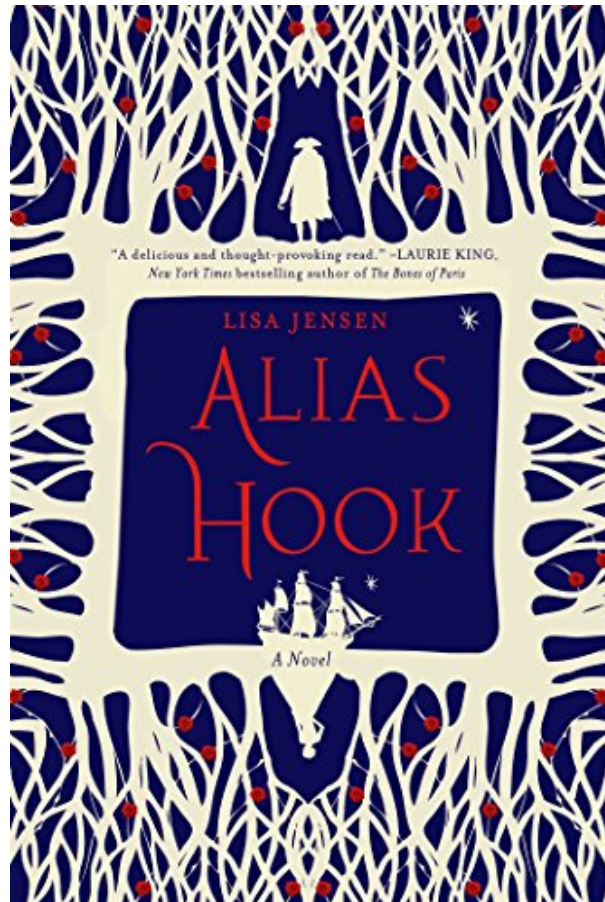
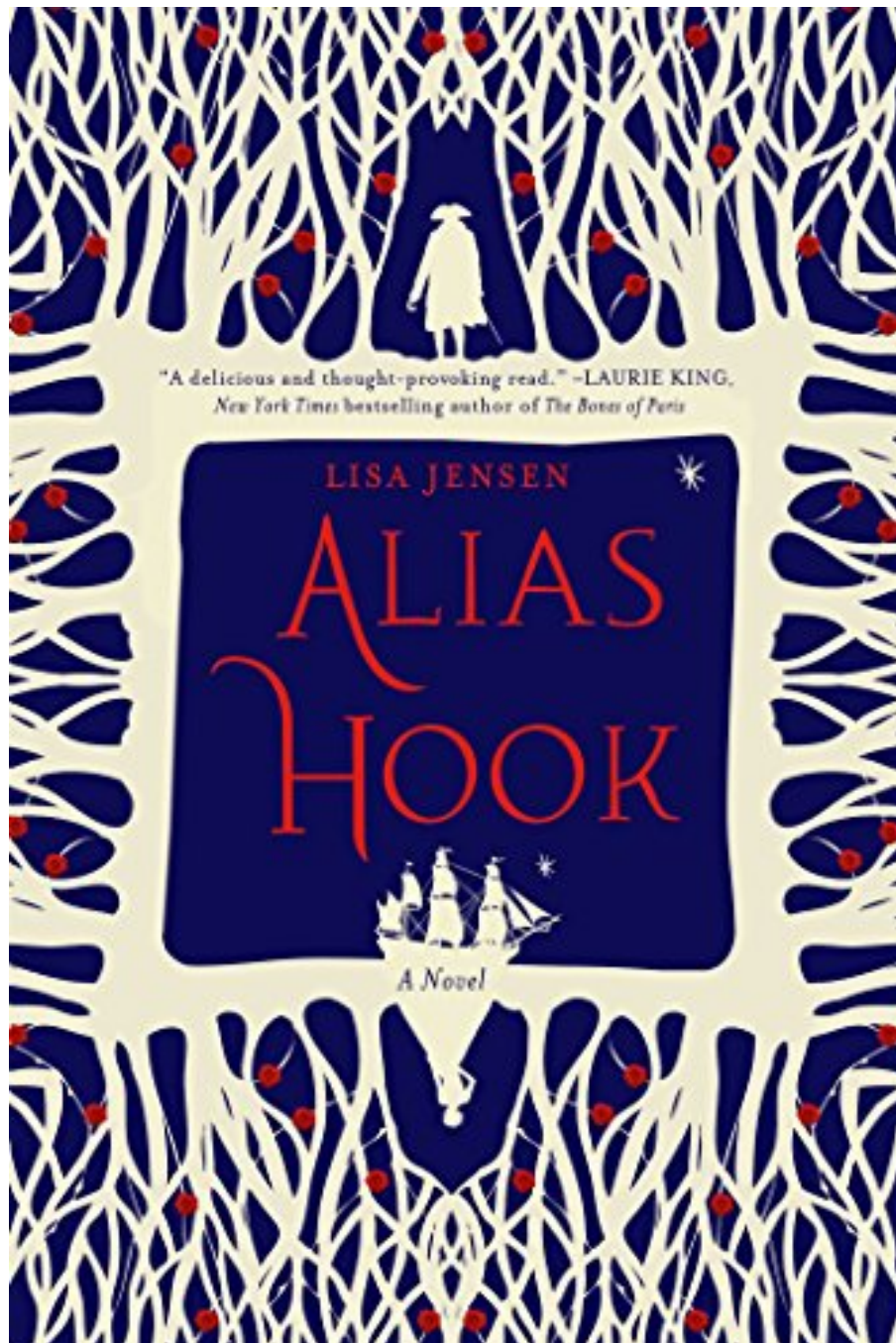


