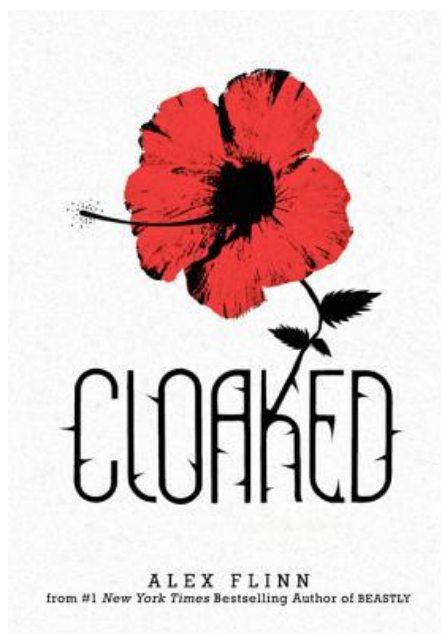




Cloaked

Alex Flinn

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Cloaked Alex Flinn

I'm not your average hero. I actually wasn't your average anything. Just a poor guy working an after-school job at a South Beach shoe repair shop to help his mom make ends meet. But a little magic changed it all.

It all started with the curse. And the frogkapping. And one hot-looking princess, who asked me to lead a rescue mission.

There wasn't a fairy godmother or any of that. And even though I fell in love along the way, what happened to me is unlike any fairy tale I've ever heard. Before I knew it, I was spying with a flock of enchanted swans, talking (yes, talking!) to a fox named Todd, and nearly trampled by giants in the Keys.

Don't believe me? I didn't believe it either. But you'll see. Because I knew it all was true, the second I got CLOAKED.

Cloaked Details

Date : Published February 8th 2011 by HarperCollins (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9780060874223

Author : Alex Flinn

Format : Hardcover 341 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Fairy Tales, Romance, Retellings

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From Reader Review Cloaked for online ebook

Kristy says

Meh - 2.5 stars

This book contains mashup of fairy tale retellings including "The Elves and the Shoemaker," "The Frog Prince," "The Six Swans," "The Golden Bird," and "The Brave Little Tailor." It's a light, quick read, that's supposed to be funny, but the humor didn't come across for me.

Johnny who works at his family's shoe repair shop, is chosen by the beautiful princess Victoriana, to go on a quest to rescue her brother who has been turned into a frog by an evil witch. If he triumphs, he is to be rewarded with the princess' hand in marriage. Shenanigans ensue. He realizes that he's in love with his best friend, the girl next door. Blah, blah, blah.

I think teen girls looking for a quick escape into a cheesy fantastical world will enjoy this. If that's not you, don't bother.

Vampire-lk says

Disclaimer this has been placed on the DNF list!!!! At first I thought this was a cool concept! I love classic fairytales especially the creative twist when an author makes it a modern retelling of (princess & the frog) classic fairytale, but sadly this novel was a flop for me! It was too frivolous & lacked any real emotion or attention grabber to me as the reader! I look forward to being so excited & along for the ride next to the characters! Truly submerging myself in that world! That spark was not there for this novel!

Megan (ReadingRover) says

Rarely do I rate a book so low. And honestly I really would have given this one star but there were a lot of obscure fairy tales included which I love and talking animals so it was entertaining in that respect. Otherwise it was an epic fail. Johnny was just a dumb hero. He never did what he was supposed to. He was impulsive and just kind of a ditz. Just follow the damn instructions you're given but nooo he always would do some dumb shit and then get into trouble. I won't even get into how oblivious he was to Meg. I get that he's a teenage boy but c'mon. He was just stupid. It was so frustrating to be in this guy's head. This book needed to be cut down to like half its size and then I would have maybe given it another star. I know a lot of it was meant to be funny too like the prince but he was more annoying. The only saving grace for me was that I listened to it and the narrator was fabulous. He did tons of different voices and accents for all of the characters and that made it so much more enjoyable.

