

Claudia Siegmann

Märchenfluch, Band 1: Das letzte Dornröschen

FAIRY TALE CURSE (VOL. 1): THE LAST SLEEPING BEAUTY

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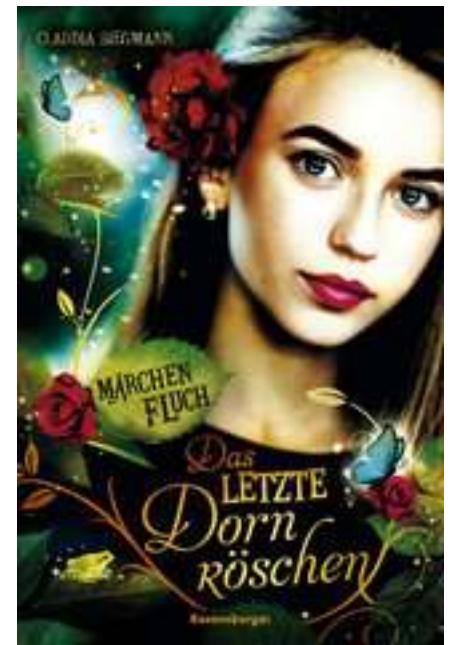
- Magical, romantic, fairy tale fantasy featuring a quick witted heroine
- Volume 2, *Revenge of the Fairy*, appears in spring 2020, and volume 3, *The Kiss of Truth*, in autumn 2020

CONTENT

Sixteen-year-old Flora receives a letter that directs her to an old mill she's never noticed before. And no wonder, because the mill is the magical hideout of a secret agency for descendants of fairy tale creatures. The director, Mr. Kramer, reveals to Flora that the magical creatures in the Grimms' fairy tales really existed, and their descendants still carry a fairy tale gene. Flora, who lives alone with her mother, has never heard any of this before, but supposedly carries the Sleeping Beauty gene herself. The gene makes her immune to magical poisons, and thus ideally suited to be an agent. There are things that emit poisonous fairy-tale magic and are dangerous for human beings. The agents' job is to secure them.

Flora, still completely overwhelmed by all this new information, quickly becomes friends with her colleagues. Val, a Rapunzel whose boyfriend apparently defected to the antagonist Reguli group recently, seems to be completely crazy about her new toad, Caruso. Later on it turns out that Caruso is her boyfriend; after they had a fight, she was not able to return him to his human form, and wanted to keep his condition a secret from the others.

Flora's assigned partner is Neva, a Snow White who seems to do justice to her name. Timur, also from a powerful lineage, looks like Prince Charming and treats Flo almost



royally, too. She could fall head over heels in love with him if it weren't for Hector. She just can't get him off her mind. There is just one problem: Hector is Neva's boyfriend. Neva, Hector, and Flo often find themselves in dangerous situations while carrying out their missions, especially because the Reguli are up to no good. Even the people around Flora are in danger: her best friend Niklas and her classmate Anna are both ill due to magical poisoning. (In the end it turns out that Flora poisoned them by mistake, because she doesn't yet know how to control her magic.) On top of that, a so-called "Rosenkavalier" is causing trouble in the city and kidnapping older women. These are no ordinary women, as Flo learns, but fairies, and also happen to be her own grandmother's sisters.

These fairies, including the kindly agency receptionist Berta, must not under any circumstances find out that Flora is related to them. Back in the day, her grandmother, Gracia, defied the rules and had a child, which ended the immortality of all thirteen sisters; they all began to age. Fairies are exceptionally vengeful creatures, making it critical that none of them know about Flora's family background. Because she has both fairy tale and fairy blood in her, she develops the powerfully strong and rare ability to break other curses, allowing her friends' magic-induced illness to heal faster, for example.

To get Hector off her mind, Flo starts to date Timur, who asks her to accompany him to the big fairy tale ball. There

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she learns that something must have happened to Berta, and she, Neva, and Hector set out to help her. A tip leads the agents to a secluded greenhouse full of rose bushes where an unknown man, together with the Reguli, is holding the elderly women hostage. A fight ensues and Flora just barely manages to come out on top. The man does escape, but Berta and the other fairies are safe. In the final scene, Flora admits her feelings for Hector to Neva, who suddenly doesn't seem to recall having a boyfriend at all.

THE AUTHOR

Claudia Siegmann was born in Kassel, Germany, in 1973, and invented countless stories even while she was still in school. She first worked in the hotel industry before writing fever caught up with her again, and has been creating fantastic adventure stories ever since, for which she has already received many awards and a grant.

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