

Fiction

Jennifer Benkau

One True Queen, Band 1: Von Sternen gekrönt

ONE TRUE QUEEN (VOL. 1): CROWNED BY STARS

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Age	Young Adults

An epic fantasy adventure set in a destructive parallel world, featuring a captivating young heroine, powerfully and eloquently written by Jennifer Benkau.

CONTENT

Darkness. The sensation of falling. And then: nothing.

Seventeen-year-old Mailin was just standing in front of the Taekwondo studio in her home town in Ireland, where she had tried to burn off some of her frustration through martial arts. For the past seven years, her sister had been in a vegetative state, and today Mailin had scared off yet another caretaker, which provoked her mother's rage. Now she suddenly finds herself in an unfamiliar and eerie forest, where enormous blue mushrooms grow and adorable – but not at all harmless – bunny-monkeys are attacking her. As she fights for her life against a flesh-eating tree, she is rescued by a mysterious young man, who explains that she has landed in Lyaskye, a parallel world. All that Mailin wants is to return home. The young man Mailin calls Peter (he doesn't want to reveal his actual name) promises to bring her to the capital city of Rubia, where she can look for a world jumper. They are the only ones who can move between the worlds.

Once she arrives in Rubia, Mailin is dumbfounded to discover that the powerful queen venerated by all is none other than her own sister, Vicky, who has been ruling alongside King Cassian for exactly seven years. Mailin learns from Vicky that Lyaskye is a kind of disembodied being with her own, very powerful will. Lyaskye only accepts the



sovereignty of younger women from the other world, whom she brings to her and crowns queen. And Mailin is supposed to be Vicky's successor, for Vicky is on her deathbed.

Mailin does not want to accept this. Instead, she plans to get herself and her sister back to Ireland and their mother as fast as possible!

This proves to be very difficult, however, since everyone at court is bound by Lyaskye and has limited free will. After several unanticipated developments, Mailin ends up with Peter, whose actual name is Liam, in his home, the Town of Thieves. He and several others founded this village outside the boundaries of Lyaskye because they question the powers that be.

Through a trick played by the world jumper Nathaniel, whom Mailin had met in Rubia, she and Liam are captured and brought back to the court, where Mailin is supposed to take up her role as future queen.

There they find out that King Cassian is the actual ruler. He has subjected the queen to him and abuses her power for his own ends. He orders Mailin's immediate coronation, and as the crown touches Mailin's head, Lyaskye penetrates her thoughts and tries to control her. But Mailin manages to defend herself – and chaos erupts. The palace walls are demolished, and Liam and his allies rescue Mailin and Vicky,

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who is quickly getting weaker. With Nathaniel as world jumper, Mailin and her sister manage to escape – but Liam must stay behind.

Volume 2, One True Queen: Forged from Shadows, will be published in spring 2020

THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Benkau writes books for adults, young adults and children. She has made a name for herself with the "Dark Canopy" series in particular, for which she was awarded a number of prizes, among them the 2013 DeLiA Literary Prize. In 2016, she and four other female writers founded the label INK REBELS. Fantasy is very close to her heart and she loves writing it with the help of loud music, chocolate and lots of coffee. She lives somewhere between Düsseldorf and Cologne with her husband, her four children, two dogs and a horse and is constantly looking for hidden portals into other worlds. Incidentally, that's also how she found a path to Lyaskye.

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