Mollie Katie says

Towards the end of January, I was selected by GoodReads to be an advance reader of "Cloaked" by Alex Flinn. I'm not really sure why, as I haven't written a review there. In fact, I had only made a basic account

and I hadn't started using the website to its full potential yet. I don't think I'm optimizing it now... My plan is to use it to catalog all the books I've read in 2011, since one of my goals for this year was to read 300 books. I've never really counted how many books I've read in a year, but it seemed doable. And I do like a nice round number. So here we are.

"Cloaked" came out on February 8th. I didn't get around to writing about it due to my health and all that jazz until now. Which I think means that GoodReads won't be picking me as an advance reader anymore, but I'm okay with that. It's a lot of pressure. And just to warn you, I have hardly anything nice to say about this book. So without further ado, please to enjoy my review...



For starters, I hate the cover art of the book. That's often what draws me in, what prompts me to stop in my tracks, pick up the book, and read the inside flap to see if it's worth buying. This is an image of a hibiscus growing out of the stylized thorn-covered "Cloaked" title text. Fun fact about the hibiscus plant? They do not have thorns. *headdesk* I understand that the story takes place in Miami and the Florida Keys so the hibiscus is a reasonable choice symbolically, but if you're going to evoke the fairy tale side of things --- the immediate visual that springs to mind is of the rose under glass in Disney's "Beauty & The Beast" (1991)--- could you at least choose a flower that actually has thorns? Awful. So before I even crack it open, this book has made a terrible impression on me.

Quoting the plot summary from the book jacket flap: "Johnny's not your average hero. But a little magic changes everything. There isn't a fairy godmother or any of that. It all starts with a curse. And a froggapping. And one hot-looking princess. And before Johnny knows it, he is on a mission in the Everglades, with only a flock of swans and a talking fox named Joe to help guide him against the forces of an evil witch."

The book is filled with shoe-related quotations, because Johnny is a cobbler in his mother's shoe store within a posh Miami hotel... Which is where he meets the dazzling bronzed and blonde Princess Victoriana of Aloria, who promptly asks Johnny to go on a quest to find her older brother, who has been turned into a frog by the evil witch of her oppressive suitor. Said suitor is trying to oppress Victoriana (oh God that name is just ridiculous) into marrying him; Johnny's reward for successfully locating the princess' brother and helping to turn him back into a human is, coincidentally, her hand in marriage. Which is great because (a) she's this Paris Hilton lookalike which I guess is appealing to men these days and (b) Johnny and his mom are trapped in a life of poverty and said marriage would solve all his financial woes. The title of "Cloaked" stems from a magic-endowed cloak that transports the wearer anywhere he or she wishes to go by sheer force of thought. Of course, Victoriana's foil is present in the guise of Meg, the coffee shop girl next door, his best friend who's secretly in love with him and who (SPOILER ALERT) (view spoiler)

<http://mkisstacked.wordpress.com/2011...>

Cait • A Page with a View says

Ok so I LOVE fairy tale retellings. But... I don't know these ones and discovered that kind of takes the joy out of a retelling.

I recognized the themes of The Frog Prince and The Elves & the Shoemaker, but there were a TON of other fairy tales going on as well. There's a list in the back that included The Six Swans, The Golden Bird, The Valiant Tailor, The Salad (??), and more. So it kind of got a bit chaotic at times.

But even if you don't know the original stories it still feels like a typical contemporary YA book with a bit of magic thrown in!

Basic plot: main character works in a shoe shop and kind of has a crush on his friend. A European princess comes to town and tells him her brother has been turned into a frog by a witch who will only reverse the curse if the princess marries the evil Zalkenbourgian heir. She says she'll marry the main character guy instead if he finds her brother and prevents war & doom. She gives him a magical cloak that can transport him wherever he wants to go aaaaand the story unfolds.

It's a pretty fast read, but I think the tone was just aimed at a bit of a younger audience than I was in the mood for.

Elizabeth ?Smart Girls Love Trashy Books? says

-POTENTIAL SPOILERS-

Before I knew anything about this book aside from the title, I automatically assumed this was a Little Red Riding Hood retelling, and I was a bit disappointed when I found out it wasn't. There aren't enough good ones out there of that fairy tale.

