



CHRISTINE RECOMMENDS...

Get started with MPL's Virtual Summer Reading Program!

Virtual Raffle Tickets = Real Prizes

The 2020 theme is all about myths and fairy tales. Get in the spirit with some YA fairy tale retellings. Below are two of my favorite Cinderellas, but there are tons of lists out there like [this one](#) and [this one](#).

Imagine
YOUR STORY



Last year, I heard Boston-based author Malinda Lo speak about LGBTQ+ representation in YA books at a conference. She said that the people who read early drafts of *Ash* (a retelling of Cinderella) could not feel any chemistry between the main character and her prince. Lo realized that she was accidentally writing a love story between the Cinderella character and the huntress Kaisa. Once she changed the track of the story, it was easy to write and it was the queer fantasy novel she wished she'd had as a teen.

Ash has the familiar framework of Cinderella: her father remarried then died, leaving her in misery with a cruel stepmother and stepsisters. She makes a promise to the fairy prince Sidhean, which seems like the perfect way out of her bleak life. . . until she meets the Huntress Kaisa.

Ash

by Malinda Lo

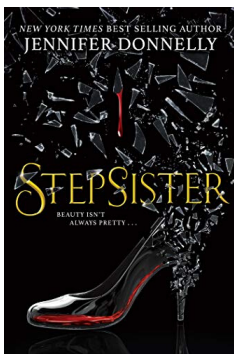


**Available as
an e-book on
the Libby app**

Stepsister

by Jennifer Donnelly

**Available as an e-book
on the Libby app**



Isabelle should be blissfully happy – the glass slipper is on her foot and she’s about to win the handsome prince. Except Isabelle isn’t who you think she is. She’s the ugly stepsister who cut off her toes to fit into Cinderella’s shoe . . . which is now filling with blood. Ah, the magic of Grimm's Fairy Tales.

We all know the story; the prince discovers her deception and she is turned away in shame. Cinderella wins, and she makes a sweet, pretty, perfect wife. In a world where girls only have a future if they are princess-perfect, obedient, and beautiful, can you understand why Isabelle’s mother (The Evil Stepmother) pressured her to lie and cheat to win the prince? She is terrified her daughters will be left without husbands and starving when she is gone. So what happens next for Isabelle? That’s the story this novel tells.

Click on my picture to email me your recs!