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Felicity Pulman

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Callie is fascinated by her father's virtual reality machine. She wonders if she could use it to visit Camelot and change its history. But as she works on her program she is interrupted by her sister El and her friend Meg who want to be part of the game - they want to be characters at Camelot too. In spite of her misgivings, Callie finds herself adding the pair and, finally, two boys they barely know - Lev the street-kid and Stephen, a loud snob. It is all a game that Callie feels is getting out of hand, being spoilt by her pushy sister. But she has no idea just how out of hand this game will get when she is bumped and accidentally pushes the button that draws all five teens into the machine and back into the very real world of Camelot.

Shalott Details

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Author : Felicity Pulman

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From Reader Review Shalott for online ebook

Steph Bowe says

Shalott tells the story of Callie, her twin sister El, their friend Meg, and two boys from their school – Stephen and Lev – who accidentally go back in time to Camelot, through Callie and El's father's virtual reality program. Callie – an artistic girl who seeks her father's recognition for her abilities – wants to save Camelot by making Lancelot fall in love with the Lady of Shalott instead of Queen Guinevere, preventing a chain of events which would lead to the destruction of Camelot – then El and Meg interfere, and an accident sends them back through time, where they are caught up in the court of King Arthur and the magic of Morgan Le Fay.

This novel is a YA medieval fantasy, with elements of romance and adventure, and though that isn't a genre I would usually read, I greatly enjoyed this novel. Undeniably, the author has researched the setting and myth of Camelot, and the detail within Shalott makes for a believable novel, even in a fantasy setting. The characters all had depth and I felt for their dilemma – would they ever be able to return home to Australia and the present day? (Or, in the end, would they even want to?)

Shalott is the first novel in a series of four, following the adventures of the five teenagers and their adventures in Camelot. This is a novel definitely worth reading for fans of fantasy and medieval novels, but one which I think a lot of teenagers would enjoy. An enchanting novel.

Arthurianmaiden says

This is the story of twin sisters El and Callie who end up dragging their friends (sort of) Meg, Stephan and Lev back in arthurian time, using a virtual reality simulator.

Callie wants to make Lancelot fall in love with her, to save Camelot, and so she depicts herself as the Lady of Shalott.

This is an 'on hold' review. I finished the novel but even if it seems and looks complete, it /felt/ incomplete and I hope in the next novels of the trilogy many things will be picked up.

I loved how the pieces came together, by the end, how at the end the story of the lady of shalott managed to be the same but, oh so different. And I liked Mordred's characterization, but I felt like him and Meg were the only characters that had a round characterization.

My main problems with this novel were two: the slow and confusing start and the quick ending. About the ending, I'll put this on hold to see how it'll evolve. About the start... well. It is long and confusing. The characters stumble, their characterizations are so hard to understand (or they were for me, they were like smoke, I had no idea who they were) and the virtual reality thing is confusing and badly explained.

Archee says

Read this novel when I had just started high school - it was completely consuming. It caught my eye because it's based on that wonderful poem by Lord Tennyson - I know a lot of people consider it overrated, but it's gorgeous and will always be one of my favourites. I think this and Marianne Curley's work evoke a similar sort of feeling, so it's a lovely read for those who've finished one or the other and need a new read.

Shannon says

My Arthurian nerdiness mixed with a friend's boasting about this wonderful series she read as a kid practically *made* me read this. While early on I was a bit confused about the computer program Callie was using once we got to the part where we're sucked back into Camelot I really started to enjoy myself. It was all a bit fun and over too quickly (luckily there's two more then hey). The last third where it all really starts coming together was just a little bit brilliant however sometimes the modern characters could be a bit too childish, or driven by one defining trait. Minor flaw though as it is a children's book and the characters don't need to be hidden under layers upon layers of depth.

Esther says

So I got this book from a friend when she was getting rid of books and it has taken me this long to read it. I am so glad I finally got around to reading this book. Granted it took me a little while to get into it but once things got moving I was hooked. It helped I had been watching the TV show Merlin so I was very much in mind set to be reading about King Arthur and Medieval England.

I honestly loved this book, I loved how Modern day and Myth were weaved together to create this story. Each character was drastically different and I loved that about it, how Lev, the weakest character, physically, became knighted. How Stephen gained friendship and Callie, El and Meg were great, how Callie wanted to change the course of 'history' with trying to win over Lancelot. How Meg talks to Mordred and just everything about this was interesting.

I was probably fifty pages off finishing this book so I ran out today and grabbed the last two in the trilogy and am so excited to continue this adventure with these five characters, especially since Lev decided the stay in the past.

Lily says

I read this in 2001 when it first came out (and when I was much closer to its target demographic). Sadly, it's reread value isn't high. The characters are all fairly unlikeable. Their dialogue and actions don't ring true for teenagers at all, the plot development is often clumsy, and the writing itself is painfully Australian but with slang that shows how dated this book is now. (Before anyone asks, yes, I am Australian and no, I've never once heard people speak the way the characters in this book do. The dialogue is really quite awful.) I've rated it a two because I did enjoy it quite a lot on the first read and the idea itself is not a bad one, just executed in a way that isn't timeless. Younger readers probably won't mind the flaws. Adult Arthurian fans will almost certainly want to stick with Lawhead and Zimmer Bradley.

Els (Tragic Romantic) says

This was probably the first fiction book on Arthurian legend I ever read... and it was my gateway drug to the

full range of the Arthurian stories. Seriously you guys, Arthurian legend, love it.

Manda says

One of my favourite books as a kid
