



Disenchanted: The Trials of Cinderella

Megan Morrison

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Ella Coach has one wish: revolution. Her mother died working in a sweatshop, and Ella wants every laborer in the Blue Kingdom to receive fairer treatment. But to make that happen, she'll need some high-level support . . .

Prince Dash Charming has one wish: evolution. The Charming Curse forced generations of Charming men to lie, cheat, and break hearts -- but with the witch Envearia's death, the curse has ended. Now Dash wants to be a better person, but he doesn't know where to start . . .

Serge can grant any wish -- and has: As an executive fairy godfather, he's catered to the wildest whims of spoiled teenagers from the richest, most entitled families in Blue. But now a new name has come up on his list, someone nobody's ever heard of . . . Ella Coach.

Disenchanted: The Trials of Cinderella Details

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Author : Megan Morrison

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From Reader Review Disenchanted: The Trials of Cinderella for online ebook

Emily Andrus says

I laughed, I cried, I loved this book. The depth of story, what with the look into labor laws and inequality between classes, was heartbreakingly well-researched. And yet, the touch of romance, the humor, the love between family just made it so heartwarming, too (oh my gosh, Cinderella's stepmom is so kick-butt awesome). These range of emotions make it easy to get hooked on the story and characters, cheering them on until the end. And yes, sorry-not-sorry, it is a cheesy happily-ever-after. I love a good fairy tale, okay?

I admit, there's a lot of personal favoritism behind this review because, as a whole, it appeals to my preferences. But even from a more critical perspective, it's not just a fluffy fairy tale retelling to brush aside. Yes, there's fairies and a Prince Charming, but it's almost historical fiction, too; it's easy to see echoes of America's own Industrial Revolution. Some may complain about a slow start or flat characters, but I'm still in love. A wonderful sequel to the first Tyme novel.

Devin Smither says

Ms. Morrison proves her excellent first book (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...>) is no fluke in this masterfully told companion/sequel.

The most impressive thing about this outing is the three different points of view: they each have a distinct voice (including one rather jaded fairy who nevertheless manages to be middle grade-friendly), and the way the POVs interweave in the plot is just fantastic.

There is also surprising relevance to real life as the plight of garment workers in this obviously fictional tale has strong corollaries to our own world.

It's funny, it's romantic, it's heartbreakingly everything you want from a sequel and more. (*mild spoiler* There is one harrowing sequence that might put people off from reading this to very young children, but middle graders will likely have read much worse at some point if their reading experience has even a little breadth.)

Once again, my highest recommendation, and I can't wait for the third in the series. Hot tip: if you miss Rapunzel and Jack, have a little patience.

Josiphine/Tessa says

Wow, this book was awesome. I'm a huge fan of Megan Morrison's first book and this one is almost as wonderful (I think I liked *Grounded* just a smidge more). The shifting povs actually worked (for once) and I love the characters. Morrison does believe characters so well--the fact that both Dash and Ella were willing to recognize and admit when they're wrong is so awesome. I loved the focus on factories and labor laws. It made the book a bit more original and hard-hitting than some other fairy-tales. (view spoiler)

I wish that Morrison would have integrated a few more elements from the original story though. It's not really a retelling besides the fact that Cinderella goes from rags to riches and there's a ball involved. Though fairy godmothers and glass slippers play an important part in the story, it didn't really ring true as a Cinderella retelling. Fractured is probably a better description.

Overall, I loved it and I stayed up way too late reading. Now I have to wait ages and ages for the next one :(.

Pre-reading:

I would commit a minor felony for this book.

Book Riot Community says

This is the second book in the Tyme series, and I absolutely loved and adored it. The protagonist, Ella Coach, is a wonderfully strong, brave and flawed girl who wants a revolution. This was a great retelling of the Cinderella story. There are well-developed three-dimensional characters, strong writing, set in a brilliantly imagined universe. I loved the themes of ethics, poverty and class that were explored in this novel, and that ending. Man, that ending. I need more of the Tyme universe. My copy of the book is now on my husband's bedside table because as soon as I finished it, I thrust it to him. Everyone should read this book.

