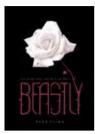
Novels by Alex Flinn A Selected Bibliography



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- Texas Library Association Tayshas High School Reading List



About the Author

Alex Flinn loves fairy tales and is also the author of *Beastly*, a modern retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*, which was an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers and a *VOYA* Editor's Choice. She studied opera in college and went on to become a lawyer before realizing her dream of being a writer. Alex Flinn lives with her family in Miami, Florida. You can visit her online at www.alexflinn.com.

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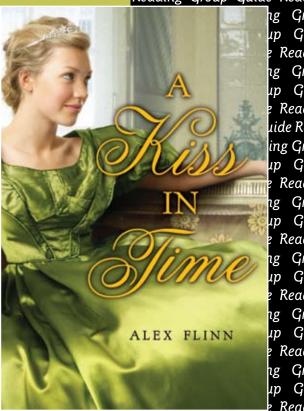
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A Kiss in Time By Alex Flinn

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About the Book

Since she was cursed as a baby, Princess Talia of Euphrasia has spent her life listening to her elders prattle on about the dangers of the spindle. Growing up centuries later, Jack spends his life partying in modern day Miami and dodging boring summer internships. The two have little in common, but they may just be each other's destiny. When Talia falls into a three-hundred-year-long sleep, Jack's stolen kiss is the one that wakes her. While this ought to be the start of their happily ever after, it ends up being the beginning of much more. . . .

Discussion Questions

- 1. Early in the story, Talia bemoans never having had a single friend—Lady Brooke, a woman she loathes, is her "only companion" (p. 11). What is the difference between a companion and a friend? Are the people you spend time with companions or friends? Why is it important to have friends?
- 2. When Jack and Travis first stumble into the castle, they compare it to what they've seen in *Shrek 2*. Where does your knowledge of fairy tales come from? Did you read stories from the Brothers Grimm when you were younger? Which do you enjoy more, the old versions of the stories or modern retellings, like *Shrek* and *A Kiss in Time*?
- 3. Is it appropriate for Jack to kiss Talia? Travis suggests that because Talia is asleep he could "do anything" (p. 50), but Jack knows that "it's wrong to take advantage of girls who are passed out" (p. 109). Before Jack kisses Talia, he claims to "respect" her and says he can tell that "she's someone special" (p. 51). Do you believe him? Or do you think he's just interested because she's attractive?
- 4. In Talia's time, someone who went around "kissing other people they did not love and had no interest in marrying" would be "considered a cad" (p. 107). What makes someone a cad these days? Alternatively, consider what makes someone a gentleman in our day. Is Jack a gentleman?
- 5. Talia tries to get Jack to fall in love with her by making him feel needed, gazing into his eyes, and letting her lower lip quiver. Do these things work? What does it take to make someone love you? Can love come from pity, which Jack initially feels for Talia, or from gratitude, which she initially feels for him? Should you have to work to fall in love?

- 6. Malvolia asks Talia, "What is there for you if he does not love you?" (p. 233). What message does this question send about what's important in a girl's life? How does that message make you feel? What do you like about stories of true love? What is appealing about the notion of soul mates? Is there anything disconcerting about the idea?
- 7. Jack says that his parents never give him any choice about what to do and that their dreams for him are "all about them" (p. 141). What do you think Jack's parents want for him? What do your parents want for you? Does that contradict what you want for yourself?
- 8. Talia helps Jack stand up to his parents, telling them that he respects their opinion but feels that the only way to win their approval is to "deny his true nature" (p. 255). Can you relate to that feeling? How can you show respect for your parents and other authority figures while still being true to yourself?
- 9. King Louis marvels at Jack's iPod, saying that it saves the "bother" of gathering people for a live performance and means that "each man can live entirely in his own world" (p. 91). Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Is it important for us to interact with other people and to have communal gatherings? Explain.
- 10. Why do you think author Alex Flinn shares Malvolia's story? Does learning Malvolia's background excuse her actions? Can Talia and her parents atone for what they did to Malvolia? Should they?
- 11. Jack says that he likes to "plant stuff"—that putting his hands in dirt feels "clean" and "honest" (p. 143). What do you genuinely like to do? Is this something that's part of your daily life? Do your parents and friends know what you're really passionate about? Why or why not?
- 12. Consider how Talia's feelings about the modern world differ from Jack's. Do you agree with Jack that our time is "pretty much better" than Talia's (p. 107)? Why or why not?

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Extension Activities

- When the World Sleeps. Imagine that your world has gone
 to sleep. What would things look like if left untended for
 three hundred years? Write a one-page description of how
 your town or city might look. Then write a short dialogue
 for two characters who have recently stumbled upon your
 forgotten world.
- 2. **Blast from the Past.** When first taking in Jack's appearance, Talia thinks that his Old Navy shirt represents a custom of wearing one's country's flag and finds it strange that he wears his clock on his wrist (pp. 56–61). Think about how someone from three hundred years ago might see you. What would that person think of the zipper on your jacket, the brand name on your shirt, or the backward baseball cap on your head? How might he or she interpret your low-rise jeans, tanned skin, or the iPod earbuds dangling around your neck? What misconceptions might the person have about your culture if he or she made assumptions based solely on your appearance? Describe yourself through the eyes of a stranger from the past.
- 3. Bird's Eye Worldview. Upon seeing Euphrasia from the air, Talia says that it's "impossible" for her "whole world" to be that small (p. 146). Using a blank world map, color in the places where you have lived or spent extended periods of time. What size is your world when compared to the globe as a whole? Do you have a desire to travel and see other parts of the world? How might spending time away from home and exploring new places affect you? How does the trip to Miami help Talia grow and learn? Using a different color, shade in the places on the map where you have visited or traveled through, even if only briefly. How does the size of your world look now?
- 4. Living History. Research several places where live actors reenact history, such as Colonial Williamsburg, Plimoth Plantation, and Cosmeston Medieval Village. What portions of life do these actors re-create? How thoroughly do they relive history? Do you think it would be fun to participate? Create a travel brochure or PowerPoint presentation for your classmates about experiencing living history at one of these places.