

*Title: A Curse So Dark and Lonely*

**Author: Brigid Kemmerer**

**Genre: Fantasy**

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Karan S. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: March 27th, 2020**

This book is about a charming Prince Rhen of Emberfall who has been cursed, and now he's compelled to relive the autumn of his 18th birthday until he can find a girl to love him. He always turns into a hideous, murderous monster, who, so far, has destroyed his castle, his family, and every last shred of hope. It is based on the story of the Beauty and the Beast. Till now, 300 girls have been snatched away to Emberfall and failed to break the curse. Harper, a high school senior, who rushes to save a drunken blonde outside a bar from what looks like a kidnapping is captured by Rhen's commander guard, Grey, from the streets of Washington D.C. Afterward, she gets whisked away to waking up in an enchanted castle with a cursed prince. Desperate to get back to her very troubled family, it was difficult for nothing was ever easy for Harper. With her father long gone, after borrowing from a loan shark, who's now threatening her dying mother and forcing her brother to do enforcement with her brother barely holding the family together while constantly underestimating her because of her cerebral palsy. After dealing with a bad leg and other effects of cerebral palsy, the snarky, smart, and cynical, Harper learned to be tough enough to survive. Grey is not only tasked with keeping the people of Emberfall safe from Rhen's beastly transformations and rampages, but he is also the only human able to bring back girls from across the boundaries of the enchantment in order to have Rhen fall in love and break the curse, making him so appealing in his vulnerability and stark loyalty. But as Rhen, his friend Grey, and the kingdom work their way into her heart, she learns of the dark forces at play and is determined to stand against them. Powerful forces are standing against Emberfall and it will take more than a broken curse to save Harper, Rhen, and the people of Emberfall.

*Did the plot (for fiction) or presentation of information (for non-fiction) keep you interested? - Yes, as I really wanted to know what happens to Rhen later in the story.*

*Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow, or just right? -The pace was just right.*

*What grade level(s) is this book appropriate for? -This book is appropriate for grade levels 6-9.*

*What type of reader would you recommend this book to? -I would recommend to someone who has an interest in Beauty and the Beast as well as fantasy stories.*

*What other information do you think would be helpful for teens to know about this book? - Something teens should know about this book is that it's a lot like Beauty and the Beast, so this book would interest you if you have an interest in Beauty and the Beast.*

*4 stars: I enjoyed this book and found it worthwhile reading*