG reads of the year! As it turns out, it was even better than I'd dreamed...

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The Spinner of Dreams

up of classic childrensâ€™ literature and traditional fairy tales â€” and it has amazing #ownvoices anxiety, PTSD, and panic disorder rep. It would be beautiful if it were just a tale of friendship through weird magical peril, but to have a main character who suffers intrusive thoughts and panic attacks is just incredible. Personally, I didnâ€™t start having panic attacks until I was an adult, but if I had been a kid who had them, this book would have meant the world to me back then â€” and it does now.

Annalise lives in a town where everyone hates her, because of her curse. She was cursed at birth by the Fate Spinner, the evil half of a pair of royal twins who rule over peopleâ€™s lives, and now everything goes wrong for her and the people around her. Despite the fact that she hates her giant hand, with its strange birthmark, she hasnâ€™t allowed this to make her miserable or cruel to others â€” instead, she is brave, optimistic, and kind. She has developed coping mechanisms which comfort her, and it was fab to see these included (her repetitive hair-stroking resonated with me, as I often plait small bits of my hair when Iâ€™m feeling anxious). I loved her interactions with her parents, who are also strong, kind, supportive, and loving â€” I think this is pretty unusual for fantasy! Itâ€™s nice to see nice families.

One of Annaliseâ€™s companions on her journey is Muse the cat, who appears first as a shelter cat looking for a home, but is quickly revealed to be much more mystical than that! You know I think all books are better with cats, so when I found out that Annalise wanted a cat so badly, I was like â€”yep, I am all in for this characterâ€™. I loved Muse! Heâ€™s so fluffy and wise and wonderful, and I loved that he was a Siberian Forest Cat, which is a very similar breed to Tomte, whoâ€™s a Norwegian Forest Cat! Museâ€™s appearance at the shelter is the catalyst that makes Annalise decide that she will not tolerate her curse anymore, and from there, the story gets really magical. To be honest, I would happily just have read about her daily life, which goes to show how much I love the characters and setting! But once Annalise sets off to realise her dream of living curse-free, she ends up having to battle her way through the Labyrinth of Fate and Dreamsâ€

The Labyrinth is part Wonderland, part Fae realm, and all danger. The tone of the book from this point, and the bizarre and scary creatures that Annalise meets, reminded me a lot of Chris Woodingâ€™s *Poison*, which was one of my absolute favourites as a kid. Both books look at the dark and dangerous side of magic, requiring their heroines to find inner strength to survive the machinations of other-worldly beings, and both sit just on the right side of terrifying. *The Spinner of Dreams* is not in any way derivative of *Poison*, but they share a sort of overall feeling, and will probably sit next to each other on my shelf, whispering spooky things to each other.

I donâ€™t want to spoil anything about what happens in the Labyrinth, because watching it unfold had me on the edge of my seat, but I think itâ€™s safe to say that Annalise has to learn a lot about how to accept herself, the same way she accepts everyone else, before she can triumph. She gains the guidance of some excellent friends (there is a gay fox gentleman, guys â€” heâ€™s wonderful!), and they help her to see that she can take control of her own life. This is exactly the kind of narrative I like â€” girls learning to accept that though they may be scared, they are powerful, and that it takes every facet of their being to become powerful. This is going to become a classic. Iâ€™ve already pre-ordered a hardback, and Iâ€™ll be recommending it for years to come (not just to middle grade readers â€” I think

The Spinner of Dreams

everyone should read it). It's a hot candidate for best book of 2019 for me and yes, I know it's not even the end of January. Go pre-order it, please!

Five out of five cats, obviously! ...more

The Spinner Of Shadows

The digital arc of this book was kindly provided by the publisher via Edelweiss+ website in exchange for an honest review.

3,5 stars

I am very bummed that I didn't enjoy it as much as other people seemed to because it had all the necessary components to be a favourite of mine: a cursed girl, prophecies, rival sisters, a talking cat and all sorts of other magical creatures. But it didn't work out that well, unfortunately. The writing especially wasn't my thing, it was overly descriptive and just felt like it was trying too hard to impress, same with the adventures Annalise had in the maze. I liked the message of the story and it had some very interesting chapters but it's not something I'd reread in the future. ...more

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In a time when people are opening up & discussing mental health, K.A. Reynolds drops this beautiful gem into the world when we need it the most! Annalise's quest to overcome her anxiety will comfort readers & help them find the courage to seek the light out of their own maze. I loved this book and highly recommend you to read it.