— Jen Sherman

from The Best Books We Read In October 2016: [http://bookriot.com/2016/10/31/riot-r...](http://bookriot.com/2016/10/31/riot-roundup-best-books-read-october-2016/)

Ms. Yingling says

Returning to the land of Thyme that was the setting for Rapunzel's adventures in Grounded, we catch up with several of the characters. Prince Dash has been released from his family curse following the death of the witch Envearia. Now, he is not destined to break the heart of the one who loves him like his father and his father before him, but he is also no longer forced to be charming, and has trouble returning to Coterie Prep and figuring out who he really is. We also have Ella Coach, whose mother died working in a sweat shop. Now that her father has married a rich business woman, she is also at the exclusive school, but unwilling to give up her identity as one of the poor. This makes her a target of much meanness on the part of the other girls. The third point of view from which the story is told is Serge's. He is high up in the Glass Slipper godparenting boutique hierarchy, working with Jules and the new intern, Jasper. When Ella and Dash work together on a school project, they try to improve the conditions for working people but meet resistance until a tragedy occurs. Things become even more complicated when Dash's father arranges a marriage for him to get him away from Ella.

The world of Thyme is very intricately constructed. The maps at the beginning of the book are an introduction to how these come together-- Disenchanted is in the kingdom of Quintessential and has a lot of fabric and garment construction connections. This is reflected in the names of the characters-- Dimity, Gusset, Chemise Shantung, and the Jacquard factory. I was particularly interested in the way that the plight

of garment workers in the kingdom mirrored the conditions of similar workers in the US in the early 1900s. The factory incident at the end of the book is reminiscent of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

Dash and Ella have a good relationship, and it's nice that they are portrayed as equals even though he is a prince and she is from a working class background. Dash's father, the king, is deliciously evil, even after the curse is removed, so I was glad that Dash's mother was able to escape.

This is a very dense book, and readers who want to become totally absorbed in a fantasy world will adore it. The content is solidly middle grade, while the feel is a bit more young adult, with the workers' rights issues, the romance, and a few other issues. This makes it a great choice for avid tween readers who have devoured Giwitz's *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, Buckley's *Fairy Tale Detectives*, and Baker's *The Wide Awake Princess*. *Disenchanted* is fairy tale elements with a side of snark that is perfect for older readers who feel compelled to wear *Frozen* sweatshirts ironically.

Molly Jeanne says

Megan Morrison's second adventure in the land of Tyme, *Disenchanted: The Trials of Cinderella*, is an action-packed adventure that twists the tale of Cinderella and turns it into a new masterpiece. In one narrative, seamlessly switching between the points of view of Ella Coach, the new girl in her town of Quintessential who wants to avenge her mother's death, Prince Dash Charming, the heir to the Blue Kingdom's throne who wants to become a new person after the death of the witch Envearia released him from a curse that controlled who he was, and Serge, a fairy godfather who is caught between serving the Slipper and following his own dreams. As the world changes around them, the three of them find their fates intertwined, and they must work together in order to save the throne of the Blue Kingdom.

One of my favorite characters in the story was, surprisingly, Ella's stepmother Sharlyn, who co-runs the company Practical Elegance with Ella's father, Earnest. At the beginning, she seems like just another evil stepmother that Ella must defeat, forcing her to go to Coterie Prep because the school "provided the best connections. The best education. The best opportunities for social advancement." It seems like the final nail is hammered into the coffin when Ella runs away to Eel Grass after embarrassing herself in front of Prince Dash and Sharlyn comes to whisk her back home, saying that Ella was "here under false pretenses." The first sign that Sharlyn's character is different from the archetype of an evil stepmother is when she forces Ella to go to a royal ball King Clement is holding in order to blackmail his son into telling him where Queen Maud Poplin has escaped to. At one point, she tells Ella, "This is how business is really done...Not in offices, but on ballroom floors." However, she also correctly judges the character of Ella's friend Chemise, whom Ella states is "the nicest of the lot [of girls at Coterie Prep]. By about a thousand leagues." Sharlyn completely turns around when Ella presents her and her father with a business plan to make Practical Elegance fairer for workers and consumers, and Sharlyn is one of the first to let her institute her plan by inviting her to inspect the workshop, saying that she "will seriously consider every suggestion" Ella thinks would be helpful for the company. During the climax of the book, when (view spoiler). The book's narrative chooses the road less travelled in adaptations of the Cinderella fairy tale by making the stepmother a flawed but likeable character, and it does so with a timeless style that kids will enjoy.

