

Kingdom Of The Soap Queen The Story Of Balaji Telefilms

A brave mouse, a covetous rat, a wishful serving girl, and a princess named Pea come together in Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Medal-winning tale. Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. What happens then? As Kate DiCamillo would say: Reader, it is your destiny to find out. With black-and-white illustrations and a refreshed cover by Timothy Basil Ering.

Dynasties battle for the crown in Tessa Gratton's debut adult epic fantasy, *The Queens of Innis Lear*. Three Queens. One crown. All out war. Gaela. Ruthless Commander. I am the rightful heir of Innis Lear. No more will I wait in the shadows and watch my mother's murderer bleed my island dry. The King's hold on the crown must end—willingly or at the edge of my sword. Regan. Master Manipulator. To secure my place on the throne, I must produce an heir. Countless times I have fed the island's forests my blood. Yet, my ambition is cursed. No matter what or whom I must destroy, I will wield the magic of Innis Lear. Elia. Star-blessed Priest. My sisters hide in the shadows like serpents, waiting to strike our ailing king. I must protect my father, even if it means marrying a stranger. We all have to make sacrifices. Love and freedom will be mine. "Amazing. Just Amazing."--Robin McKinley At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

This book is a recipe book containing 50 recipes for cold process soap and 64 essential oil blends. Though it does contain basic steps, it is not an advanced soapmaking book and doesn't go into details on advanced soapmaking topics. The recipes and essential oil blends in this book are provided to inspire creative formulation on your part. Sure you can use a recipe as-is, but don't be afraid to experiment and change things up.

New York Times Bestseller * New York Public Library Best Book of 2016 * Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2016 * Kirkus Best Book of the Year Fans of acclaimed author Kendare Blake's *Anna Dressed in Blood* will devour *Three Dark Crowns*, the first book in a dark and inventive fantasy series about three sisters who must fight to the death to become queen. In every generation on the island of Fennbirn, a set of triplets is born: three queens, all equal heirs to the crown and each possessor of a coveted magic. Mirabella is a fierce elemental, able to spark hungry flames or vicious storms at the snap of her fingers. Katharine is a poisoner, one who can ingest the deadliest poisons without so much as a stomachache. Arsinoe, a naturalist, is said to have the ability to bloom the reddest rose and control the fiercest of lions. But becoming the Queen Crowned isn't solely a matter of royal birth. Each sister has to fight for it. And it's not just a game of win or lose...it's life or death. The night the sisters turn sixteen, the battle begins. The last queen standing gets the crown. Don't miss *Five Dark Fates*, the thrilling conclusion to the series, coming in September!

In the first volume of an exciting new series, bestselling author Alison Weir brings the dramatic reigns of England's medieval queens to life. The lives of England's medieval queens were packed with incident—love, intrigue, betrayal, adultery, and warfare—but their stories have been largely obscured by centuries of myth and omission. Now esteemed biographer Alison Weir provides a fresh perspective and restores these women to their rightful place in history. Spanning the years from the Norman conquest in 1066 to the dawn of a new era in 1154, when Henry II succeeded to the throne and Eleanor of Aquitaine, the first Plantagenet queen, was crowned, this epic book brings to vivid life five women, including: Matilda of Flanders, wife of William the Conqueror, the first Norman king; Matilda of Scotland, revered as “the common mother of all England”; and Empress Maud, England's first female ruler, whose son King Henry II would go on to found the Plantagenet dynasty. More than those who came before or after them, these Norman consorts were recognized as equal sharers in sovereignty. Without the support of their wives, the Norman kings could not have ruled their disparate dominions as effectively. Drawing from the most reliable contemporary sources, Weir skillfully strips away centuries of romantic lore to share a balanced and authentic take on the importance of these female monarchs. What emerges is a seamless royal saga, an all-encompassing portrait of English medieval queenship, and a sweeping panorama of British history. Praise for *Queens of the Conquest* “Best-selling author [Alison] Weir pens another readable, well-researched English history, the first in a proposed four-volume series on England's medieval queens. . . . Weir's research skills and storytelling ability combine beautifully to tell a fascinating story supported by excellent historical research. Fans of her fiction and nonfiction will enjoy this latest work.”—Library Journal (starred review) “Another sound feminist resurrection by a seasoned historian . . . Though Norman queens were largely unknowable, leave it to this prolific historical biographer to bring them to life. . . . As usual, Weir is meticulous in her research.”—Kirkus Reviews

