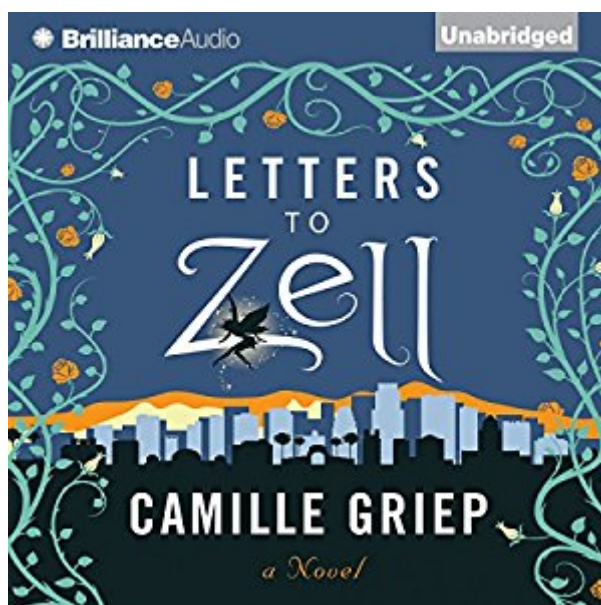


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Letters To Zell



Synopsis

Everything is going according to story for CeCi (Cinderella), Bianca (Snow White), and Rory (Sleeping Beauty) - until the day that Zell (Rapunzel) decides to leave Grimmland and pursue her life. Now, Zell's best friends are left to wonder whether their own passions are worth risking their predetermined "happily ever afters", regardless of the consequences. CeCi wonders whether she should become a professional chef, sharp-tongued and quick-witted Bianca wants to escape an engagement to her platonic friend, and Rory will do anything to make her boorish husband love her. But as Bianca's wedding approaches, can they escape their fates - and is there enough wine in all of the Realm to help them? In this hilarious modern interpretation of the fairy-tale stories we all know and love, *Letters to Zell* explores what happens when women abandon the stories they didn't write for themselves and go completely off script to follow their dreams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I can't decide which I loved more, the crack-me-up quips, the underlying feminist strength or the tender and honest belief that every woman must create and live her own story. I am certain of one thing: I loved reading Camille Greip's novel *Letters to Zell*. Structuring an entire novel as a series of letters presents any author with a formidable challenge: how to grab and sustain readers' interest throughout. Ms. Griep tackled the challenge with humor, truth telling and by fleshing out 'storybook' characters as real women who make mistakes, struggle with owning up to those mistakes and finding forgiveness for those who've done them wrong. I began reading this

book while sitting on the beach believing it to be a 'fun read,' and it's definitely that, but also so much more. These women presented to us as flat characters in fairytales when we were young, bloom under this author's guidance into authentic real women an adult reader can respect and love. Beneath her entertaining story, however, Ms. Greip subtly weaves in real psychological disorders which manifest themselves in relationships between the *Æðwhite knight* and the *Æðdamsel in distress*. Olivia Shaffett writes in her 2015 article *Damsel in Distress Disorder* published in *Modern Girls* these relationships can strip a woman of her power: "Because this particular kind of guy only likes you when you're acting like a 'damsel in distress.' He is completely there for you through your emotional breakdowns and more vulnerable moments. But once you get yourself together and start succeeding at life? Forget it. This particular guy becomes the biggest bully in your life. When you're down, he will do anything for you. When you're up, he tears you right back down." Letters to Zell shows that playing either of these roles makes 'happily ever after' nearly impossible. And if I may quote, Cecilia Cinder Charming, "Wouldn't we be better friends to one another, better lovers, better people if we all believed the best of ourselves, our friends, the future--at least every once in a while?" As a 'Human,' I couldn't have said it better myself.

As Fairy Tale Princesses, Snow White, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Rapunzel are commanded to complete their Pages or their world will cease to exist. But what happens when the fairy tale is over? These feisty Princesses have completed their Pages, but yearn to be more than what their fairy godmothers intended. Zell (Rapunzel) is the first to make a break for it: she runs away from Grimmland with her prince. They set up shop in Oz where they can raise their children together on a unicorn preserve. In letters to their best friend, Bianca (Snow White), Cici (Cinderella), and Rory (Sleeping Beauty), relate their adventures in seeking their own hearts desire that wasn't included in the "happily ever after" promised to them. Camille Griep has such wonderful world-building skills. Grimmland and its neighbors come alive on each page as the Princesses stretch their boundaries. You can't get lost between chapters because the author gives each Princess a clear personality that shines through each letter. I appreciate the extra time taken to give the secondary characters a chance to grow and tell their side of the story. Evil isn't always what it seems. I highly recommend this book to readers who appreciate a different take on their beloved fairy tales.

Letters to Zell is a sophisticated new take on the classic fairy tale world. Its epistolary approach

allows deep insights into character, as everyone---CeCi (Cinderella), Bianca (Snow White), and Rory (Sleeping Beauty)---writes to Zell (Rapunzel) in first person, after she departs Grimmland to manage a unicorn preserve. I loved the different personalities expressed in the letters. My favorite was Bianca and her "important correspondence." This is the fairy tale world as it's never been explored before. The premise is unique, the story is delightful and refreshing with lots of dry humor and nuance. The characters step out of their traditional selves; readers are allowed into their heads and are provided a view of a creative new world that is plenty sturdy enough for future stories.

Though the entire story is told through letters, it does not read that way, The flow of the story from letter to letter is seamless and gives you multiple perspectives without being repetitive. This is a wonderfully creative and enjoyable read, and one that will appeal to women of a wide variety of reading tastes. Several reviewers mentioned how they wished they could read Zell's replies but I feel that they are unnecessary, we see her struggles and feel her replies through the other letters, anything from Zell would be superfluous and most likely take away from the wonderful flow and design of the novel. You can also do a quick internet check on the original fairy tales to better understand some of the references, they might make more sense if all you know is the Disney version.

I absolutely loved this book. From the first page, to the last, I couldn't stop! I thought it really sounded different when I read the description, and it was because if you have seen any of my reviews, you will see that I usually read fun mysteries. I mean I usually wait for the book to come out in the library, but I couldn't wait, so I paid for it! Worth every penny. To think of our Disney Princesses as real people, is just genius. I worked at Disney for 7 years, and it was all about the pixie dust. I never thought of the princesses being anything other than what the fairy tales tell us. I hope this review will help people realize that they should download it. You will love it!

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