



Casting Queen

Perdita Cargill , Honor Cargill

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When Elektra is discovered by an acting agent, she imagines Oscar glory can't be far away, but instead lurches from one cringe-worthy moment to the next! Just how many times can you be rejected for the part of 'Dead Girl Number Three' without losing hope? And who knew that actors were actually supposed to be multi-lingual, play seven instruments and be trained in a variety of circus skills?

Off-stage things aren't going well either - she's fallen out with her best friend, remains firmly in the friend-zone with her crush and her parents are driving her crazy. One way or another, Elektra's life is now spent waiting for the phone to ring - waiting for callback.

Can an average girl-next-door like Elektra really make it in the world of luvvies and starlets? Geek Girl meets Fame meets New Girl in this brilliantly funny new series!

Casting Queen Details

Date : Published February 21st 2018 by Simon & Schuster UK (first published January 28th 2016)

ISBN : 9781471175213

Author : Perdita Cargill , Honor Cargill

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Contemporary, Fiction

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From Reader Review Casting Queen for online ebook

Mehsi says

Another one of the books that I was really looking forward to reading, and my oh my, did I love it a lot!

Quite a few people who know me know that I love books about acting, about theatre, about reality shows, about actors. I am always on the lookout for a new book about this topic, and when I heard about this book + its topic I was delighted. This one is about acting, yes, but it features a topic I haven't really spotted much in books I read so far, the whole waiting, the trying out for roles, the hoping you might get one. Waiting for callback. This book is totally dedicated to that, and infuses a bit of slice of life and romance with it in a delightful combination.

Really, now that I think of it, the only time I really saw people go through audition after audition and then waiting is in books about modelling. There are a few books about acting which feature one audition, but generally one already knows how that is going to end (since mostly they take place at the beginning/middle of the book).

Not this book. We see Elektra go through various auditions, some we see up and close, some we see her hope for, others we don't see. I found Elektra a strong, great character. Even with all that happens in this book she does her best to stay happy, to find joy in her acting. Because, as you can imagine, it is tough to get rejected for something you looked forward to. Even if it is a role as a dead person (yes, apparently there is a big need for dead people).

Elektra doesn't have it easy, I had a laugh, but also felt a bit sad when she signed up and had to name her talents... Just read, and find out what happens.

And then next to the auditions she got school (busy busy, with some mean girls), theatre/drama (with a cute/hot boy), she got friends. Her life is filled.

As for me? I kept cheering for Elektra, hoping that she would score that one big role. Or even all the smaller ones. She seems to be a great actress, full of happiness, dedication, and determination.

The parents, as expected, didn't really get Elektra's dedication to acting. Her parents wanted her to focus more on school. Though then again, at times I sympathized with them, they have to go with Elektra each time because she is still under 16, they have to wait with her for hours on an end. I can imagine that would drive anyone crazy, and then especially those who don't want to be there that much.

But I did like them later on in the book, and what they did there.

I have to say, that I didn't like Moss, at all. Well sure, to be honest there were 1 or 2 moments were I kind of liked her, but otherwise, no thank you. I found her annoying, and a hypocrite.

So you can talk about your boyfriend for ages, but oh no, not Elektra about her life/acting/waiting game. And if Elektra says something about this you get in a hissy fit? *snort*Girl.... *shakes head* Some people need to get their priorities straight.

And not only that, I just didn't feel the support in her. It was like she was fine with Elektra acting, but all the other things? No.

What more? Mm, other than that I kept laughing my butt off while reading this one. Elektra was a fantastic character, and I just have to give an extra + for the name.

I also loved that we had mail exchanges between the agency and the mother/Elektra. It just gave the book

something extra, and made the waiting game even more interesting as we (the readers) got directly involved as well.

Ah yes, I would love a second book. With the ending and all that happened there? I am sure there is a story for a second book, I have several things *cough cough* the romance *cough* that I would love to see further developed.

Mm, I think I have mentioned everything now, the only thing I would do is highly recommend this book to everyone! Looking for a funny, hilarious book, with some romance? You like acting? Or like reading about it? Then be sure to read this book.

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Michelle says

I snagged a proof copy of this book from Luna, and didn't manage to get to it. When I found out the authors were going to be at YALC I knew I had to at least try the book, and within the first few pages I knew I was going to love it. Decision made I picked up a finished copy, planning to get both copies signed, but still never got around to reading it. After struggling to read for a while I needed a book I knew I would love, and **Waiting for Callback** finally found its way off my shelf and in my hands.