Anyway, this is just a hodgepodge of various Grimms' Fairy-Tales, all because in her first book readers had no idea what Snow White and Rose Red was. Seriously?! Will you people read a book?! Who DOESN'T know that fairytale!? Especially since Disney is thinking of turning it into a movie in a few years. I even knew what The Salad was!

I enjoyed this one. The fairytales, despite the volume, were interwoven together in such a great way. Even though the setting is contemporary, I never once found myself questioning the believability, unlike when I read Towering. The twist about who loved who was a good twist, and also the twist that the fox is actually the main character's dad. I also liked the Florida setting! Makes me wish I could go to our lake-beach in town.

Overall I had fun reading this. It was an unusual and daring experiment to take, but I think it paid off rather well. I can't wait to finish the two remaining Alex Flinn fairy-tale retelling books I have left!

Jackie "the Librarian" says

Mash up of several fractured fairy tales by the author of *Beastly*. Johnny is a hard-working 17-year-old who works in a shoe repair store in a fancy Miami hotel. He designs shoes, but since his dad disappeared years ago, the family has barely been able to scrape by, let alone send Johnny off to college, or fashion school, or wherever you go to become a famous shoe person like Jimmy Choo. And no, Johnny's not gay. He just *likes shoes*. Okay? Okay.

Ah-hah, you think! Shoes! There will be elves! And, you're right, but that's not the focus of the story. Because in walks a princess from some European country that speaks French, and she's pretending to be like Paris Hilton, but she's not really a party girl, she's just throwing off the press from her real reason for being in Florida. She's trying to find her brother, the prince, who's been turned into a frog. And she wants Johnny's help. Naturally, Johnny is skeptical of her story, too bad about the crazy princess. She's so pretty, too! Until he tries out the magic cloak she gives him to enlist him in her search, and is magically transported to wherever he wishes to go. Okay, NOT crazy. The money she's offering as a reward doesn't hurt, either.

It turns out, there's magic all OVER Florida, mainly in the form of transformed animals. Swans and rats and foxes and suddenly I'm thinking it's too bad a talking alligator didn't show up somehow. But Alex Flinn was incorporating some lesser known folktales, and I guess she couldn't find one with a gator to work in. Too bad. Instead, we get eastern European villains in the midst of Key West, which was a little jarring.

Of course there's a girl-next-door, and confusion about who loves who, and do you REALLY want to marry a princess as your reward, and it all works out about the way you'd expect, and that's fine. This isn't great literature, it's just fun. A little sloppy, and not as well developed as it could have been, but it's short, what do you want? I'm not sure what the moral of the story is, other than work hard, try your best, and go a little crazy now and then when you're following your dream because sometimes magic really CAN happen. Also, take good care of your shoes. :)

Recommended if you want a light, funny teen fantasy with talking animals.

Gemma says

I feel like the best word to describe Cloaked would be 'cute'.

Cute can mean any number of things, with both negative and positive connotations depending on the context. There's 'little baby with chubby cheeks' cute. There's 'guy with nice eyes and a pleasant smile' cute. There's 'seven year old girl who purposely talks in a high pitched baby voices' cute, which is annoying. There's 'don't be cute with me' cute, when you try to be witty and your parents get all offended and irritated.

Really, cute is a terribly vague word. It's like nice. Or good. Or interesting. It implies something decent, most of the time, but really doesn't tell you anything about the subject you're describing. And after you write it or say it or think it enough, it starts to sound funny. Cute.

So, I'll elaborate. Cloaked is chick-flick cute. Kind of eye-roll inducing and sometimes the teensiest bit nauseating, but overall not that bad. My feeling on it can basically be summed up to a shrug and an "It was okay."

I was fooled by the title and the red flower on the cover into thinking that this was based off of Little Red Riding Hood. It... wasn't, at all. It was sort of a fairy tale combo, with elements of the Frog Prince, the one

about the shoemaker and just... princesses. Like, the number one element of fairy tales: princesses. You can't have a fairy tale without a princess.

Cloaked had its princess. She was sounded French, and reminded me of Harry Potter's Fleur Delacoure, except not as fun or as colorful. Her name was Victoriana, which seemed to be trying a bit too hard to sound frilly. Cloaked also had its knight in shining armor, Johnny, who happens to be our narrator.

