



**[THE PRINCE AND THE DRESSMAKER](#) by Jen Wang**

First Second, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2018

ISBN: 9781626723634 (Trade Paperback)

\*Age Range: 12-18

Grade Range: 6 and up (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

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## BOOK SYNOPSIS

**A fairy tale for any age, Jen Wang's *The Prince and the Dressmaker* will steal your heart.**

Paris, at the dawn of the modern age:

Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride—or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia—the hottest fashion icon in the world capital of fashion!

Sebastian's secret weapon (and best friend) is the brilliant dressmaker Frances—one of only two people who know the truth: sometimes this boy wears dresses. But Frances dreams of greatness, and being someone's secret weapon means being a secret. Forever. How long can Frances defer her dreams to protect a friend? Jen Wang weaves an exuberantly romantic tale of identity, young love, art, and family.

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## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "This graphic novel has all the trappings of a rags-to-riches romance. And it is one—in a joyfully subversive and inclusive way." —[Horn Book](#), **starred review**

★ "Gorgeously dense artwork, lively sense of movement, effervescent fashions, sweet romance, and heartwarming denouement." —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ "With inviting illustrations and a relatable story line, this tender tale of friendship and identity is sure to delight even readers who aren't fans of the graphic novel format." —[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

★ "It's all but certain to deliver grins, gasps, and some happy tears." —[Publisher Weekly](#), **starred review**

"*The Prince and the Dressmaker* is a gentle, sweet-without-the-saccharine graphic novel for middle grade readers that depicts the great happiness and love that can come with self-acceptance." —[Shelf Awareness](#)

"A visual feast, filled with exuberant charm and delightful characters." —VOYA

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Macmillan Children's Publishing Group

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"For kids who never found a Disney princess costume to fit—literally or figuratively—Wang offers a second chance to claim a fairy tale of one’s own. Readers new, or resistant, to graphic novels will also discover magic here in Wang’s visual storytelling." —*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"There is so much love in Wang’s illustrations, which are perfectly suited to the fairy tale nature of the book...it’s completely satisfying. In modern fairy tales, there really are happy endings."—*New York Times*

"Leave it to such a gifted artist to create this love letter to aesthetic design set against the story of a relationship blossoming between seamstress and prince." —*Washington Post*, from their "10 Best Graphic Novels of 2018"

"Jen Wang’s cartooning is full of warmth and charm." —*The AV Club*, from their "10 Most Anticipated Comics of 2018"

"A unique and thoroughly modern fairy tale. . . . a great story about being true to yourself and the kind of companionship you can find when you do." —*Nerdist*

"This graphic novel made me cry. Not just because I am a sap when it comes to emotional stories, but just the beauty of the entire narrative." —*The Mary Sue*

"Jen Wang has crafted a tale that acknowledges gender fluidity and explores romantic love beyond the gender binary. . . . readers can be washed away in the cascade of fashion and feels." —*The AV Club*

"The anachronistic 18th century fairytale meets Project Runway with crossdressing of my dreams. A fantastic book -- I’m just crazy about it." —Mackenzi Li

"How does this book so perfectly combine exquisite and intricate dresses, adorable and lovable characters, and a perfect story about coming to know yourself as an adolescent? Jen Wang is a genius and I want Frances to design me a dress so I can go to the ballet with Lady Crystallia." —Lucy Knisley

"The Prince and the Dressmaker is like a best friend: sometimes it takes you shopping, and sometimes it makes you cry, but it always loves you just the way you are." —Hope Larson

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- 2019 Tayshas List
- 2019 YALSA Great Graphic Novel Recommended Reading List
- 2019 ALA Rainbow Project Recommended Reading List
- 2019 ILA Notable Books for a Global Society list
- 2019 YALSA Teen's Top Ten List
- 2019 Children’s and Teen Choice Book Awards Winner
- A *Washington Post* Best Graphic Novel of 2018
- A NPR Best Book of 2018
- A *Boston Globe* Best Children's Book of 2018
- A *Publishers Weekly* Best Books of the Year

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- Joint winner of the 2018 Harvey Award for Best Children’s or Young Adult Book
- 2019 Children’s and Teen Choice Book Awards Teen Book of the Year
- Eisner Award Winner
- *Shelf-Awareness'* Best Children's & Teen Books of 2018
- NYPL's Best Books for Teens of 2018
- Vulture "The 10 Best Comics of 2018"

## **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

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- [Reading Guide](#)
- [Watch this video of Jen Wang](#)
- [Kirkus Reviews interview with Jen Wang](#)
- [The Mary Sue interview with Jen Wang](#)
- [BookRiot.com interview with Jen Wang](#)

## **AUTHOR STATEMENT**

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*“The Prince and the Dressmaker* is a book I wrote for my teenage self. I wanted something that felt honest about questions of identity but also offered the gentleness and inclusiveness for readers of all ages and situations. Many readers have told me the positive impact the book has had on them, and that is why I will continue to advocate for their right to read books that bring them hope.” – Jen Wang

## **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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