

NEVER AFTER

THE THIRTEENTH FAIRY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

Nothing ever happens in Filomena Jefferson-Cho's small California town. The sun shines every day, the grass is always green, and while her school swears there's no bullying, she knows firsthand that isn't true. But one day, when she's walking home from her favorite bookstore on her own, something strange occurs.

Filomena is being followed by Jack Stalker, one of the heroes in the Thirteenth Fairy, a book series she loves. She must be dreaming or still reading. But Jack is insistent—he's real, the stories are real, and Filomena must come at once!

Soon she is thrust into a world of fairies, princesses, sorcerers, and slayers, where an evil queen drives her army to erase the Fairy tribes. To save the kingdom, Filomena must find the truth behind the tale of the Thirteenth Fairy before the cycle of destruction begins again.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melissa de la Cruz is the #1 *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Publishers Weekly* internationally bestselling author of many critically acclaimed books for readers of all ages, including the Alex & Eliza trilogy and Disney's *Descendants* novels. melissa-delacruz.com



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Never After: The Thirteenth Fairy* features two related but different stories: the fairy tale of Princess Eliana, her aunt Carabosse, and her stepmother Queen Olga and the story of Filomena Jefferson-Cho of North Pasadena. Which story initially drew you in more, and why? Did that change during the course of the novel?
2. What do you think the transition from her everyday routine to a life of fairy tales was like for Filomena? Does she struggle outside of North Pasadena or does she take it all in stride?
3. Filomena has never felt like she truly belongs, but throughout the story she makes meaningful connections with many characters. What contributes to her original sense of unbelonging and what emerges to construct a new sense of belonging?
4. What did you make of Filomena's response to finding out she carries the power and protection mark of the thirteenth fairy on her forehead? Would you have responded differently?
5. Based on the information we learn as the story unravels, how would you describe Queen Olga and the thirteenth fairy Carabosse in the beginning of the novel compared to the end of the novel? Who do you trust more at the beginning versus at the end?
6. Why is the scene where the dragons challenge Filomena, Jack, and Alistair to the Game of Threes so significant? What changed for Filomena during this challenge?
7. Filomena's parents have strict rules for their daughter and are very cautious of her safety. Before it was revealed that they knew about the world of *Never After*, did you suspect that they had knowledge of the fairy tales that existed in real life?
8. At the end of the novel, we learn who Filomena really is. What was your reaction to learning that she is Princess Eliana of Westphalia? Were you surprised?
9. Bravery is a central theme of the story. Think of a moment where a character demonstrated bravery and discuss why what they did is considered brave.
10. How has Filomena changed from the start of the story to the end? How has her relationship with her parents changed? Consider how the events of the Ogre War acted as a catalyst for her character development.

And don't miss the second book



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