



Four Dead Queens

Astrid Scholte

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A divided nation. Four Queens. A ruthless pickpocket. A noble messenger. And the murders that unite them.

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These are the words Keralie Corrington lives by as the preeminent dipper in the Concord, the central area uniting the four quadrants of Quadara. She steals under the guidance of her mentor Mackiel, who runs a black market selling their bounty to buyers desperate for what they can't get in their own quarter. For in the nation of Quadara, each quarter is strictly divided from the other. Four queens rule together, one from each region:

Toria: the intellectual quarter that values education and ambition

Ludia: the pleasure quarter that values celebration, passion, and entertainment

Archia: the agricultural quarter that values simplicity and nature

Eonia: the futurist quarter that values technology, stoicism and harmonious community

When Keralie intercepts a comm disk coming from the House of Concord, what seems like a standard job goes horribly wrong. Upon watching the comm disks, Keralie sees all four queens murdered in four brutal ways. Hoping that discovering the intended recipient will reveal the culprit – information that is bound to be valuable bartering material with the palace – Keralie teams up with Varin Bollt, the Eonist messenger she stole from, to complete Varin's original job and see where it takes them.

Four Dead Queens Details

Date : Expected publication: February 26th 2019 by Putnam

ISBN :

Author : Astrid Scholte

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult

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From Reader Review Four Dead Queens for online ebook

Erin says

For more of my reviews, visit my blog [As the Book Ends](#) or follow me on Instagram!

I received an advanced reading copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

My Rating: 4.5 Stars

Alright, let me tell you a little something about this book: I almost died to get a copy of it. I know what you're thinking – I'm prone to dramatics and surely I didn't almost die. I did though. I'll paint a word picture for you: there I was, minding my own business at Book Con, when suddenly, a wild mob surrounded me where I was calmly standing near the Penguin booth. Before I know what's happening, I'm being pushed, security is coming in to break up the mob, and I swear I saw my life flash before my eyes. You know what though? It. Was. Worth. It.

In the last few years, there have been a ton of hyped debut authors. Though I liked some of them, I've felt that quite a few fell short of the hype. I am so so happy to share that 4 Dead Queens did not fall short, not even a tiny bit. This book is worth ALL of the hype. All of it. (I tried to fit the word hype into this paragraph one more time, but couldn't find a way to work it in seamlessly...or did I?)

4 Dead Queens was not at all what I was expecting. First of all, I was expecting for the queens to already be dead by the start of the book, or within the first chapter. However, they actually play a large role in the plot, acting as narrators throughout the book. I loved getting to see them and learning about their country through their eyes – it really helped with the world building.

Speaking of, I was seriously impressed with how well Quadara was built in just one book. Typically fantasy novels are trilogies or duologies, giving the author the necessary time to world build. By utilizing the queens POV's as well as Keralie's, Scholte was able to paint a well rounded picture of the world without the book dragging at all. That being said, I would like to see more of both these characters and Quadara itself. It honestly was a bit reminiscent of The Hunger Games in that each quadrant of the land was responsible for producing a service or commodity. There were even parts of Quadara that reminded me of Ketterdam – a favorite city of mine. Overall, I want more.

Keralie was a really unique narrator in my opinion. She was selfish and brash, outspoken and all of the things I would generally be annoyed by. However, she was also charming, and over the course of the book I adored the way her character matured and developed. Her budding romance with Varin was sweet and adorable, but added to the plot instead of taking it over.

My Takeaway: Astrid Scholte, if you're reading this, I just want to say that I hope you have your next novel written already. Because I need it right now, please and thank you. For a debut, this was honestly incredible and I can't wait to see what Scholte gives us next. 4 Dead Queens comes out in February of 2019, so mark your calendars!

Astrid Scholte says

The Penguin Teen Pre-order giveaway is live! Check out the amazing Welcome to Quadara pins you can choose from when you pre-order!

Pre-order link

US Residents, 13+. Ends 2/25/19. See terms at <http://bit.ly/FourDeadQueensPreOrder>

Want to be the first to hear about release dates, snippets, swag and ARCS? Then sign up for my newsletter [here!](#)

A divided nation. Four Queens. A ruthless pickpocket. A noble messenger. And the murders that unite them.