Elektra is the protagonist in this story, as we follow her adventures and misadventures through trying to make it in the acting business, as well as trying to live life as a teenager, with school, friends, boys, and the ups and downs that come with being a teenager. We get to see the details of Elektra's life, her parents, her friends, and her crush, who also happens to go to ACT with her. As the book progresses we see some new friendships form (Daisy a fellow actress) and also getting worse (nemesis Flissy), but the possibility of fame and introduction of a boy make it harder for Elektra and her best friend Moss to find time, and both girls find themselves struggling to maintain an easy friendship.

Going into the pages of **Waiting for Callback** I knew I was going to enjoy this book, but I didn't realise how much. I love the writing style of the book, and how we get to see the inner workings of Elektra's mind, even the bits she may not say out loud. We see her thoughts and feelings about what is going on at the time.

Waiting for Callback is a book that is real, honest, and hilarious. I love the lists, and the deal breakers, especially the edits later on. I liked the email exchanges between the agency and Elektra's parents. The authors also have a similar writing style to Holly Smales Geek Girl series, with the focus on acting rather than modelling, which makes this appealing to fans of that series.

Final Verdict

Waiting for Callback is a great book. I loved the quiriness of some of the characters, but also how easy it was to relate to Elektra, even though its been several years since I was a teenager. This was an easy book to read, and the writing flows really well. I love that this is a Mother & Daughter writing team, but it definitely doesn't feel like it.

Tuba Sayed says

There is always that girl, the one with her iPhone camera on. That girl who'll record your most embarrassing moments and upload it on Facebook. It'll take, like, seven seconds for her to finish the task. There is always that best friend whose focus becomes her new burgeoning relationship. That best friend who decides to sit for lunch with her love interest, (in case they missed some pivotal details of each other's lives in the short amount of time).

There is always that extremely charismatic guy (whom you have crush on), He has you in the firm grip of "Friendzone". There is always that nice friend whom you can talk to without pretence. There is always that mean girl whom you loathe.

Elektra is the girl who is discovered by an acting agent. She imagines Oscar glory can't be far away. She tries not to embarrass herself in front of her friends and her super hot crush, Archie. The questions are: Will she get her callback? How long will she remain in friend zone? Will she straighten the crumpled sheet of friendship with former bestie Moss? How unlucky can a girl-next-door like Elektra possibly get?

A laughter inducing debut that comes with fluffy drama. Waiting for callback is a stunning start to a new teen series. I am sure it'll warm other people's hearts like it warmed mine.

This book is exactly what I needed after my fantasy high. I thought I'd just read a couple chapters and put it down. How wrong I was! I finished this book is one sitting and now I am sad that it's over. WFC kept me intrigued and entertained with Elektra's (how cool is that name?!) hilarious yet cringe worthy moments. I can give this book 5 stars rating alone for the acknowledgments, so funny that tears welled up in my eyes and my stomach kind of hurt from laughing too much.

I love Elektra's lists, emails, and those waiting chapters. I like how the chapters start with quotes from various celebrities, those tiny emojis here and there. Don't you just love it when authors and publishers take ordinary steps to make their work a little bit extraordinary? I loved this book and I highly recommend it.

Clare says

Whether it's the inspired pairing of a mother and daughter author team, or simply the authors' great perceptive insight, *Waiting for Callback* auditions brilliantly for the part of freshest new voice in young teen fiction.

It tells the story of fifteen year old Elektra, as she struggles to fulfil her dream of becoming an actor, at the same time as she juggles with the everyday dramas a teen faces, from a row with a best friend, schoolwork, a crush on a boy, to frustrating parents and an eccentric grandmother.

The book cleverly portrays the unglamorous world of acting – even when Elektra signs with an agency, it's mundanely situated above a dentist surgery, and she gets offered bit part roles in advertisements and student films – the part of Dead Girl Number Three, for example – there's no sudden red carpet or flight to Hollywood.

Accompanying this realistic portrayal of a teen acting career are the fleshed out characters surrounding Elektra. Her parents are a phenomenal supporting cast in the book – their emotional and financial support for

Elektra are depicted beautifully, as are their moments of irritation and frustration with their own daughter. Although told in the first person by Elektra, the character of her mother is captured beautifully – the conversations of ‘how did it go’ after her auditions are spot on, as are the hours she spends waiting for her daughter to finish filming some bit part, as well as the father’s detached yet loving interest. Their accurate portrayal induced many wry smiles and snorts of agreement.

