



## Princess

*Gaelen Foley*

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## **Princess** Gaelen Foley

*Gaelen Foley is a captivating writer who will sweep you away with this unforgettable story of forbidden love and wondrous destiny.*

Darius Santiago is the King's most trusted spy. He is charming, ruthless, and he has one weakness--the stunning Princess Serafina. She is all he has ever wanted and everything he cannot have. Serafina has always worshiped Darius, knowing that deep in the reaches of her soul, where she is not royalty but a flesh-and-blood woman, she belongs to this dangerous man. Unable to suppress their desire, they are swept into a daring dance of passion until a deadly enemy threatens to destroy their new love.

*Princess* is a marvelous adventure, full of intrigue and pageantry.

## **Princess Details**

Date : Published June 28th 1999 by Ivy Books

ISBN : 9780449002469

Author : Gaelen Foley

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# From Reader Review Princess for online ebook

## Lucie "a heart so wild" says

Good very romantic, my first experience to read with 'bodyguard' theme. Excellent. Great chemistry with great tensions before the love-scene. Gaelen Foley is a great romance writer!

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## Quinn says

In the interests of full disclosure, I haven't read the first book in this series. That said, I don't think it mattered, because as I understand it, this one is set 20 years after the first one. So I don't believe that impacted my enjoyment of, or rating for, this one, and I never felt lost or confused.

I've been really looking forward to reading this author for literally years. Unfortunately, I was a little disappointed. I expected more given this author's profile, but I didn't find this to be anything special at all. I liked the plot well enough, but I didn't ever feel completely engaged.

I read most of this one while I was in hospital for the day, so I was a captive audience. There was nowhere else for me to go, and nothing else for me to do; and yet I still found myself continually putting it down, until staring at the walls became too much and I picked it up again.

I just didn't connect to the writing, or the characters, who were a little underdeveloped for my liking. I'm also not one that would ordinarily complain about a wallpaper historical, but the modern language in this one was jarring.

Even with a full day of nothing to do but read, this one still took me the better part of a week to get through. It just didn't inspire me to pick it up. I will definitely try something else by this author - hopefully that will help me understand her popularity.

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## Shawna says

I absolutely LOVE Gaelen Foley. I can't get enough of anything she writes.

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## Ivana Azap Feješ says

Darius has many "issues" from his past, but unfortunately they are only describe in about 1 page towards the end. It would've been great if Foley would've given more of Darius's history so the reader could've understood him a little better. Seraphina is princess of Ascention, daughter of Allegra and Lazar, and loved by Darius..even though he fights that feeling. She has pledged herself to Darius and will stop at nothing to "win" him.

The angst! There is so much angst! Quick! Pound your head against the nearest wall so you're up with the

latest trend. This book is such a guilty pleasure. It's got some pretty hot scenes, but the characters are horribly one-dimensional: spoiled princess, devoted bodyguard, lusty seductress of said bodyguard, etc. I feel like I really can't say this book is great, but that doesn't seem to stop me from reading it. Props to the author for giving the two leads a nice "oh crap" revelatory discussion scene after the heroine arranges for the hero to be caught in her bed. Angsty hero. Check. Unbelievably beautiful, spoiled heroine with heart of gold. Check. Loved the book. Gorgeous hero and heroine, hot lovin'. The side story/mystery was even exciting. Good. Okay, I just have one thing to say about this book: the breast suckling scene. Wow and wtf? Very tantalizing and adventurous story!

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### **Madaii Rivera says**

Ay Darius!!!!

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### **Yolanda says**

4,5  
me ha encantado, es precioso

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### **Beth says**

This book is such a guilty pleasure. It's got some pretty hot scenes, but the characters are horribly one-dimensional: spoiled princess, devoted bodyguard, lusty seductress of said bodyguard, etc. I feel like I really can't say this book is great, but that doesn't seem to stop me from re-reading it occasionally. Props to the author for giving the two leads a nice "oh crap" revelatory discussion scene after the heroine arranges for the hero to be caught in her bed. But boo for the inclusion of a Napoleon plot. I realize that there are many books on Napoleon and you want to show your research, Gaelen, but seriously? Just make up some tyrant. Call him whatever you want - the bad guy on Twin Peaks was named "Bob" and that didn't detract from his creepiness - just don't call him Napoleon. It's annoying when historical figures pop up in romance novels.