The Spinner Of Summer Tales Wow

My childhood was often one of loneliness. I was shy, introverted, and deeply anxiety-ridden. So often, I turned to books, my imagination, exploring the woods behind my house, and, of course, to dreams. Since I never felt a sense of security at home or at school, I was always waiting for the worst to happen. To escape this, I would most often grab a book, head to the woods with my backpack containing a sketchbook and drawing pencils, and try to find some sense of peace and belonging. One day I grabbed a book that would change my life: *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

Despite the title's *Wonderland*, the land that Alice entered by falling down the rabbit hole was not filled with only wonder but chaos and confusion that were often not only befuddling to Alice but overwhelming. Yet Alice never, ever gave up. She continued on in her journey through a land where they were "all mad here." Yet in the topsy-turvy world of *Wonderland*, I saw a glimpse of how I saw the world. Adults were confusing, contradictory, and, to my child's mind, just plain crazy. I clung to *Alice in Wonderland* like a life raft. Alice would be my friend: just like Anne Shirley, Meg Murry, and the Little Prince would become my friends. I felt like I knew and understand these literary friends far better than I did the kids who were actually around me: in my neighborhood and at my school.

As all great fairy tales begin, so too does the latest by K.A. Reynolds, "Once upon a time, before the War of Fates, the Mazelands had been ruled by powerful elves, twin brothers who controlled the fates and dreams of every being in all worlds: one ruled the Mazelands, the realm of fate; the other ruled the right, the realm of dreams." Within this modern fairy tale, there also falls a curse: this one on a girl named Annalise Meriwether. Her left hand is twice as large as her right and bears the mark of a broken black heart (the Fate Spinner's mark) which can spark fires. Annalise is blamed for the problems of the local town. Wanting to rid herself of the curse, she undertakes entering the labyrinth of Fate and Dreams to defeat the Fate Spinner.

As a boy, I was drawn to *Alice in Wonderland* and then to fairy tales precisely because there was a darkness to them. Fairy tales do not hide that the world is filled with trouble, that one has to enter the forest, one has to face the monsters, and that, ultimately one can defeat them. Neil Gaiman, in a paraphrase of a quote by G.K. Chesterton, wrote, "Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten." That is why we so desperately need them "why I needed them.

In my lonely childhood, there were bullies, some had come disguised first as friends. Like Annalise, I was often an isolated child who dreamed of changing my fate. In my imagination, I was the hero that I read

The Spinner of Dreams

about in books or my friends were the ones I found on pages (from Anne Shirley to Meg Murry to the Little Prince). I escaped the difficulties of home life and school, by retreating into books and daydreaming. These books were life rafts for me. I clung to them and wished to have a kindred spirit like Anne with an "œ. She showed me that it was okay to be different, to be creative, to daydream, to see the world differently, and she taught me the power of story. As a boy. I wish I had had a character like Annalise Meriwether. I can picture me now running to the woods behind our house, to sit under my favorite tree, and read and re-read *The Spinner of Dreams*.

What K. A. Reynolds has done is to create a character who shows how one can seek a new identity of healing and power over our own narratives. This book is a testament of not only surviving but of empowerment, resilience, and hope. By creating a character like Annalise who struggles with anxiety and PTSD, she has also given such a well-developed protagonist whose flaws are exactly what makes her so compelling because she is also kind, curious, brave, and imaginative.

In one section of the book, a cat named Muse tells Annalise, "œDreams are very powerful things, Annalise. Know another's dreams, know their heart. One gets a real sense of the author's heart in this masterful and powerful storytelling because it is filled with compassion, empathy, and the magical alchemy of beautiful prose whose images stay with the reader long after they have closed the book. Annalise is broken and wounded but from those very things comes her strength and her power as she reaches out to those who are hurting, those who are outsiders, and those who so often get overlooked.

"œAlways listen to the poets," Reynolds writes, "œThey are the secret keepers of dreams. And remember there is no dream without risk, no fear without courage. When I read those words, I thought of all the poets I have ever read and loved, whose words were sustaining and nourishing to my own spirit during times of great difficulty. Poets like Rumi, Rimbaud, and Rilke. To that, I would add a new poet, Reynolds. What she has given us in *The Spinner of Dreams* is something rare and precious that brims with magic and imagination and emotion. There is a depth to Reynolds's writing that is rare and captivating.

By the time I had finished *The Spinner of Dreams*, I found tears were running down my cheeks. I knew that this would be a book my childhood self would have desperately loved to have read but I was grateful that my adult self was getting the opportunity to read it now. I hoped that every child who felt as I had (alone, scared, anxious, isolated) would see themselves in Annalise and find hope, courage, and the ability to continue to dare to dream and strive to change their own fates. ...more

I think this is a great starting book for MG readers to get into heavier fantasy. It was part fairytale, part adventure, part humanity, with some portal magic. There were talking animals, curses, strange creatures, and challenges. This book has a little bit of everything with beautiful writing.

The Spinner of Dreams

When Annalise was born, her whole town became cursed by the Fate Spinner. Annalise had one hand that was larger than another with a broken black heart. She had purple eyes and blackberry colored hair. I think this is a great starting book for MG readers to get into heavier fantasy. It was part fairytale, part adventure, part humanity, with some portal magic. There were talking animals, curses, strange creatures, and challenges. This book has a little bit of everything with beautiful writing.