Seventeen-year-old Keralie Corrington may seem harmless, but she's, in fact, one of Quadara's most skilled thieves and a liar. Varin, on the other hand, is an honest, upstanding citizen of Quadara's most enlightened region, Eonia. He runs afoul of Keralie when she steals a package from him, putting his life in danger. When Varin attempts to retrieve the package, he and Keralie both find themselves entangled in a conspiracy that leaves all four of Quadara's queens dead.

With no other choices and on the run from Keralie's former employer, the two decide to join forces, endeavoring to discover who has killed the queens and save their own lives in the process. When their reluctant partnership blooms into a tenuous romance, they must overcome their own dark secrets in hopes of a future together that seemed impossible just days before. But first they have to stay alive and untangle the secrets behind the nation's four dead queens.

An enthralling fast-paced murder mystery where competing agendas collide with deadly consequences, Four Dead Queens heralds the arrival of an exciting new YA talent.

Anissa (FairyLoot) says

Wow. Read this in pretty much one sitting - I just had to know what would happen next. Quadara is such a rich world and the mystery kept me on the edge of my seat (along with the wonderful characters)!

Cindy ☆? Savage Queen ? says

OMG, the full synopsis has me so pumped for this! Ugh, why is 2019 so far away!?

Elise (TheBookishActress) says

?Arc received from the publisher via Keplers for an honest review. [**releases:** February 26 2019.]

MischaS_ says

Very curious about this one! Cannot wait for it. However, at first glance, I thought it was a book by Kendare Blake from the Three Dark Crowns series. Because of the cover and the title. Hopefully, that will be the only resemblance. But I will surely read this one.

Liv Herondale says

I was given the opportunity by Penguin Teen to read an uncorrected galley of Astrid Scholte's novel, 4 Dead Queens! This book was spectacular and written with so many twists and turns! Putting the book down was nearly impossible because of the constant surprises that kept me tied down to my chair. I seriously was sitting outside reading for a good two hours straight so I could finish and uncover who killed the queens!

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In the beginning, we were already thrown into action and not only was I surprised to find myself more and more engrossed in this new fantasy/dystopian world, but I also fell in love with the characters—who only seemed to develop more as the book went on. There was an element of shock chapter after chapter! It was an insane read that is easily one of my favorite books. Near the middle of the book, there was still action which remained until the ending. It was overall such an amazing read and left me desiring more and more from the main characters. There was not only a cool dystopian and futuristic world, but there was also a huge mystery that we had to figure out.

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Once this book comes out, I know there will be an insane amount of people raving about how Scholte could very easily be one of the greatest YA authors. Thank you again to Penguin Teen for giving me an arc of this book and I will post more about 4 Dead Queens once it reaches shelves in 2019!

Nadhira Satria says

eXCUSE ME BUT I NEED THIS IN MY LIFE

Emily May says

ARC provided in exchange for honest review ?

Sarah Glenn Marsh says

Official comments: "A cinematic thrill ride brimming with murder, mayhem, and twists that will shock you,

Four Dead Queens is sure to be your next book obsession. Absolutely riveting."

Unofficial Comments: I JUST REALLY LOVED IT, OKAY? Please read it. For me. Do it!

Vicky Who Reads says

OH MY GOSH AHHHHH

review to come soon I!!! Didn't!!! Expect!!! That!!!

Kerri says

official comments to come!

Melanie says

I'm the fifth dead queen because this cover and synop has SLAIN ME! GOODBYE!

Blog | Instagram | Twitter | Tumblr | Youtube | Twitch

Danielle (Life of a Literary Nerd) says

3.5 stars

Rule thirteen: Only a queen may sit upon the throne. When she takes the throne, she accepts the responsibility to rule the quadrant until her dying day.

The good news, I started reading again. The bad news, I didn't enjoy this as much as I wanted too. But I will forever be grateful to this book for pulling me out of such a horrible slump. **Four Dead Queens** follows renowned thief Keralie Corrington as she's thrust into a dark conspiracy that leaves all four of Quadra's queens dead. Keralie teams up with the stoic and logical Varin to try and clear their names before their lives are forfeit in this fast-paced and tangled story.