I think Johnny was my biggest problem with this book. To me, he sounded like a girl. Maybe it was the constant shoe talk, or the random quotes about shoes from things that seemed geared more towards females, like Roxanne or Into the Woods... Or maybe it was just the way he sounded, just... like a girl, not a guy. I don't know. Something about it just seemed like it was written by a girl, which it was. Alex Flinn is a girl. And a lot of times (see Maximum Ride), when authors try to write from the perspective of someone of the opposite gender, they just... fail. Doesn't matter what they say or what they talk about, readers just know it's not quite right. It adds to the level of falseness.

Yes, there was definitely some falseness about Cloaked, or at least, some contrived-ness. It didn't feel really there, not the way the other ones were. It felt fluffier, less set-up, easier to solve. Like the author just wanted to crank out another fairy tale retelling, but didn't put the same amount of effort she put into her previous novels. The story was kind of flat, not as intriguing as *Beastly* or as fun as *A Kiss in Time*. It was kind of a quest story, where they're trying to get the frog brother back, but there was never a sense of urgency. It's like *Dora the Explorer*: we're trying to get here, but first we have to go here, here and here. But we'll make it to our destination, we know, so don't get worried or scared. It was that same level of blasé-ness, which kept the story from being riveting or captivating.

Also, as with most chick flicks, it's painfully predictable. I knew the 'twists' about who would end up with who and who's actually whose dad from the moment the characters were introduced.

After thinking it through, I'm going to lower my rating from 3 to 2. Sorry, Alex. I just think you could have done a lot better here.

Annabel ♥ says

I wasn't really expecting much from this book (don't really know why), so at least it wasn't a complete disappointment. No doubt I was still unimpressed. I haven't read *Beastly*, which is also by Alex Flinn, but I don't think I'll be reading it since this one was just plain annoying.

This book started out ok. About halfway through I was thinking it would be a 3-star rating. But 60% of the way through, this book fell apart. I ended up skimming through the second half and wishing that it would be over already. I was extremely bored.

I liked Johnny I guess, although to me he was a bit boring, as was Meg. The characters needed a little more personality, I thought. (view spoiler) It was sort of annoying having to read the stuff spoken by the princess or people from her country, as all the W's were pronounced as V's and it was just obnoxious.

One thing I did like about the book was that Johnny's mother was aware of what he was doing. There are so many books (in fact, ALL Of the books I've read) in which the parent is clueless to their son's or daughter's whereabouts. I guess it's fine, independence and all that, but I seriously doubt that parents would just be like, "Oh, whatev, my son is talking to foxes and there's this serial killer dude chasing after him." Well Johnny's mom wasn't like that. SO I think that is the one thing I liked about the book.

All in all I didn't really like this book. Not really for specific reasons. I just didn't enjoy it, the plot went too fast and I ended up skipping most of the second half of it. I wouldn't recommend this book but try it if you like. The premise was interesting I guess but this wasn't one I'll be saying I liked or anything. :/

1.5 stars

Meg says

This is the worst Alex Flinn books I've ever read. Hell, this could quite possibly be one of my least favorite books I've ever read.

I LOVE Alex Flinn's books. I love her characters, the plots, her writing style, everything! I could read both *Beastly*, *Breathing Underwater*, and *Breaking Point* over and over and OVER AND OVER.

So when I saw this book at my school's library..I was pretty dang excited. *Beastly* is my favorite Flinn, so I was like...FAIRY RETELLING LETS GO.

Let me tell you, I've never been so disappointed. I'd hate to rate one of her books one star..but I must. That's how much I hated this book.

I felt like it was a never ending goose chase with no depth, no character development, and above all...no magic. NONE. Just boring and plain.

It was awful. I hated the characters. I hated the pairing at the end and how they just ALL OF A SUDDEN were magically in love. Like, oh my gosh. That's...just..peachy. Really? :|

One of the most annoying things about this book was the princess. That accent DOES NOT NEED TO BE WRITTEN OUT. I couldn't stand it. I found myself skipping through what the girl was saying because I got so annoyed with it.

