



Ophelia

By Lisa Klein

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In this reimagining of Shakespeare's tragedy, Ophelia must choose between her love for Hamlet and her own life. In a surprising twist, she devises a plan to escape from Elsinore forever . . . with one very dangerous secret. Sharp and literary, dark and romantic, this dramatic story holds readers in its grip until the final, heartrending scene.

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Ophelia By Lisa Klein Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In her impressive first novel, Klein retells *Hamlet*, expanding on the romance between its hero and Ophelia, who narrates this version. Keeping true to the framework of the play, the heroine, now 16, reports the tragic events in the troubled Elsinore castle. When she first speaks to Hamlet, Ophelia is a 10-year-old ragged tomboy tagging along after her brother, Laertes. A year later, Ophelia is accepted into Queen Gertrude's court ("Becoming a lady, I learned, was not easy"), and she grows into a beautiful, rather outspoken young woman with an interest in herbs. Her quick wit attracts the prince's attention, and their Shakespearean-style banter will delight readers. Hamlet and Ophelia secretly become husband and wife, and on their wedding night, the ghost of Hamlet's father appears at the castle; Horatio, at the stroke of midnight, barges into the newlyweds' bedroom calling, "To the ramparts, Hamlet. It comes!" Readers familiar with the play will know that Hamlet's feigned madness to seek revenge eventually proves to be his undoing. As things rage out of control, Ophelia fears for her own safety ("My life... is worth no more than a beast's"). Klein smoothly weaves in lines from the play and keeps her characterizations true to the playwright's, even as she rounds out the back story. Teens need not be familiar with Shakespeare's original to enjoy this fresh take—with the added romance and a strong heroine at its center. Ages 12-up. (Nov.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 8 Up—Using *Hamlet* as the basis for her tale, Klein relates the familiar events from the play, with Ophelia as the focal point. Thus, readers see the social-climbing Polonius as a negligent father, the queenly Gertrude as a concerned and observant mentor, the bewildered Hamlet as a fervent lover, and Horatio as a loyal friend who loves Ophelia from afar. But the novel goes beyond the life of the play for, instead of dying, Ophelia secretly weds Hamlet, escapes Elsinore (taking refuge in a convent in France), bears Hamlet's son, and reunites romantically with Horatio to bring the story full circle. Easy to follow and moving at a rapid pace, the story introduces new characters who add depth to the tale. Klein sets the story in the Elizabethan era rather than in the medieval time frame of the original play; her detail-rich text conveys considerable information about courtly life, intrigue, and the societal mores of the times. She includes adapted versions of some of Shakespeare's best-known lines to keep the flavor of the Bard's work; however, the changes in the language may strike a discordant note with purists and with those who prefer the poetic text. Nonetheless, this is a successful and engaging story that is more thought-provoking than Lisa Fiedler's *Dating Hamlet* (Holt, 2002), as it deals with issues of justice more than revenge, with wholeness of character more than romance. It is sure to be popular with young women struggling with issues of honor, betrayal, and finding one's path.—Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI

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From [Booklist](#)

Beyond the maiden's madness, who was Ophelia? How did she and Hamlet fall in love? Who would she have grown up to be if she had survived? In her debut novel, Klein, a former English professor, imagines the answers in this powerful, sophisticated novel narrated by Ophelia. Klein stays close to the original plot, but adds new layers of meaning by filling in Ophelia's experiences--from her first crush on Hamlet and her secret marriage to him as he descends into his "dangerous melancholy" to the events following her perceived drowning. The elevated language, impressively researched historical detail (including lengthy passages of herbal lore), and episodic plot demand strong, patient readers, but a familiarity with Shakespeare isn't necessary. Readers who know the play, however, will certainly appreciate the skillful, smoothly integrated references to the original, and with a deepened connection to Ophelia, they will feel fresh outrage and

empathy when reading familiar lines, such as Hamlet famous "nunnery" command. But even teens encountering the characters for the first time will be swept up by the vivid, atmospheric setting, the heart-pounding romance, the palpable torment, and Ophelia's fierce, earnest questions about how to love, survive tragedy, and reconcile "the insecure state of women, who must always abide the earthly authority of men." Pair this with Lisa Fiedler's more lighthearted *Dating Hamlet* (2002), and the other titles listed in the adjacent Read-alikes column. *Gillian Engberg*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ruben Hardy:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the name Ophelia suitable to you? The particular book was written by popular writer in this era. The particular book untitled Ophelia is the main of several books in which everyone read now. This specific book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimension that you ever know previous to. The author explained their plan in the simple way, so all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this e-book. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world on this book.

James Smith:

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always try to and must have the spare time or they will get lot of stress from both daily life and work. So , when we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, the book you have read is usually Ophelia.

Dorothy Stanek:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book specially book entitled Ophelia your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get before. The Ophelia giving you an additional experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Cassandra Rosas:

A number of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a guide. They are directly felt it when

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