There’s incredible detail of the acting classes that Elektra takes too – she finds much of it pointless to begin with, but warms to it, and her enjoyment shines through despite her teenage ‘lack of enthusiasm’ attitude.

The writing is so confident and clear that the reader is pulled along on Elektra’s journey, and roots for every casting with her. Add to this the constant deadpan comedy, and this is a pleasurable and fun read from start to finish. For the rest of the review, please see <http://wp.me/p5mtrm-x3>

Caroline says

When I first started reading this book I thought "This is NOT reading material for a 63-year-old who doesn't read fiction! But this YA novel was immensely readable, and wonderfully escapist. (I haven't read an 'escapist' novel for years and it was a pleasure just to sit down and enjoy the ride....)

I had it as a bedtime read. Often I am very disappointed with my bedtime reads. (My criteria for them is they have to be light and enjoyable, but often they prove to be just badly-written dross). But this book was a thoroughly good read. If anything it failed as a bedtime read because I had difficulty putting it down.

It really brought memories back to me about having best friends when younger, and the level of fun and companionship that involved. Plus it discusses the angst of crushes on god-like males. I thought that Elektra and Archie (the main character in the book and the young man she is besotted with) both very charming. I loved it when Elektra told us she had legs like a stork - and not in a good way.

A major part of the book centres on what it is like to be caught up in the world of working as a young actor (Elektra's passion) - and this was very interesting. And it sounded realistic. I always like being introduced to new worlds.

This is a funny and jolly read....and I found it surprisingly enjoyable to get back into the mindset of being a teenager.

Bella (Cheezyfeet Books) says

Originally posted atCheezyfeet Books.

So I started reading *Waiting For Callback* in the midst of my first bout of university exams. I had been MEGA stressed about these and could never escape the scary thoughts of what the stress was doing to my body and especially how it was affecting my mental health, and I needed to do something to distract myself, literally for my own sanity and well-being. One night when I couldn't sleep I picked up *Waiting For Callback* and it was exactly what I needed. Something fun, light-hearted and easy to read, and before I knew

it I was 100 pages in and loving it (and thinking 'oh no it's 12:30am and I'm really tired but I don't want to stop reading'). It perfectly distracted me from my thoughts as I got lost in Elektra's story, and I loved it.

The book begins with Elektra dressed as a spider, impersonating a carrot onstage. Yep, you read that right!! I found this weird (who wouldn't?) but I decided to roll with it - why not, eh? In the audience is an agent, who goes on to represent Elektra as she begins her career as a young actress. From here on out the story is of Elektra navigating the scary world of child acting: prepping for auditions, the feeling of failure and disappointment when they are unsuccessful, the waiting, etc. To top it all off she is also struggling with school, friendships and the emotional baggage that comes with first crushes and relationships.

Elektra's voice is super easy to read and get lost in, and also so authentic. It's odd how when I started this blog I was younger than all these YA protagonists (I was thirteen, I think?), yet I realised as I was reading *Waiting For Callback* that now that I am nineteen, I am four years older than the main character, and older than most of the protagonists that I read about now. Yet it didn't affect my ability to relate to Elektra, as I think that the feelings and experiences that you have when you are fifteen don't go away just because you're older. Just because you're older doesn't mean you can't learn from a fifteen year old! This was just something that I found myself considering as I read, and now more as I am writing this review.

I related mostly to what Elektra was going through with her friendships and school stresses, as these things are still happening to me now, if in a slightly different way: uni rather than school, and a lot of my friends are spread over the country at other unis or still at home. One of my best friends has just got together with one of her best friends (I'm soooo happy for them) and while I don't at all feel like she's ditched me for him as Elektra does in the book, it was a tiny worry that crept into my head when she told me. It's a thought I shouldn't have had (sorry if you're reading this, you know who you are) and I think Elektra feels the same - she knows it's silly, yet it's so hard not to listen to the thoughts in your head, no matter what age you are. So yeah I know since a lot of the readers of my blog probably are adults reading YA I don't need to tell you this but I've done a lot of growing up very quickly in the last few months and it's scary, but it's a comfort to know that some things don't change.

