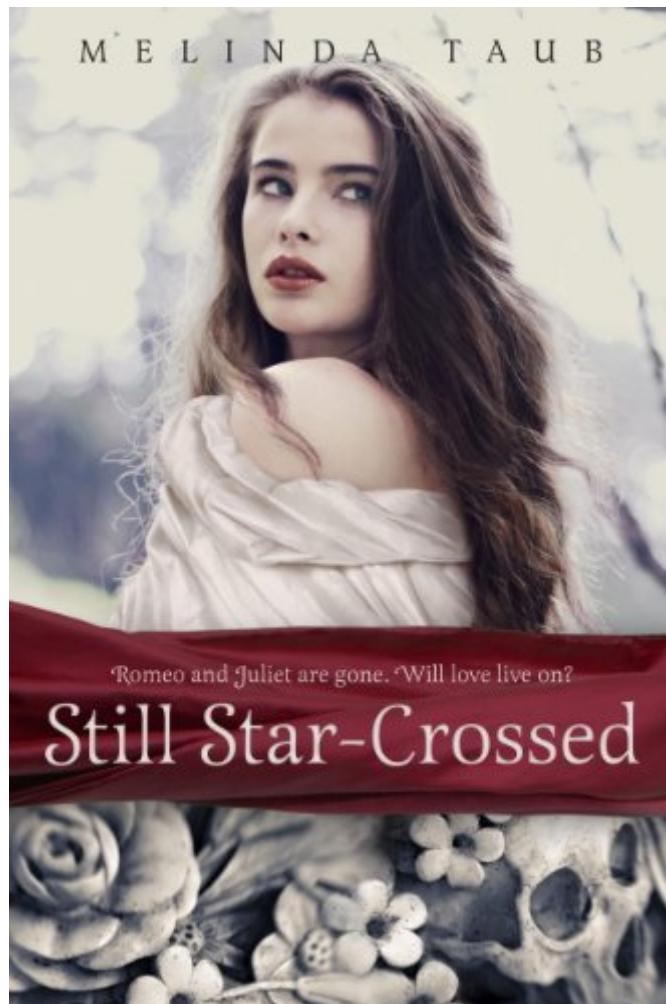


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Still Star-Crossed



Synopsis

Now an ABC TV show from producer Shonda Rhimes! Discover what happened after the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet, as mysterious figures in Verona are determined to reignite the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets. In fair Verona, enemies still walk the streets. Two new hearts. Same two families. The fight to the altar is about to happen. All. Over. Again. This homage to the classic Shakespearean tale of Romeo and Juliet will have readers pining for a star-crossed love of their very own. *“A recipe for escapist television that Shondaland has perfected.”* •The Hollywood Reporter on the TV adaptation

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Customer Reviews

I feel a bit like a jerk for giving this book 3.5 stars. I really wanted to enjoy it more, but I found myself struggling a bit to finish it. At first, the style of the dialogue--somewhat Shakespearean in nature--was very offputting to me. I struggled to get through it simply because it seemed to be over the top. However, as I continued to read, it started to click by about page 30. I'm not sure if the style

gradually tamed itself a bit, or if I became used to it, but at that point I accepted it and even began to enjoy it. Another thing that lowered my review was the poor romance. For a book based off of a legendary, ill-fated romance of sorts (arguably just infatuation) the romance in this book was frustratingly slow and then all of a sudden far too fast in terms of build-up. It just wasn't written in quite the right way for me as a reader of YA romance/fiction books. Rosaline was likable enough and so was Benvolio, but they didn't mesh well at all. Benvolio wasn't as rounded as a character as Rosaline was and for the most part, all of the other characters seemed very flat and rote. The book moved at a sluggish pace for the first two thirds, peppered with the occasionally boring death before it started to pick up. I found my attention waning, struggling to find interest to finish the book. However, despite all those critiques, I really liked the idea behind the book. The author was talented at weaving in many characters from the original play and explaining their actions and their reactions to the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. I enjoyed seeing what happened in Verona afterwards and I liked the author's creativity in that regard.

While the plot is very good, the author's switch from modern form of language in her descriptions to a very poorly contrived form of Shakespearean dialogue is incredibly annoying. While I understand the author's purpose in attempting to keep the dialogue as Shakespeare would have written it, she really needed to study harder to use it well. I am glad to see it will be a television show because the story is good, but reading the poor imitation for dialogue often pulled me out of the story.

The idea of writing a sequel to one of the greatest fictional creations in history written by (IMHO) the greatest playwright and poet who ever lived, is pretty audacious. Writing it in a decent approximation of Shakespearian English adds to the audacity. Could it possibly work? The answer is a resounding yes. In Melinda Taub's delightful *Still Star-Crossed*, we catch up with the denizens of Verona mere weeks after the deaths of Romeo, Juliet, Tybalt, and Mercutio. The Prince of Verona, Escalus, is at his wits' end. Despite the tentative peace promised by the Montagues and Capulets in the wake of the deaths of Romeo and Juliet, Escalus knows it's only a matter of time before old grievances bubble to the surface and lead to more violence and death. Knowing it as a certainty, the Prince concocts a bold scheme to link the two families together by ordering a marriage between Romeo's friend, Benvolio, and a Rosaline, a relative of the Capulets. The tale of their relationship as it develops from dislike to friendship to love, is truly delightful. I would like to think that Will Shakespeare himself would have approved!

Great YA read. I liked the politics and the mystery plots. Rosaline was a fun narrator. I was glad the author didn't limit what Rosaline was able to accomplish due to the fact that she was a girl in that time period. I think the only thing that bothered me was that Rosaline's choice at the end didn't make sense to me- I couldn't pinpoint a moment where her feelings were definitely stronger for the man she chose versus the man she didn't. I expected her to chose the opposite, actually. Perhaps I'll read it again and see if I can make sense of that choice. Overall, a pleasant read.

A beautiful and engaging read. I loved how the author explored Verona on the aftermath of Romeo and Juliet's deaths. In the middle of trying to end the animosity between the Montagues and the Capulets, the streets of Verona are shaken with deaths from the two Houses in the hands of a mysterious masked man. We see here Rosaline of House Capulet and her sister Livia, Benvolio of House Montague, and Prince Escalus of Verona as key players in the story. I also loved the Shakespearean language used by the author, which is unpretentious and not overbearing. While I wasn't swooned by most of the romance parts (why are people so gullible in Verona?), I loved how the action scenes slowly built up until the climax. The ending is also satisfying.

I love everything Romeo and Juliet but I have to say it was wonderful to see other characters get their moment on the spotlight! I loved this book, it did have some scenes that were cruel and painful, but added so much depth to the book. Enjoyed Greatly!

I must admit, I bought this due to ABC canceling the TV series, as I had to know how it ended, I wasn't disappointed in the story at all and glad I got to see it the end

I could not put it down! I saw that this book was going to be a series and it looked really good so I read the free sample...Then bought the book right away. I was not disappointed.

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