My favorite scene from the book is the scene where (view spoiler).

All in all, this book has an intriguing story, memorable characters, and a conflict that will keep you turning the pages long after your mom or dad tells you that it's time for you to go to sleep. As the world of Tyme is built on, bringing back characters from the original novel *Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel* and exploring a new kingdom with problems of its own, Megan Morrison takes the story of three very different people and weaves them together in a timeless tapestry of heart and humor that will make you extremely

excited for the next volume in the story of Tyme.

Abigail F says

I thought I couldn't possibly like this one more than *Grounded*, but wow. Tyme is such an incredibly well thought out world, and Ella is inspiring me to make changes in my own life and consumer habits. The question posed near the end of what constitutes real heroism is so important for the book's target age group, though I'd argue that both Tyme books are needed almost even more amongst adult readers. Totally love this series. Bravo, Megan Morrison.

Re-read on 25 Oct 2017, and I still love this novel. I wish I could make everyone read it. I noticed even more details on this re-read, and parts of it feel even more relevant this year than they did last year (particularly concerning political systems, votes, and class/wealth disparity). This is one of the books we need right now.

As Hot As Jack Frost says

There are no words. This book is one of the best I have read both this year and in my life. It's not a simple middle grade book or fairy tale retelling *at all*.

Lies, there are plenty of words. Let's do this.

The first book, *Grounded*, was so awesome, with adventures and interesting new magic. And yet Morrison managed to outdo herself with the second one. I literally stayed up *an entire night* (December 27) reading this. I didn't go to sleep until 8 A.M. I remember looking up from the book and seeing that the view beyond my window shade was suddenly filled with light. Megan Morrison's words are effortless to read, and I can only imagine how much effort it took for her to make them that way. There were no instances where I tripped over a sentence or was confused about what she was trying to say. Reading *Disenchanted* was simply magical.

The thought that went into this book was amazing. There isn't a single subplot that I think was left unresolved. Everything is connected--little details that are mentioned in the beginning turn out to have major significance later. I was flipping through the book after I finished it, and I can't believe how subtly, how skillfully, Morrison manages to foreshadow things that happen in the future. Events are handled with mastery, and they don't feel artificially planned out or contrived. Morrison has been "developing the world of Tyme since 2003," and it shows. The magical atmosphere seeps into every page. She deftly weaves fairy tales with real-world problems, spinning out a story both timeless and universal.

I loved all the details and the characters so, so much. The best part of any book has to be the characters. If your main character has the personality of a potato and the dimensions of a soggy sheet of paper, it doesn't matter if you've got the most intricate, thought-out plot in the entire universe--your readers won't be invested in the story emotionally, which is the most important part. But I loved all the main characters--Ella, Dash, Jasper, and Serge. I think Jasper was one of my favorites; he's adorable. You'll want to root for them every step of the way. One thing I really liked was the differences between different kinds of fairies: for example, Blue fairies, like Serge, can make themselves invisible; Crimson fairies, like Jasper, can't. They do, however, do this:

"The Crimson fairy was on his feet, applauding with his hands *and* his enormous wings, his tears turning to bright crimson roses as they splashed to the floor. Serge resisted the urge to roll his eyes. New apprentices were often passionate, but this one seemed particularly theatrical."

"He sighed, and little lights like stars floated from his lips."

"Jasper's face was a mess, his tears becoming minuscule frogs that leapt from his face only to vanish in bursts of smoke."