ALIAS HOOK: A NOVEL BY LISA JENSEN



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"Every child knows how the story ends. The wicked pirate captain is flung overboard, caught in the jaws of the monster crocodile who drags him down to a watery grave. But it was not yet my time to die. It's my fate to be trapped here forever, in a nightmare of childhood fancy, with that infernal, eternal boy."

Meet Captain James Benjamin Hook, a witty, educated Restoration-era privateer cursed to play villain to a pack of malicious little boys in a pointless war that never ends. But everything changes when Stella Parrish, a forbidden grown woman, dreams her way to the Neverland in defiance of Pan's rules. From the glamour of the Fairy Revels, to the secret ceremonies of the First Tribes, to the mysterious underwater temple beneath the Mermaid Lagoon, the magical forces of the Neverland open up for Stella as they never have for Hook. And in the pirate captain himself, she begins to see someone far more complex than the storybook villain.

With Stella's knowledge of folk and fairy tales, she might be Hook's last chance for redemption and release if they can break his curse before Pan and his warrior boys hunt her down and drag Hook back to their neverending game. *Alias Hook* by Lisa Jensen is a beautifully and romantically written adult fairy tale.

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What if what we think is true is fiction?

By Mary Gramlich

We have all read the book, seen the movies, watched the plays and singularly came to one conclusion, Captain Hook was evil and Peter Pan was the hero. But what if there is a back story about the real man Captain James Benjamin Hookbridge, known as the infamous pirate Hook? The real reason that Hook acts as he did was due to being trapped by fate and forced to live out the whim of a child that could not grow into a man.

Captain Hook was a pirate and did more than his fair share of evil deeds but his getting caught on Neverland was an accident he cannot be released from. His ship has been anchored to a spot for centuries and while many times Hook has been killed at the hands of Peter Pan he has always risen from the dead. Wanting the

game that Pan is playing to end and his life to move on from his own personal purgatory Hook fails to understand what can release him, until Stella appears and may be the rescue Hook requires. Stella wanted to find Neverland but Pan was the master of all and only those women he choose to come could act as the mother to the lost boys. Pan was a dictator of the lands and allowing Stella to set foot inside his domain was not going to happen, yet it did and that is what sets off a new exchange of explosions between Peter Pan and Captain Hook.

What Stella opens in Hook is the heart he long ago felt stopped beating. She shows him how to deal with his duties but also how to stop the games that Peter Pan wants to play to control Hook and his men. What if treating Pan like the spoiled child he was and not engage him as Hook has done in the past; what if Hook takes the upper hand and establish that he is not a victim but the victor in this cat and mouse game; what if is all Hook can think? Using every friend and foe he can find Hook devises a plan to seek freedom from Neverland, defeat Pan, and finally after centuries of fighting off demons he no longer cares about achieve freedom and love.

Everyone has a back story, it is the writer when pen is put to paper that can release the words that make it believable and have readers craving every word. Lisa Jensen has shown just those attributes in this thrilling, enticing, and creative story

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Do I recommend it? Absobloodylutely!