When Annalise was born, her whole town became cursed by the Fate Spinner. Annalise had one hand that was larger than another with a broken black heart. She had purple eyes and blackberry colored hair. She was a strange girl, but her family loved her. Unfortunately, the cruelty of the people around her was terrible. They blamed Annalise for everything. They called her a monster. She never had a friend. Her mom found a hypoallergenic cat at the shelter (her dad is allergic) and the three went to see if they could adopt him. The cat was afraid of people, but he approached Annalise after she spoke to him. He came out of the cage and she saw that one of his paws was larger than the other. It felt like fate until the cat ran away. Looking into the cage, Annalise found a book.

Annalise felt that her hand was a monster. It had a mind of its own and destroyed things. She finally had enough and decided to enter the Labyrinth to find the Spinner of Dreams. Annalise wanted to control her own fate and wanted her life to be happy.

"Dreams are the one thing that must always be followed."

Annalise quickly found out that she could talk to animals. She made her first friend on a train, a black fox trying to get back to his husband. She also met siblings who were nice to her. But the labyrinth was full of challenges. The Fate Spinner wanted Annalise to fail. She tried to turn everyone against her. Annalise finds things that help her along the way. She has memories from the past and gets information from the old king and queen. She is terrified, but kept finding her strength to go on.

"I think you're just the girl for the job. The perfect candidate for greatness is often the one who feels least qualified."

The Spinner of Dreams

Annalise found out so much about herself on this adventure. She realized that by making her hand out to be evil, she was making it worse. Her big hand wasn't a curse and helped her once she started to accept it. Annalise had to trust her heart and her instincts if she wanted to defeat the Fate Spinner and find her way to dreamland to have a dream granted.

"Always listen to the poets," Esh-Baal said. "They are the secret keepers of dreams. And remember there is no dream without risk, no fear without courage."

I really enjoyed the author's note and hope you read it, too. I found it interesting that Annalise counts to four when stresses and she preferred right to left. I've counted things when stressed for as long as I can remember. For me, I prefer odd numbers. I honestly don't know what it's from, but it's a way to calm myself and control something when things feel out of control. I appreciate the author sharing her story and how she included some of it throughout the book.

I gave this book 4 stars. Thank you to the publisher and Edelweiss for my copy for review. Quotes are taken from an arc and may change before final printing.

...more

The Spinner Of Tales

"cursed cinnamon roll girls w/anxiety & panic; gay gentleman foxes; magical cats; twin enchantresses of fate & dreams"

uh, fuck yeah

In a tale that conjures two worlds, twin sisters, and evil beyond our imagination, a girl seeks to remove a curse that has made her entire town abhor her. The forces of love and hate are equally strong, and white and black (like the crows of this tale). Like a folktale with threads of the modern world, this book will delight fans who swooned over Kelly Barnhill's *THE MOSTLY TRUE STORY OF JACK* and Anne Ursu's *BREADCRUMBS*, early works matching this early work (a second book) of this vividly imaginative author. In a tale that conjures two worlds, twin sisters, and evil beyond our imagination, a girl seeks to remove a curse that has made her entire town abhor her. The forces of love and hate are equally strong, and white and black (like the crows of this tale). Like a folktale with threads of the modern world, this book will delight fans who swooned over Kelly Barnhill's *THE MOSTLY TRUE STORY OF JACK* and Anne Ursu's *BREADCRUMBS*, early works matching this early work (a second book) of this vividly imaginative author. ...more

The Spinner Of Wool

I don't read a lot of fantasy, but I will excitedly read anything K.A. Reynolds writes! Like her debut, THE LAND OF YESTERDAY, THE SPINNER OF DREAMS is gorgeously written and brimming with compassion and insight. This is the story of Annalise Meriwether, who has been dealt an unbearably difficult fate and cruelly mistreated...and who is such a kind, fierce, awesome character in spite of (or, more accurately, because of) the hardships she has faced. It's so satisfying to go along with her as she follows her dream to rid herself of the curse she's lived with her whole life. Reynolds has a glorious imagination—the world and characters of this novel are unique and so vivid. As an adult who has some experience with managing anxiety, I really appreciated the depiction of a character dealing with anxiety, especially in a fantasy novel that's a riveting, magical story *as well as* an authentic and #ownvoices exploration of mental health issues. I think this beautifully written, empowering, wildly creative novel is going to mean a whole lot to a whole lot of kids. ...more

I had the privilege of reading an early draft of this book, and I adored it! Annalise is a cursed child, despised by the people in her town but deeply loved by her parents. Her mistreatment by her neighbors has left Annalise with deep anxiety and PTSD, but she remains kind-hearted, friendly, and optimistic. When her parents are taken by the Fate Spinner, Annalise embarks on an adventure in a richly-imagined fantasy world. This is a beautifully-written tale about friendship, courage, and finding the strength to reach for your dreams. ...more