

2019 Heroine Poll Interview

Conducted by K. M. Shea

Kitty: Welcome to my interview with the top ten winners of the 2019 Best Heroine poll! With me today—going from number one down—we have Angelique from *The Fairy Tale Enchantress*; Kit from *Second Age of Retha*; Rakel from *Snow Queen*; Quinn from *Twelve Dancing Princesses*; Britt Arthurs from *King Arthurs and Her Knights* and—wait...where did Gwendafyn, Elle, Tari, Gemma, and Cinderella go?

Angelique: Elle took them away. She said something about showing everyone how she can make the veins in Severin's temples appear if she does something outrageous.

Kit: Pretty sure her definition of outrageous involves dragging dark mages back home through the mud.

Kitty: I guess this might make it easier?

Britt: Yeah, unless Merlin and the knights decide to crash the interview.

Kitty: I told you to tell Merlin we were doing this *next* week.

Britt: I did, but he's a wizard! That means he can be useful if he chooses to be, and though it's a super rare occurrence he's been obsessing about this for weeks.

Kit: I think it's cute he's that excited you both placed so high.

Britt: It's *annoying*. Lancelot is taking it as a challenge—I had to bash his head in during fencing practice to get him to stop hitting on the Lady of the Lake.

Rakel: You use violence to stop flirtations?

Britt: Yeah, because if I hadn't she was going to *kill* him. And Lancelot's pretty face is way too valuable for my company to lose right now.

Rakel: If others were able to use violence against Phile when she made her inappropriate comments she might stop...actually, no, she'd probably say them more.

Kitty: Knowing her, for sure. Okay, we can't wait for the others so let's just get started. I don't know that anyone is surprised Angelique won.

Quinn: It's been a long time in coming.

Kitty: Totally. What I did find a little surprising, however, was the margin by which she won. She had the biggest winning margin than I think any character popularity poll we've ever held.

Honestly, it makes me really grateful—it indicates that readers enjoy her series, but also that the Champions see her personal growth and the person she can become.

Angelique: Do we really have to talk about this?

Kitty: Why wouldn't we?

Angelique: Because it feels weirdly embarrassing.

Kitty: You're just shy and overly self-conscious. You need to get past that.

Angelique: I have no desire to do so.

Kitty: That's okay, I'll just **make** you. Did the rest of you Top Five-ers have any thoughts about this?

Kit: I'm chuffed to take second. Thank you, Retha Champions! You guys gave it your all, and look where it got us!

Rakel: I am honored to be in third place, given the age of my books and the company I keep.

Kitty: Yeah, that's good. Because let me tell you, your *hubby* is a pain in the arse to deal with in these interviews.

Quinn: Emerys said Farrin doesn't talk unless it involves Rakel.

Kitty: Yeeeeeep.

Rakel: I apologize on his behalf. He is...

Kitty: Intense? Oh—obsessed!

Rakel: I was going to say focused.

Kitty: Uh-huh. So Quinn, Britt, any comments on your places?

Britt: Honestly I'm shocked I made it into the top five. My series finished almost two years ago, there have been tons of interesting stories and kick butt heroines since then. I guess I'm with Kit, and I want to thank all the Champions who voted me here.

Quinn: I was pleasantly surprised as well, and I also wish to express my thanks to the dedicated Champions.

Angelique: How can you be surprised? You've been a fan-favorite forever.

Quinn: Yes, but my book also launched almost two years ago. And I'm just a soldier.

Kitty: Uh, you are Queen of the Elves, and if Emerys knew you forgot that he'd probably cry...

Quinn: I didn't save a country or banish darkness from my homeland like some of the other heroines.

Kitty: Again...the elves...

Quinn: I'm more comfortable with a sword or bow than I am in a dress, so I'm thankful for the favor I've found among the Shea Champions, and I'm humbled by their support.

Angelique: ...I really can't wait for us to team up in my next book.

Kitty: AH-AH! NO TALKING ABOUT THAT! It's not coming for a loooong time, so I don't want you to even *whisper* about it. I'm not even starting on **writing** it until spring 2020, so we're not going to tease the Champions now. Got it?

Angelique: Fine, fine. Next question?

Kitty: How about something similar to the one I posed to the Heroes: If you were on an abandoned island, who—this time we'll say from the top 10 heroines--would you want there with you?

Kit: We're trapped on the island?

Kitty: Yes.