The other major (actually probably the main) part of the book is obviously Elektra's auditions and blossoming career as a young actress. I've never been interested in drama or acting (drama class at school was my second least favourite, only after PE), but I do like watching films and TV a lot so it was cool to see a little bit about how casting works and the background things that happen so far in advance of a film that you hardly ever or really never think about when you're sitting back and enjoying watching something. I dunno how realistic they are but they fooled me if they're not! Haha. I felt Elektra's frustration right along with her, and found it just as upsetting when she missed out on parts or when things went mega wrong! I was impressed by how much she didn't let it go to her head and by how mature she was (most of the time!) about it! I was worried at first that she'd be a brat and while she did have some moments it wasn't over-the-top drama queen (that was all Flissy!) so I didn't mind.

Basically, go read *Waiting For Callback*. It's light-hearted and doesn't take itself too seriously, yet still manages to deal really well with some mature themes. I am so pleased I chose to read this in the middle of exams too, since it meant that I could easily escape from my own head even for a little while, giving me perspective. To top it all off there was more than one Chuck Bass reference in there, and any book that acknowledges the existence and perfection of Chuck Bass is one that I want to read ;) I will definitely be looking out for future books by this mother-daughter duo (and maybe a sequel?! I don't think it needs one necessarily but I definitely would not turn it away!) and you so should too!

**Huge thanks to Simon and Schuster for providing me with a copy of Waiting For Callback in exchange for an honest review. In no way has this affected my opinion of the novel.*

Cora Tea Party Princess says

YA Shot Readalong April 2016

5 Words: Acting, school friendship, family, pressure.

My first thoughts upon finishing this book?

When's the next one out?

Because I need it now.

This book was so refreshingly funny. I've lost count of the amount of times I laughed out loud or snorted tea out of my nose (painful) or read passages out to my other half. This book is hilarious.

But it's more than just funny. Waiting for Callback tackles some pretty serious issues like friendship and bullying and first love and self-esteem and dreams and disappointment and school and family. And it does so wonderfully. The book is fantastically well written and honest, the characters are so believable and real, and I found it impossible to put down. I laughed and I cried as I read, and I absolutely loved Elektra.

I received a copy of this for free via Goodreads First Reads.

Emma says

Debut novel Waiting for Callback is what I needed. I read at the end of last year because I couldn't wait and although it seem like a very young book, I find that some really don't work and some are actually pretty brilliant and I believe that WFC is in the later category for me.

Elektra James, she isn't no superhero but she is pretty unique character for this YA novel. It first begins as Elektra: "I'm dressed as a spider, waiting to go on stage to impersonate a carrot." That line really says it all. After that performance she was discovered by an acting agency. But it isn't all movies and TV shows, she didn't quite realise that she was going to be 'dead' sometimes or even just a voice on a commercial. What I loved is that Perdita and Honor touched upon the realistic approaches to acting and to the life of a teenager, it hits up first love, friendships and family. This novel certainly didn't lack any drama, embarrassment and poignant moments of a life of a teenager. They didn't make it that acting isn't always easy for some people, you have to work for it and sometimes there will be a lot of disappointment in between.

As a duo authored novel it was my first and also by a mother and daughter I had my concerns as to how it would read when there could be conflict of writing or exchange of ideas. But I guess my curiosity picked at me and I enjoyed it far more. What I enjoyed was that Honor and Perdita reflects what there relationship

truly is like, that are strong and so in tune, it's amazing to be honest it's showed between Elektra and her mum too, how it could be based on them not as individuals but as family.

When I recieved my copy in the post and saw the bright happy cover and the quote "Geek Girl meets Fame.." I knew it would be for me. Although I hadn't read Geek Girl, I just needed an easy, funny, that puts-a-smile-on-your-face-till-the-very-end type of book. Waiting for Callback ticked all those boxes for me. This novel proved to be one of my favourite younger YA I've read in a while and I would recommend to those who loved anything similar from the likes of Ally Carter, Holly Smale and Jenny McLachlan! Waiting For Callback is a super-cute, amazing and light novel that awarded its 5 stars from me.

Rating - 5

Maddie says

'Waiting for Callback' is the perfect book if you're looking for a protagonist that will work hard and chase their dreams, while also having parents that are constantly in the picture. Parental involvement, hurray! I loved how hands-on the book felt, with all the emails being exchanged about auditions, actually going to the auditions and waiting with Elektra to see if she got the roles. For someone that knows nothing about acting, it was fascinating to read about the process that felt so authentic! It definitely gave me 'Geek Girl' vibes, just with acting rather than modelling.

The thing that disappointed me with the book was how underwhelmed I was by Elektra's 'regular' school life. I was pleased that the acting took up the majority of the book, but I'd have liked more of a sense of her character outside of a casting room. That being said, the sequel sounds really promising, and I can't wait to pick it up!