Things I Liked

So this book had some genuinely great **surprises** that kept me engaged and wanting more. One completely took my by surprise and I literally gasped out loud. It was such a clever idea and moved the story forward creatively. Another turned your expectations on their head. Overall the twists and surprises made sense, moved the story forward creatively, and kept me engaged.

So I loved Quadra's **politics and worldbuilding**. I like that each region is responsible for different facets of life (technology/medicine, arts, crops) and seeing how these places shaped their ruling queen was really cool.

I think that the **multiple POVs** were used really effectively to not only introduce all the important characters but to move the story along at a quick pace. It was truly impossible to be bored while reading this because the story did not let up at all.

Things I Didn't Like

The **romance** was just so unnecessary. There really isn't much else for me to say besides that I felt absolutely no chemistry between the romantic pairing and I didn't get anything from them.

Even with all the great surprises and the engaging fast pace, I felt an overall **lack of tension and suspense** in the story. Resolutions happened quickly and consequences didn't seem to have a lasting impact. This could be because this is a standalone story and a lot had to happen so there wasn't time to draw things out and really create a build. But I do think this would have made a fantastic duology, and really given more depth to the world and characters.

I do think it was hard to tell how **time was framed** in the story. Because the story is so fast paced it seemed like everything was happening instantaneously. But sometimes days had went by within the story. It was just a bit jarring a few times.

Four Dead Queens was truly an excellent fantasy debut with wonderful worldbuilding and plot progression. Keralie is a spunky main character who is so easy to follow. I really liked getting to know the four Queens and seeing their distinct personalities. While the overall story let me down, there are some really great elements that makes this a great read.

I received a copy of the book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Lindsay Bilgram says

"Get in quick, get out quicker."

4.5* Excuse me while I petition for every YA fantasy world to be a queendom instead of a kingdom because **Four Dead Queens** is the feminist fantasy murder mystery I never knew I needed. **Vivid, fast-paced, and suspenseful with the perfect amount of humor and romance, make me the fifth dead queen because I am trash for this book.**

Keralie is a thief and quite good at it, possibly the best, but when one of her assignments from Makiel, her mentor and a Kaz Brekker type who runs a thriving black market, goes horribly wrong, Keralie finds herself in possession of crucial information about the murders of the four queens of Quadara. As Keralie tries to untangle the mystery of what happened to the four dead queens and who killed them, she'll learn just how little she knows about Makiel, herself, and her world.

Intricately woven with immersive world building, complex characters with hidden motives, and unpredictable plot twists, Four Dead Queens is a standalone fantasy that will keep you at the edge of your seat and flipping each page frantically, *dying* (horrible pun intended) to know just what happened to these queens. I tried playing detective while reading, and wasn't able to predict anything that happened. This book is a RIDE that had me gasping at the plot twists and hungry to piece everything together.

Perhaps my favorite thing about *Four Dead Queens* was how cleverly the story was told. **Alternating between the perspectives of Keralie and the queens, the reader gets to see both Keralie attempting to unravel the murders and the events immediately preceding them.** I'm particularly a sucker for political intrigue, so getting to see the politics from the queens' perspectives and the secrets they had was especially a treat—and trust me, there were some wonderfully scandalous secrets.

Of course, I can't end this review without talking about the world, because WOWZA catch me packing my bags and moving to Quadara because I'm obsessed. **Each region was so unique and well-built with distinct cultures and values, and the author did a fantastic job of making the reader feel as though they knew and lived in each one.** I can already imagine the BuzzFeed "Which Region of Quadara Do You Belong In" quizzes. The story was perfect for a standalone, but the world makes me wish it was a series and I'm really hoping the author will write more books in this universe, because I'm in love.

If this review hasn't convinced you already, let me put it bluntly, *Four Dead Queens* is GOOD. **I haven't been this excited for a YA fantasy—especially a standalone—in a long time.** Plot twists. Queendom. Amazing main character (I'd die for Keralie). Political intrigue. Mystery. Need I go on? (Trust me, I can). If you haven't already, be sure to preorder *Four Dead Queens* (release date, **FEBRUARY 26th 2019**) because I need people to obsess over this book with as soon as it's released. In the meantime, I'll be chilling in Quadara with Keralie and Varin—a girl can dream, okay?