Its been months since I've read this book, so I can't really go deeper with things I disliked..but, I'll just say I wanted to stop reading this book very early on. Even before I got bored with the plot and it's lack of just pure awesomeness, I didn't connect with the characters..at all. They were just /there/ and I couldn't get in to it.

I'm so glad I had checked this one out at the library and not purchased it from the bookstore. That's all I really have to say. :/

Cara says

Before anything I have to mention that for some reason I assumed that this was a re-telling of *Red Riding*

Hood , and for those of you (probably not too many because I'm exceptionally dim sometimes) who thought it was as well I'm here to tell you it isn't. There is a cloak in the story, but no oblivious girls or furry looking grandmothers in sight.

This story follows the life of Johnny, a seventeen-year-old who aspires to be a shoe designer, but what he does is help out with his family's business. They repair shoes in South Beach, Florida. It's just him and his mom, and his dad has been missing for years. Unfortunately they have a hard time making ends meet, but with some luck or fate you could say, a princess comes to town that will seem to have the key (or more like money) to make all those problems go away. The princess claims that her brother has been turned into a frog and she thinks Johnny is the right person to find him and bring him back. What ensues is a whirlwind adventure, and Johnny gets a lot more out of it than he had anticipated.

I'm a huge fan of fairy tale re-tellings and though I did enjoy this I gotta say it was a bit of an overload. The fairy tales used here aren't that commonly known by people (myself included), and it felt too stuffed. Too many events happening and too many storylines for one story. I felt like we were jumping from crisis to crisis **ALL** the time. But then again that was probably what the author was trying to achieve; the feeling that our character was almost literally flying by the seat of his pants. All that aside I did appreciate the magical elements, and how they were interwoven in the storyline. I'm getting too clever for my own good though (probably not true but...) because I could see the "twists" coming most of the time, but fairytales are often that way. Meghan, who is Johnny's best friend, is a great character and I loved the relationship between them.

What made this story good, even though it felt hurried, was Johnny. He tries hard to help his mom, and he has a vision of how things should be. But at the same time he has his faults. He's convinced the money will fix everything and he'll do almost anything so he and his mom can have a better life. How can you not like a character like that?

Now for what has been irking me since I read this book: Does anyone know why there is a red flower on the cover? I do not remember a red flower being mentioned, or somebody saying something about a red flower. I'm baffled, stumped, and it's really nagging at me. I feel like I missed something, so if anyone can inform me I would *greatly* appreciate it.

Lectus says

Via <http://onlectus.blogspot.com/2013/01/...>

This book would make a wonder animated movie for children. Yes, for CHILDREN!

Johnny is poor, and he works in the family's shoe repair business in South Beach and secretly wishes to be a famous shoe designer. Her mom has just taken a second job because they don't even make enough in the business to pay the bills.

One day, a princess (real princess from another country) comes to South Beach and, what are the odds? - meets Johnny! Even more, she asks for his help to rescue her brother (the prince) who has been turned into a frog and vanished from... I don't know, around. So the princess asks Johnny to find her brother but before, she gives him \$10 thousand dollars for his troubles; that is, money he gets to keep regardless of accepting the mission or not.

Obviously, the striving business is striving no more and Johnny goes in a journey to find this frog/prince.

Along the way, he gets to talk with different animals... because we really live in a magical world where all you need is a magical hearing device to be able to talk with birds, foxes, bears and the like.

As I said, this is a nice story for middle graders (maybe?) that would make a nice animated movie.

I'm too old for this type of fantasy and way past stories this simple.

Isamlq says

I vowed not to take the book too seriously and just to go with where it would take me given the constant reference to its nature.. It is a FAIRY TALE RETELLING. So just take it at face value and don't expect any mind-blowing revelations (Although any such revelations would not be unwelcome.)

Am I glad I attacked it with this light perspective. I most definitely enjoyed CLOAKED. Once I had shucked off my expectations, Johnny's story became entertaining though of course, most definitely unbelievable. Then again, author isn't asking us to believe Cloaked is she?

