

Black Moon Draw

Lizzy Ford

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What reader hasn't wondered what it would be like to wake up in his or her favorite book? When Naia's fiancé dumps her right before their wedding, she decides the best coping mechanism is to drink a lot of wine, marathon her favorite movies, and read an online story that contains absolutely no romance, an irredeemable main character, and lots of death and destruction. Only one problem: when she wakes up hung over the next day, she's not in her apartment; she's been transported into the world of the story. Now she's stuck with a victory-obsessed knight who seems to think she's a witch sent to help him, a pretty-near-useless squire, and a magic amulet she can't control, with no clear way home.

The book follows many of the conventions of a typical romance fantasy, but it does so with self-awareness and a sense of humor. Though the trope of the misfit who finally finds a place to excel is a common one, Naia is refreshingly terrible at life inside this new world. Gifted magical powers upon entering the story, she has no idea how to use them. Horseback riding is painful, she's way too out of shape for running, and she keeps offending people with her lack of cultural awareness. The book is also replete with winks to more famous fantasy stories, from *Lord of the Rings* to Arthurian legend.

ALLYCE AMIDON (Spring 2015)

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