Little touches like that just made me smile even more. I also enjoyed seeing the characters from the previous book (I love Rapunzel and Jack). Not to mention, they all speak differently! I'm not talking just about the differences between how upper-class and lower-class people speak (which she doesn't forget to write in) but the nuances and cadences of each individual character's speech. I'd be able to tell which main character was speaking just by how they talked!

"[Jules] sighed. 'Put Gossamer on my schedule. Ta, babe.'

Thimble departed. Jules leaned back in her chair and took a long drink from her glass. Her gaze fell on Serge and Jasper.

'Serge.' She had a way of giving just one word the weight of an entire speech. 'Babe, it's *so* good to see you. It's been weeks, hasn't it? It feels like *weeks*.'

It had been two days."

Not only that, but she manages to give the minor characters--which end up almost entirely forgotten by some authors--personality and agency. That way, the world seemed realer and fuller, not just populated by random figures in the background who were only there to further the plot, like the worlds of some authors.

Throughout the entire book, I laughed, I cried, I cheered. This is no run-of-the-mill fairy tale retelling. *Disenchanted* is even more mature and well-written than its predecessor, speaking about important issues that everyone, children and adults, is affected by. It is diverse, self-aware, and filled with friendship, love, and humor. I can only wait and see what magic Morrison will do next.

Jessica says

I absolutely fell in love with Jasper and Serge in this one. I soooooo hope to see more from them...and more Jack and Rapunzel. This story was as beautiful as the first and I'm really loving this unique fairytale world!

Catherine says

This Goodreads assignment, I read a 404-page book called *Disenchanted: the Trials of Cinderella*, by Megan

Morrison. It is a version of Cinderella (of course), with the main character being a girl named Ella (also of course). Ella Coach came from a poor family— her mother died from disease, her father remarrying a woman named Sharlyn. But Ella's father grew rich from several of his inventions, making Ella able to go to royal balls. At one of them, one of Ella's friends (a girl named Chemise) hurt her feet badly during a dance. The only person who helped Chemise was Ella and the prince, making Ella angry at the rich people who stood by and laughed at Chemise's disaster. They talked about how Chemise was so poor she had to use fake shoes which had burned her feet. Ella blew up when they called her and her dead mother "dogs." She told them to go to Geguul (their version of telling them to go to hell), saying that they were murderers and calling them White-hearted witches (which is the worst insult possible). This shows a lot about Ella's character, like how she is easy to bait and how her temper can soar if provoked. Her dad and stepmother literally had to drag Ella from the room to stop her from saying any more dangerous things, which illustrates that she doesn't know when to stop. This is very risky, especially because Ella's parents own a business that rely on the rich people Ella insulted. Ella Coach is quick-tempered and easily angered, but she is one of my favorite characters in the book. :)

Kathy MacMillan says

I just love this book. I read an early version of it, and that was incredible, but now I have just read the final version and I am even more blown away. This is one of those books that I just want to shove at people and say, "READ IT and you'll understand!", but I will try to be coherent here in explaining why.

The land of Tyme is the most fully-fleshed out setting I have ever read in a fairy tale retelling. Seriously, there is so much going at every level, large and small, and all of it adds up to a place that feels more real than most stories set in the real world. Then there are the characters: Ella is smart and fierce and determined and funny and flawed – a heroine at once relatable and aspirational. We should all strive to be as awesome as Ella. Watching Prince Dash Charming stumble through the aftermath of the broken curse - and the uncomfortable realization of his own privilege – is at once painful and inspiring. And he and Ella together are just lovely. There are also tons of other incredibly well developed female characters in the story: Sharlyn, the prickly stepmother who shows herself to be one of Ella's staunchest defenders; Queen Maud, whose moral compass holds more sway over her husband and son than she knows; Jules, the fairy with ulterior motives; and Lady Lariat Jacquard, a villain on par with Dolores Umbridge for pure bile. Morrison is not afraid to take on big topics from the real world and present them in a way that makes sense to young readers. No one can come away from this story without a deeper understanding of privilege, economic systems, and the importance of fair labor regulations. Morrison takes the central themes of the Cinderella story – rags-to-riches, deceiving appearances – and spins them out into a tale about examining what lies beneath our assumptions about others and developing empathy. And how did I get so far without mentioning Serge and Jasper? The additional layers of story created by Serge's burgeoning realization that the cause to which he has dedicated his life has been corrupted, and by his relationship with Jasper, take this far beyond a typical fairy tale retelling. No series has combined whimsy with compelling issues from the real world as seamlessly as this since Harry Potter.