A couple of things entertained me when it came to the protagonist, Johnny. At one point he is so surprised at being called smart because, apparently, he is so used to being called nice. He even likens himself to a yellow lab and an economy car.. All three are "nice, reliable and sweet." He definitely is all those things, but one thing as well: he is clueless. The girl who likes him has to practically put up a sign saying so... and he still doesn't take the hint *at this point I remind myself "FAIRY TALE RETELLING" in a sing-song hum.* Then there's the funny note of what he wants to become when he grows up (that made me chuckle.. It's so different from what one would expect from a seventeen year old boy.) Plus Johnny really is nice... all the little adventures he gets himself into are because he is doing something for someone.. See? Nice.

Speaking of adventures... his were just down right cute. You recognize the elements but have to chuckle at how they were incorporated into Cloaked.

Over all... don't take it seriously, and you will definitely have a blast.

Misty says

Being the fan of fairy tales that I am, I had heard of Alex Flinn, of course. But for whatever reason, I had never read anything by her, so Cloaked is my first. And I have to start by saying: SHE USED THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER!!!

Let me set the scene for you:

Misty, as a small child, had 3 books she was obsessed with. One was The Velveteen Rabbit, which we don't need to discuss here, other than to say she still has it, of course. The other 2 were fairy tales: somebody's (?) beautiful version of The Twelve Dancing Princesses, and 2 copies of The Elves and the Shoemaker (one was a Little Golden Book, the other was part of a fairy tale series).

Misty read The Elves and the Shoemaker constantly, and always hoped to catch little cobbler elves doing something -- anything -- to her shoes.

Misty dreamed about the day she'd see them, and even though it would make her sad to see them go, she wanted to make tiny clothes for them. (If you don't know what Misty is talking

about, go read the story)

[I'm now done speaking in creepy 3rd person; you can relax.]

So, years later, I've often said "I wish someone would do something with The Elves and the Shoemaker. But I'm afraid they'd make it creepy, and I liked my Elves."

Well, among other tales (this is a mash-up), Flinn uses The Elves and the Shoemaker, and she didn't make them creepy! It's incorporated in such a sweet, cute way. I just had to start with that, because it made me endlessly happy to see the tale even included. And I think it was a good indicator of the story over all. It makes use of some lesser known tales right alongside the more obvious ones, and it uses them all in a way that I can't help but describe as cute.

It's sweet, it's wholesome, it's completely kid-friendly -- but this isn't to say that it's saccharine or boring.

One of the things I discovered reading my first Flinn is that she is genuinely funny. Like really lol funny. Her writing has an air of playfulness and silliness that's enjoyable to read, and makes for a nice balance to the darker, more depressing tones many fairy tale retellings take. It's fun and refreshing and thoroughly modern, and I think will appeal to a variety of readers because of that. In a strange way, it reminds me of The Sea of Monsters, the 2nd book in the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan. That's partly due to the location and the quest aspect of it, and some of the character interactions. But it's also got the same silly/funny style that works for lots of age groups and style preferences.

There are a few things I want to point out quickly: Alex Flinn writes in accents. If you watch my video, you'll see what I mean -- I'm reading it as written (albeit a little over the top and ridiculously...) There are characters with French and German (?) accents in the book, and things are spelled/pronounced accordingly. I found it amusing, and think it adds to the charm and silliness, but it bears keeping in mind because I know things like this can irritate or frustrate some readers. I would suggest popping online somewhere, like Amazon, where you can look inside, and see if this bothers you before you decide to buy it.

Also, I think some people may find Johnny irritating. I liked him, but he can be completely bumbling and clueless. I found this to be in keeping with fairy tales in general, actually (men in fairy tales seem to be either riding up on white horses to save the day, or doing *incredibly* stupid things), but some readers may wish for him to wake up a bit and use the brain we know he has. But the great thing about him being kind of clueless is Meg -- Meg is a great foil for Johnny, and she's intriguing and strong and really interesting. It's fun to watch them work through things together, and to know what's *really* going on when Johnny is completely lost.

You can see me reading an excerpt of this with a ridiculous French accent here...