Kit: With just one person?

Kitty: Yes.

Kit: And no one is pressuring us to get off the island?

Kitty: Um, no?

Kit:...

Kitty: What?

Kit: *tears up* That sounds like heaven.

Kitty: Oh, yeah, you have lots of pressure and people trying to boss you around.

Kit: You think??

Britt: I read the 2019 Hero Interview, so I'd say Dylan, but she didn't make top 10. So I'll go with Elle.

Kitty: You think Severin's soldiers would be able to find her?

Britt: Heck no. But there's a good chance she'd have an inflatable raft in her pocket.

Kitty: The Timeless Fairy Tale continent doesn't have inflatable rafts.

Britt: Then she'd have some kind of floating charm, or something that would make island survival easier.

Rakel: I would take...

Angelique: Not me.

Kitty: Why not?

Angelique: Abandoned island with no one yacking at me about curses that need to be broken with true love? I'm with Kit—sign me up.

Kit: Right?? We can be abandoned island survival buddies!

Angelique: Yes! When do we leave?

Kitty: It's a hypothetical question, you aren't going anywhere.

Angelique: Rats.

Kitty: You were saying, Rakel?

Rakel: I guess I would take Gwendafyn, Tari, or Cinderella.

Kitty: Really? That's intriguing! Why?

Rakel: Because I have ice magic, so I can freeze us a path across the water. And those three seem like they would most want to go home.

Kitty: Oh. I totally forgot about that.

Rakel: And even if I couldn't use my magic, I do not think it would take Farrin or Phile long to find me.

Kitty: Yeah, that's true too. What about you, Quinn?

Quinn: If Angelique is going with Kit...

Angelique: I will happily venture out to two abandoned islands. Particularly for you, Quinn. You're probably my favorite person in the Timeless Fairy Tales world, though I'm admittedly quite fond of Snow White as well.

Kitty: So you like Quinn more than Evariste?

Angelique: *You* were the one who said we couldn't tease the Champions.

Kitty: Good point. Wow, this is refreshing, everyone actually had a good, thought out answer!

Britt:...are you *crying*?

Kitty: It's just those Heroes are so uncooperative and *pigheaded*!

Rakel: I apologize on Farrin's behalf.

Kitty: See? You even think to apologize! It's settled, we need more girl time.

Angelique: This has been quite fun.

Kit: It's nice to get away from our troubles for a while, too!

Kitty: Yes, I'd apologize, except people *do* like your books, so instead I'll see if I can find my next question.

a cellphone rings

Britt: Shoot, that's me. It's Merlin—I think that means he's closing in on our location.

Kitty: Let's just move to a new spot: avoiding Merlin will be easier than confronting him. I don't want to sit here and listen to him yammer at me for an hour about holding a couples' poll. It seems unnecessary given that every heroine from the top ten—except for Angelique—had her hero counterpart in the top ten heroes list.

Rakel: I would not mind continuing this conversation.

Angelique: Me either—as long as we don't run into anyone cursed.

Elle: Hello!

Kitty: Elle, when did you get here?

Elle: *smiles brightly* Just now!

Kitty: Good timing—we're just about to leave. Do you want to come with us so we can finish this?

Elle: Mmmm, yeah, about that. There's just one tiny problem.

Kitty: What did you do to Severin?

Elle: Nothing!

Kitty: ...

Elle: Well, not to him, anyway. But the guards—

Kitty: I KNEW IT.

Elle: They're guards. That implies they should be *on guard*. It's not my fault they weren't. I thought asking Gwendafyn and Tari to test Chaceux's security was a *good* idea because I believed they would be paying attention!

Kitty: One of these days Severin is going to drug you, and none of us will feel bad for you.

Elle: It will take a lot of work on his end. I've worked hard to grow resistance to quite a few poisons.

Angelique: I didn't think Lucien's Rangers required that sort of mastery.

Elle: It doesn't! But I had to get *some* kind of hobby ever since I became a princess.

Rakel: It's good you will never have a chance to meet Phile.

Kitty: You're telling me.

Britt: Kitty, I just got a text message from the Lady of the Lake. Merlin's almost here.

Kitty: Okay then let's close up shop. Thanks again to all you amazing Champions for voting! On behalf of myself and the whole K. M. Shea team, we're so grateful for your love and support. Thanks for participating, and we look forward to 2020's polls! Goodbye!