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### **Bushra says**

Great book!

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### **Sophie ♥ says**

There were so many things I loved about this book. I suppose it was one of those books that just worked for me. It's not one of those books I would heartily recommend to everyone, but one I enjoyed immensely because it seemed to contain all the elements that I look for in a historical romance. One thing worth pointing out is that the sex scenes were the most SENSUAL non-erotica ones I have ever read. Wow. Wow. Wow. I certainly wasn't expecting it since the rest of it was so tame, so fairy-tale like.

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## Rachel (BAVR) says

[image error]

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## Oleta Blaylock says

I read this story a number of years ago and I had forgotten how heart wrenching the last third of the story is. Darius Santiago is one of the most tortured heroes I have read about. He is so full of hate and anger which is mostly directed at him. He has been told most of his young life that he is worthless and he has come to believe that. He has work tirelessly to build himself into a better person. Someone others would be able to love and care about. While there are a number of people that do love him for himself he never really sees them. He is so sure that if he cares about anyone they will leave him. Darius is a caring, compassionate and honorable man. He is also ruthless and determined and madly in love the Serafina de Fiore. The struggle to come to terms with that love and the realization that things might actually workout for these two is the basis for this story.

Serafina is in many ways a spoiled princess. She has been raised to be a royal, but that is not what she really wants to be. She would be happier with a home, children and Darius in a villa that was far from court. She is interested in medicine and botany. She loves animals and has quite a collection at the palace. As with so many daughters she has her father wrapped around her little finger. Serafina is also strong, brave, compassionate and very loving. She knows that she can save Darius if he will only stay still longer enough for her to do so. She is stubborn to a fault and intelligent. She is a likable heroine which is a surprise in this day and age. So many heroines have become bitchy tyrants that you just want to shake until their teeth rattle.

This is a quick read filled with lots of tense suspenseful moments that make to unable to put down the book until you have found out what the outcome will be. We see Lazar and Allegra many years after THE PIRATE PRINCE. They have built their kingdom and have two grown children, Serafina and Rafael with a child on the way. They are as much in love now as they were in the earlier book. I love Ms. Foley's writing and always look forward to reading one of her stories. She does the historical romance genre proud with her many contributions.

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## Shh I'm reading! says

My first foray into romance, so I'll admit to be biased, but I absolutely loved this book! Intrigue, passion, and all consuming love that heals- be still my tortured teenage heart. It's been years since I've read it, and it may be time for a reread just to see if Santiago and his princessa still warm my heart.

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## C Joy says

This second book in the Ascension Trilogy has a lot of similarities with the first one (The Pirate Prince) when it comes to characters, but in this case, the heroine's social standing is above that of the hero's.

I read this as an e-book and unfortunately, the epilogue came first so it spoiled everything for me. I'm a spoiler-allergic type of reader but since the story was masterfully written, I still had qualms about the ending. I know it would be a happy ending, just like in most romance novels, but with the character and event conflicts, Gaelen Foley wrote a convincing twist that still made me wonder how they'll have the happily ever after.

The parts written about the war between Ascension in France really rattled my nerves, like a bomb waiting to explode. I liked how she described the characters and really gave voice to them. Her use of real personages was worth the read too.

Darius, as we all know from the first book, was the boy who helped Allegra save Lazar from the nasty man; he became Lazar's ward from then on and proved himself valuable as an assassin and army man. Now he's all grown up, dangerously charming, and an unrepentant rake.

It's inevitable that he catches the eye of Lazar's daughter, Serafina, even from the cradle. As she grew up, the attraction became mutual. I know that the age gap sometimes doesn't matter in these modern times, even more so in the old days, but I still can't grasp it. Darius is 14 years her senior, and with historical romance novels, both characters have this chemistry that one doesn't notice the generation gap.

Darius is comparable with Lazar's character; their souls need healing, they're both jaded, they don't trust anyone, they don't have a reason to live...until the right woman came along. Serafina is to Darius, while Allegra is to Lazar. Serafina is just like her mother who sees the good in Darius, she heals his physical and emotional wounds, and gives her unconditional love.