(Oh, we also interviewed Flinn. :D)

Anne Osterlund says

Johnny fixes shoes and dreams of designing his own, along with paying the bills, saving the family business, and helping his mom so she doesn't have to work a second job. Then the princess of Aloria arrives. And she wants Johnny—JOHNNY—to rescue her brother. Whom she claims was turned into a frog by an evil witch, then set loose in the Florida keys.

She's even willing to marry the guy who rescues her amphibian relation.

Of course, Johnny's not buying it. Like there might actually be transformed frogs. Or witches. Or magic

cloaks like the one the princess offers him, that can actually transport him wherever he wishes to go.

But—hey!—she hot. So he's prepared to feign an interest.

At least he's feigning until the cloak zaps him from the princess's quarters to his own bathtub. And then he runs into the talking swan and the man with the gun. At which point Johnny realizes this mission just might be getting out of control.

Alex Flinn's *Cloaked* is a potpourri of various fairytales, all mashed up and interwoven within one wacky adventure. Personally, I enjoyed all the transformed animals (the rat, the swans, the fox), and I liked Meg. Who is NOT a hot princess.

Sarah says

OHMYGOD! Alex Flinn is a girl, I mean a woman! All this time, I thought she was a guy. Like a man-man. Like Rick Riordan who retells(is this even a verb?) Greek, Roman and Egyptian mythology. This would totally change my perspective in reading his---I mean her books.

I am so regretting that OHMYGOD. Oh here I go again, using the Lord's name in vain. I swore not to but it's hard when you're so surprised. Honestly, I am.

Anyway, I read the premise and I do not know what retelling would this be. It's not as clear as *Beastly* or *A Kiss In Time* which are the retelling of *Beauty and The Beast* and *Sleeping Beauty*, respectively. Or maybe I am not familiar with the story but I will soon find out, I guess.

Seriously! Alex Flinn, a female?! Sorry, I just can't get over it.

And now I've read it and I can honestly say that it's my favorite out of all Flinn's work.

It must be the adventure, or the lovestory, or the tales she used. I actually am quite familiar with some of them. Like *The Valiant Tailor* which when I was kid, I read as *The Little Tailor* and *The Firebird* and *The Gray Wolf* which I know only as *The Firebird* and of course *The Frog Prince* which I know as *The Frog Prince* or I guess the new Disney's *Princess and The Frog*. DUH! But the rest not so much so I enjoyed the somewhat *newness* of it all.

Is it just me or is there really a *Percy Jackson* feel to it? And you know how I love that series so it definitely helped.

I can sum it up in three words: **Refreshing. Captivating. Fun.** For those who can't get enough of Alex Flinn's work won't surely want to miss this.

Beatrice Masaluña says

Cloaked is an **enjoyable, fun, and adventurous book**. Alex Flinn is well known to write Fairy Tale Retellings and I've only read *Beastly*, which I really like. In this book, it's a mash-up fairy tales and most of them are unfamiliar to me (I only knew The Frog Prince).

The first half of this book is indeed fast paced and I'm enjoying the main character's quest as he helps a gorgeous Princess to save his brother who's cursed by a witch to become a Frog. Now the Frog Prince is missing, Princess Victoriana sees something in Johnny wherein she can trust him to do this magical quest. However, Johnny's deal with the Princess Victoriana ticked me off. He is a talented shoe-maker who is struggling financially and is in need for money to sustain his everyday expenses. When he succeeds this mission by saving the frog prince, he will be marrying the Princess as a reward. Okay? So he's blinded with money.. Never mind. I'm after the quest... take a chance having an adventure and hopefully Johnny gets on the right senses to truly love someone.

Halfway through of this book, it started to get dull. I don't know why I feel that.. Maybe because he keeps on running and get side-tracked by his main mission. Not that being side-tracked to help others is bad (they helped Johnny as well in exchange), it's just that everything beats around the bush. Don't get me wrong, I still like the way it ends I just wish that it focuses on ONE FAIRY TALE. Oh well, just enjoy the adventure.

P.S.

I don't like The Prince here. Who the hell calls his milady some cheesy names of various animals?

- * Dainty Komodo Dragon
- * My Dear Leetle Turtle
- * My Tiny Newt
- * My Leetle Anemone

I don't find it sweet. It's ridiculously cheesy and eye-rolling annoying.