By Kristina

I was only accompanying a friend at the book store when I saw this on the shelves, and I knew I had to have it. As a lover of Barrie's Peter Pan, I felt the most compassion for two characters: poor Wendy who wanted adventure, only to end up playing a never ending game of House, and Captain Hook with his melancholy eyes, inferior companions, and loneliness at night. But we know Wendy gets her happy ending.

With this novel, I was more than sated. Lisa Jensen does justice to the "redskins," breathes life into those insipid mermaids, adds a whole new dimension to the fairies, and best of all, we get inside the mind of the Captain.

Alias Hook is a proper fairy tale. It's got adventure, sword fighting, magic, and a hero you root for. He's an unlikely hero, yes, and he never thinks of himself as one, but the reader knows better. Like all good fairy tales it's got romance. I was suspicious of how I would feel about Stella Parrish, but watching her story unfold, as well as their romance (perfectly and realistically paced), I loved her fiercely. These are two characters you love both together as a couple, and separately as individuals. She is no Xena, so don't expect that, but the lady has "got salt," and she's got all the wit James Hookbridge needs in a partner. Their lives are intertwined. Their bond, their creative swearing, it's all very natural.

I was delighted to read about the "truth" of the mermaids, and the fairies too. There is magic, but there is also culture, something lacking in children's tales. And here, I must note as well how pleased I am at the age of these two main characters. They are not twenty something, but aged appropriately so that they have lived, really lived, and you love them all the more for their broken bits, their darkness, their ugly. It's a fairy tale for adults, and that's something the world needs more of.

I spent much of the book wowed by the beautiful prose, riveted, and hungry for that creepy Pan to get what he deserved. The way I turned out to feel compassion for the boy was just so right, so human. That's what Alias Hook is. It is a novel that is raw and real, a fairy tale which is really about life, about hope, and love, and choices. A story about growing up, and second chances.

It is a story about redemption.

And like all great stories, you give a hearty cheer for the heroes in the end.

If you really love books, you will understand how after reading the last words I closed the book and held it to my chest.

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Gorgeous, masterful reimagining of Captain Hook

By Rachel @ Paper Cuts blog

Alias Hook is gorgeous, and largely, it's masterful, an imaginative and stirring reimagining of one of children's literature's most famous villains. Every aspect of the Neverland is lovingly crafted and taken to a deeper level while also retaining the magic of the original story. It's a feat of retelling prowess, blurring the lines between hero and villain, making neither who we thought they were but also never fully reversing the roles.

The famed Captain Hook has been trapped in the Neverland for centuries. While a paradise at first, it has become his purgatory to fight Peter Pan time and time again, never able to win but also never able fully to lose, to die. He has "died" at Pan's hand countless times, only to live on. All he seeks is death, an end to the drudgery of a meaningless life of fighting, knowing he can't win, and watching his crew die. This is the Hook we meet at the beginning of Alias Hook, desperate for an escape but hopeless that one will come. When Stella Parrish, an impossible grown woman in the Neverland, drops in, it's through her that he realizes a reason to live on, a reason to cherish the Neverland that has served as his prison, and a reason to fight for his escape. His journey is a startlingly lovely one, full of regret and sorrow, but also of the joy of love.

The Neverland is just as magical in a novel written for adults as it would be to the child's eye. A world built around the whim of Pan, it is conducive to his needs and odd dislikes, but it's also a paradise to the innocents who come to escape and to learn why they must grow up. But the Neverland hides secrets from Hook, and it hides even more secrets about Pan, unexpected but that also deepen him as a character.

As a reader, it's easy to get swept up in Alias Hook and forget imperfections. For me, all that detracted was that I was unable to connect to Stella and her relationship with Hook. I'm unsure why that was, but I never felt for her the way I felt so intimately connected to Hook. I saw how their relationship changed him and enjoyed the change, but the relationship itself never stirred much within me. This didn't much take away from Hook's story itself, but I wished I had a better idea of Stella so I could see his transformation more completely.

Alias Hook paints a new, nuanced, and flawed portrait of Captain Hook that takes the reader on a journey of epic proportions, through time and space and into the lands of the fairies and mermaids. A story of the transformative power of love, Alias Hook is gorgeously written and beautifully romantic.

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

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