I have to admit that they are both perfect examples of why love is selfish. Darius claimed Serafina in a selfish impulse, more like "Hey I'm alive might as well claim her as mine", and Serafina trapped him into marriage so he could be hers and hers alone.

Nearing the end of the story, it was Serafina who was in danger, but I admire her for using her head and her physical assets to gain advantage over the enemy, initially I thought she would follow the drill, but she stood by Darius and proved her love. There were a lot of touching moments when both of them were vulnerable and having their "pillow talk".

There is just a right amount of love scenes, most of them carnal. Ms Foley really created the sexual tension between them until they surrendered to their desires. Although I gave this only a four out of five stars, I enjoyed reading it and I'm looking forward to reading the next and final book in the series. There wasn't much humor here, but it was still entertaining.

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### **Elizabeth (Liz) says**

Believe this could easily be my favorite book by Gaelen Foley! It's magical:)

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### **Caz says**

**I've given this a B for narration and a C- at AAR, which equated to a C+ overall, so I'm leaving it at 3**

stars.

*There may possibly be some snark within :P*

Originally published in 1999, Gaelen Foley's **Princess** is the second book in her Ascension trilogy and contains enough cheese to keep several branches of McDonald's going for the next decade.

It's very much a romance in the Old-Skool vein, set in an exotic location (an island off the Italian coast), with a youthful, impossibly beautiful yet scholarly heroine (we know she's scholarly because of the presence of a microscope and books in her room!), a man-whore hero who does not know how to love (and whose man-pain knows no bounds), and his scheming ex-mistress who knows all his secrets and is determined to win him back at any cost.

The thing is, if you know what you're getting before embarking upon this fourteen hour extravaganza, it's not a bad listen, principally due to the Herculean efforts of narrator Elizabeth Wiley who plays it completely straight down the line and delivers an honest and very enjoyable performance.

Princess is set some twenty years after **The Pirate Prince**, which first introduced the character of Darius Santiago as a scruffy street-urchin. Now in his thirties, he has become King Lazar's right-hand-man – cunning spy, ruthless assassin, and the man trusted with the security and safety of the royal family. He's also incredibly handsome and charming, so of course, women are falling over themselves in the scramble to his bed, and he's (with apologies to Rogers and Hammerstein) jist a guy who cain't say "no".

But in all honesty, the poor guy has had enough of being used for his studly skills: he daren't even leave his door unlocked for fear some randy female will turn up without warning and demand a good seeing-to, and no woman will ever touch his heart – mostly because he believes he doesn't have one and wouldn't know what to do with one if he had.

The only woman towards whom he has any finer feelings is the Princess Serafina, who he has worshipped from afar for years. But he is a mere guttersnipe and not at all good enough for her – so the best he can hope for is to keep her safe and see her happy. Serafina has been contracted to marry a member of the Russian nobility in order to cement a pact to ensure Ascension's safety against Napoleon, and although Darius has uncovered some rather unsavoury information about the potential bridegroom, the betrothal has already been finalised. In order to save her from having to marry someone she doesn't love and who will likely mistreat her, Darius comes up with a completely hare-brained scheme, a mission from which he doesn't expect to return alive.

Not much happens in the first section of the book, other than Darius and Serafina mooning over each other, sighing over how unutterably gorgeous he/she is, and Darius agonising over the fact that he's unworthy and can't have her. Of course, Serafina has eyes for no-one other than her handsome protector, and wants them to be together for whatever time they can manage, but Darius is having none of it – until he suddenly changes his mind and thinks they might as well get it on for a while because he's going to die soon anyway.

And they say chivalry is dead.

Or maybe on its last legs, because Darius draws the line at actual defloration, so they do a lot of "everything but" instead.

I haven't read or listened to a large number of historical romances dating from the 1990s, but when I do, I've

noticed that while the language is perhaps less forthright, the sex scenes themselves are often longer and raunchier than we're used to now. I don't know exactly why that should be – maybe as time has progressed authors have refined their styles and techniques, or perhaps back then the sexy stuff was more of a novelty, but the sex scenes in this book seemed to go on for days. Once again, I pay tribute to Ms Wiley, because she gets right into the swing of things, and after the first love scene, I wanted to give her a round of applause. And then offer her a cigarette.