Eva says

More like four and a half stars, because this one has more romance in it, but this book was, I think, even better plotted and executed than the first. I loved the subplot of the fairy godfather and how it tied into the main

story line, and having the steps not being evil was SO refreshing, and main characters of color!!!!!! awesome!!! Ella's whole motivation for everything being to get better working conditions for the lower classes so no one else would suffer like her mom did - excellent. A thoroughly enjoyable read.

Polly says

[Prince Dash, blue fairies Serge and Jules, and Clover a

Morgan (The Bookish Beagle) says

Reread review:

I remembered more of the details than I did for Grounded, but there was still plenty that felt fresh and I adore seeing everything fit together. The characters are AMAZING, I ship Ella and Dash so very much, I ship Serge and Jasper so very much, I love her stepmother, and I love this series a lot. A lot. I can't wait for more and I can't wait to read it again in the future!

Original review:

I loved this book SO much for many different reasons! Going to save most of them for my blog review. A few quick notes:

- This book felt completely different from Grounded, which I think is incredible; the land of Tyme is so huge that each country truly feels like a different kingdom!
- I loved Ella. She was amazing; passionate, brilliant, and while she sometimes spoke too quickly or out of anger, her heart was always in the right place. Plus, there are well earned swoons :)
- I loved her family! It's not the typical evil stepmother and stepsisters; it's Ella's dad with the stepfamily, and it's more a case of growing pains and misunderstandings. I really loved watching the evolution of their relationships.
- I liked the school setting and the focus on business class and the workshops! It was unexpected and very dark and Dickensian at times, including one particularly harrowing sequence. I really appreciate that Megan Morrison never talks down to her readers. These are mature (but not inappropriate) books and deal with tough subjects much like the Harry Potter books did- through a fantasy lens.
- I loved Prince Dash! And his mother. And Serge, and Jasper, who I TOTALLY SHIP. Omg. The head godmother Jules reminded me of the fairy godmother from Shrek 2. What a piece of work.
- There are three POVs (Ella, Dash, Serge) that alternate in various lengths, instead of chapters, and it was satisfying to see them begin to interweave while also getting the full scope of the story.
- The book made me emotional at different points but last 60 pages are particularly fantastic. I love a good courtroom scene!
- Most of all, I loved all the small details. This world feels lived in, with a rich history that I'm dying to know more about. It's timeless but modern and I love all the allusions and details from the first book and from fairy tales. I can't wait to see what else is in store in the land of Tyme.

*counts for ARC August.

***Ramya* says**

This book was a great sequel! I really hope there are more in the series (I'm pretty sure there are; I just haven't looked into it)!

Recommendation:

For anyone who loves Harry Potter, this series is a must-read.

Actual Review:

First of all, this book was more mature than the first one—and not in a bad way. The first book, *Grounded*, focused on younger characters and was about:

- a) figuring out who you are
- b) parent/child love
- c) understanding different Points of View, or just understanding a different way of thinking

The second book was about:

- a) parent/child love
- b1) labor mistreatment
- b2) child mistreatment
- b3) rags VS riches
- c) understanding different POVs, and finding out the truth
- d) figuring out who you are
- e) love and loyalty

Both books were different in their own way, and were beautiful in their own way, and the themes above are only scraping the surface.

If you want to dig in deep to find out the morals and more about the amazing characters, here's my advice:

Read the books :)