Yaz *The Reading Girl* says

Review re-written on December 14th, 2013

DNF at 24%

This is all I have to say: BORING.

Yes...I am being rude but I have a rule for 1 star books, and that is that if the book bores me to death(literally)I can't finish it and I have to be honest, REALLY honest in my review. So, yes Cloaked was BORING. Which was a big disappointment for me.

I am a huge fan of Alex Flinn and I loved her book *Beastly*. *Beastly* was just so detailed, beautiful, and a modern fairy tale. It was a re-tell of *Beauty and the Beast*. But when I started reading *Cloaked* I felt like I was searching for Alex Flinn's handwriting somewhere in the book. The writing did not impress me at all, the humor wasn't funny which I guess it was supposed to be, the supposed suspense and mystery did not scare me at all, and the characters were just too dull and BORING.

I didn't like the idea of how "The Elves and the Shoemaker," "The Frog Prince," "The Six Swans," "The

Golden Bird," and "The Brave Little Tailor" were all mixed together in the story. It made the story confusing and hard to understand. And if you have never heard of those fairy tales then you would obviously not understand anything.

In conclusion, all I have to say is that it bored me. I didn't fully finish it and I can't say how it ended but I just have to say that it wasn't for me. Read it you want or read *Beastly*.

But sadly *Cloaked* just wasn't for me.

Anne says

3.5 stars

If you go into this with the expectation that this is a light fairytale retelling, you'll probably like this one.

I was expecting it to be a modern version of *The Frog Prince*, and even though that is *one* of the main fairytales in this book, it's not the only one. At the end of the Book, Flinn lists all of the stories that she drew from, and there were waaay more than I was expecting. One of the stories I wasn't even familiar with (*The Salad?*). There are (I felt) three main retellings going on at once (*The Frog Prince*, *The Six Swans*, and *The Elves and the Shoemaker*). The rest of the tales are sort of worked into the sub-plots. In a way, I wish she had just focused *one* story at a time, but, at the same time, it was also interesting to see how she wove them all together.

Again, as with most fairytale retellings, the characters had a tendency to be a tad flat and unreal, but I still think Flinn does a better job than most when creating them. I love this genre, and I'll definitely be checking out whatever she puts out in the future.

Joy says

"All the good quotes have shoes."

Johnny is just a normal guy who works at his family's shoe repair shop in South Beach, Florida. Then one day, a princess from Aloria shows up and asks him to help her find her brother who's been turned into a frog by a nasty witch. She calls him a "good boy," gives him money and two magical things then promises to marry him after he completes the quest. Soon, Johnny's world is turned completely upside down as he explores a magic that he never knew existed and learns some truths about his own relationships.

Overall, *Cloaked* reminded me of a more childish and adventure-filled version of *Cinder & Ella*. While the premise of this novel is quite interesting, in the end, I wasn't super impressed by the story.

First of all, Johnny pissed me off so much. There were so many points in the novel where I would just stare at the page and say, "Stupid." Also, he just wasn't a very developed character - he kept making the same mistakes, always fell for the enemy's tricks and was overwhelmingly dense. And even though he did mature a bit by the end of the novel, it just wasn't enough for me.

I have a real love for fairytales and retellings, so I thought it was really cool how there were so many Grimm

stories all woven into one novel - Cinderella, Princess and the Frog, Six Swans, etc. This aspect of *Cloaked* made me think of *Fables*, Vol. 1: *Legends in Exile*, which is just an amazing mix of fairytales.

But this novel has way too many plot holes and "happy" coincidences. The whole talking to animals idea was very interesting, but there was little to no explanation as to how exactly these animals came about or why there are different magical obstacles for each animal. I also hated how Todd (the fox) just so happened to be important to both Johnny's quest and personal life... (view spoiler)

One thing I liked about Johnny was how obsessed he was with shoes not just because it was the family business but because he genuinely enjoyed making and repairing them - many times losing himself in the act. Another part that I did enjoy was (view spoiler).

More lows than highs but not a terrible book. Definitely on the younger side of Young Adult though. 2.5