The lovers' idyll ends after a few days when Darius has to return to court and then he must eschew further distraction and carry out his master plan for protecting Serafina. No Napoleon means no threat to Ascension, which in turn means there's no need for her to marry a shady Russian. Ergo – Darius is going to assassinate Napoleon.

Now, I'm all for introducing a little actual history into historicals. But I'm expected to take that seriously? That noise you can hear is my credulity shattering into tiny pieces. And to cap it all, the rakishly handsome babe-magnet and ruthless assassin proves himself almost hopelessly inept. What a guy. I suppose you have to feel sorry for him at some point. He had a shitty childhood, has learned not to trust, insists he doesn't know what love is, and is carrying around more emotional baggage than Jacob Marley has chains. And in the last part of the book, his personal pity party reaches such a pitch that I was tempted to break out the Leonard Cohen LPs.

Serafina is pretty much what one would expect of a twenty-year old pampered Princess. She's beautiful and wilful, but with a playful side that serves to temper Darius' dourness. She's also prone to hair-tossing tantrums, and I wanted to slap her on more than one occasion. Like Darius, she makes some stupid decisions in their relationship, but she's got cojones of steel when it counts.

I've already said that Elizabeth Wiley has done a sterling job in the narration of this audiobook. She employs a wide repertoire of suitably Mediterranean-sounding accents, although I wasn't all that convinced by the Italian ones which actually sounded more Eastern European to my ears. She differentiates well between all the characters, sounding suitably unpleasant as the sleazy Russian prince, and gruff and gravelly for King Lazar. She growls her way through Darius' dialogue most convincingly and has my undying admiration for managing to utter the purplest of prose while keeping a straight face (although I'd love to know how many takes some of it required!). While my personal preference is for a British accented narration for European stories, Ms Wiley's American accent is unobtrusive and her voice is very pleasing to the ear. Her narrative is well-paced, her vocal acting skills are impressive, and while the content of the book falls just short of being as ripe as a six-month old Camembert, her vibrant performance is what pushes it from being "so bad as to be unlistenable", to being "so bad, it's good".

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### **Fee♥ says**

i love this book it has a mixture of love and hate

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### **Lady Darcie Guenon says**

My favorite out of this trilogy, it was so cute and romantic. it just makes your heart melt



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### **Crista says**

If I could give this book 4 1/2 stars I would. I rated the Pirate Prince a 5 star and this is not quite up to the first installation of this trilogy, however, it is excellent and worth your time.

We met Darius in the Pirate Prince and now 20 years have past. He is now the King's most trusted spy and almost "son". He has many "issues" from his past, but unfortunately they are only describe in about 1 page towards the end. It would've been great if Foley would've given more of Darius's history so the reader could've understood him a little better.

Seraphina is princess of Ascention, daughter of Allegra and Lazar, and loved by Darius..even though he fights that feeling. She has pledged herself to Darius and will stop at nothing to "win" him.

I thought that Seraphina was wonderful for Darius. She made him laugh, allows him to relax and have fun with life...something that he doesn't know how to do on his own. I loved the fact that Darius was her bodyguard and protector. There's just something about the idea of being cherished and protected that just makes me all warm and fuzzy inside. Darius has this characteristic down pat.

I was really cheering for this pair throughout the book. It was a quick read (I read it in 1 day) and impossible to put down. A good and rare treat in a book. I highly recommend this series which for me has been better than her Knight Miscellany seris.

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### **Allison says**

I LOVED, LOVED this book! It is one of my top three, for sure. I didn't read the first in the series. I am definitely going to read the third, though.

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### **Vashti says**

This is the 2nd book in Galen Foley's Ascension Trilogy and it was wonderful,so romantic.Parts of this book was so heartbreaking that you felt the torment of the characters.Ms Foley's heros are of the tormented and tortured variety and I like that,makes for a good read.All I can say is WOW!,will be reading more from this author .The ending was so beautiful and can truly say that this couple really deserved their HEA.

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