Harriet Reuter Hapgood says

Just like rom-coms don't get their dues - the Oscars are all over Leo DiCaprio getting eaten by a bear or whatever, but snogging and lols just don't pick up the statuettes - funny YA often gets overlooked or seen as lightweight, just because it's a dream to read. But making a comedy plot, stuffed full of jokes from one-liners to cringe-worthy scenarios, seem easy is actually HARD, so I hope WAITING FOR CALLBACK gets the awards nods it deserves.

This is a chocolate cake of a book, a good sugary and rich wodge of hyper-real characters doing screamingly funny things with straight faces - if you're a fan of CENTER STAGE or literally any behind-the-scenes film ever, you'll love this insight into the world of teenage actors. Its structure reminded me of a millennial Bridget Jones, and Perdita and Honor deserve a place in the spotlight.

Edel says

This was such a fun uplifting book about the ups and downs of one young teen called Elektra who dreams of being on the stage and screen. With talent and big dreams she is also a very likeable, funny, down to earth character who does not take herself too seriously or anyone around her. With a supportive family, and great

friends around her she will go far and she is so nice you want her to do well. There is also a little love interest too which all adds to this fun read. While juggling school , friendship and her part time acting job it's all a great learning experience that gets more and more exciting as she seems to have a real talent for this type of lifestyle .

I received this book for review from the lovely folks over at Lovereading4kids.

Sarah Alexander says

Well, this book just totally cured my February blues. *WAITING FOR CALLBACK* by dynamic mother/daughter duo Perdita and Honor Cargill is hilarious, and wonderfully fresh. The main character Elektra is juggling school life and exams with huge career ambitions that just can't wait. A recipe for disaster? Or will Elektra get that call? The novel provides a fantastic insight into the unglamorous side of acting and chasing dreams, and I love the way that excitement and hope continuously bubble away despite the tedious waiting, disasters and rejections. From the funny and realistic dialogue to the ridiculous auditions Elektra find herself in (Dead school girl, for example), I found myself smiling, completely engrossed, all the way through. This really is a must read if you're in need of an uplift.

Georgia says

'Waiting for Callback' is uplifting, addictive and refreshing. You can't stop yourself from falling in love with the main characters, and desperately flicking from one chapter to the next to see what is happening in Electra's story.

Once 15 year old Electra is discovered by an acting agent, she finally thinks her Hollywood stardom is about to be achieved. Little did she know, acting is much more difficult than she ever would have thought. She has to juggle things such as playing the part of Dead Girl 2, rejection, friendships, exams and first loves. How will she deal with it all?

Some of these things are all a part of a normal teenager's life: but the fact that Electra is following her dream of being an actress makes the book even more unique. The novel handles these issues with seriousness and honesty: but with sprinkles and dustings of humour.

I liked how the chapters were set up, with lists that Electra had made- making the reader feel much more complicit, and connecting with her. There were quotes from famous actors: reminding you that people work in this industry every day, and you are seeing an unusual account of it from a teenager, watching everything from her perspective.

The plot guided you along, which is always a positive- I wasn't forcing myself to read it. I loved the main characters- and I was always rooting for Electra and Archie. It was nice to see that Electra learnt from her mistakes, realising where she had gone wrong: she had used her experiences to grow up throughout the course of the novel.

An easy 5/5- 'Waiting for Callback' is a perfect introduction to YA. I couldn't fault it- it was like an indulgent cake that you can't get enough of.

Rosalyn Eves says

I got to interview mother-daughter writing team Perdita and Honor Cargill about their debut, **WAITING FOR CALLBACK**, for the *Swanky Seventeens* (MG and YA authors debuting in 2017). The interview was a lot of fun and their book sounded like the perfect fun read: a teen who lands an acting agent and thinks her career is about to start, only to find that life "waiting for callback" is a lot more complicated than she expects.

When I got a copy of the book a couple weeks later, I was thrilled. And the book was just as fun and light-hearted as I had hoped. Elektra (and yes, she's aware that her name is horrible) is smart, spunky, but not as composed as she might like. Her attitude keeps some of the discouraging things that happen to her from being overwhelming, as she navigates first love, friendship, ambition and failure. I read the book in a couple of sittings and left with a fuzzy glow.

Funny, clean, romantic and (at times) poignant, this is a wonderful escapist read.

Jasmine says

[Like I knew she'd get the part. It was obvious but I wish it wasn't. (hide spoiler)]