The New York Times bestselling "epic feminist fantasy perfect for fans of *Game of Thrones*" (Bustle). NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY: AMAZON (Top 100 Editors Picks and Science Fiction and Fantasy) * CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY * BOOKPAGE * AUTOSTRADDLE A world divided. A queendom without an heir. An ancient enemy awakens. The House of Berethnet has ruled Inys for a thousand years. Still unwed, Queen Sabran the Ninth must conceive a daughter to protect her realm from destruction--but assassins are getting closer to her door. Ead Duryan is an outsider at court. Though she has risen to the position of lady-in-waiting, she is loyal to a hidden society of mages. Ead keeps a watchful eye on Sabran, secretly protecting her with forbidden magic. Across the dark sea, Tané has trained all her life to be a dragonrider, but is forced to make a choice that could see her life unravel. Meanwhile, the divided East and West refuse to parley, and forces of chaos are rising from their sleep.

The pure luxury of soaps made with coconut butter, almond oil, aloe vera, oatmeal, and green tea is one of life's little pleasures. And with the help of author Anne-Marie Faiola, it's easy to make luscious, all-natural soaps right in your own kitchen. This collection of 32 recipes ranges from simple castile bars to intricate swirls, embeds, and marbled and layered looks. Begin with a combination of skin-nourishing oils and then add blueberry puree, dandelion-infused water, almond milk, coffee grounds, mango and avocado butters, black tea, or other delicious ingredients — and then scent your soap with pure essential oils. Step-by-step photography guides you through every stage of cold-process soapmaking.

Soap Making TODAY SPECIAL PRICE - 365 Days of Soap Making (Limited Time Offer) TODAY SPECIAL BONUS - Over 45 Additional Soap Recipes in the last part of this book. These days,

the soaps, shampoos, and household cleaning products that you use are often loaded with chemicals. While they may claim to be healthy to use, do you really want to take a chance? These products can be especially unhealthy for anyone who has scent allergies or sensitive skin. It is a lot better when you can make your own soaps and household cleaners, and it is relatively easy to do. In fact, we are going to get you started with "365 Days of Soap Making." In this e-book, you will find loads of recipes for every kind of soap imaginable, from hand soap to laundry detergent and more. These products are made with natural ingredients that are not only safe to use, but can also promote healthy skin and hair. Seriously: Many of the recipes in this e-book can be created in just a few minutes, so you might find yourself skipping ahead and doing more than one recipe in a day. Don't worry, we have you covered with a bonus mini e-book with an additional 45 soap recipes. Click and grab this book today and be ready to change your life for the better!

From the author of The Silver & Orchids Series comes a breathtaking tale of two kingdoms torn apart by magic and the star-crossed lovers who set upon a perilous journey to reunite them before they fall into ruin. Enter the world of The Riven Kingdoms. After the sudden death of her brother, Princess Amalia is charged with what feels like an impossible task-she must choose the next king. Youthful thoughts of love are pushed aside as she accepts her fate, setting upon a quest throughout the kingdom to find a man worthy of her father's throne. Little does Amalia know, someone has already set his sights on her. Rhys is a man of secrets, and his mission is simple: befriend the princess of Renove. Coax her to trust him, convince her to follow him. Betray her when it's time. All goes according to plan until Rhys meets the princess. Amalia is a disaster. Never has he met someone so drawn to trouble. Never has he met someone so irritatingly likable. He's not allowed to fall for her. She could never entrust him with a crown. But, unbeknownst to them, their unlikely partnership might be the key to saving their entire world from a darkness that's slowly creeping from the wounded earth that separates one kingdom from the next.

Handmade soap is made extra-special with the addition of milk! Soaps enriched with milk are creamier than those made with water, and milk's natural oils provide skin-renewing moisture and nourishment. In Milk Soaps, expert soapmaker Anne-Marie Faiola demystifies the process with step-by-step techniques and 35 recipes for making soaps that are both beautiful and useful. She explains the keys to success in using a wide range of milk types, including cow, goat, and even camel milk, along with nut and grain milks such as almond, coconut, hemp, rice, and more. Photographs show soapmakers of all levels how to achieve a variety of distinctive color and shape effects, including funnels, swirls, layers, and insets. For beginners and experts alike, this focused guide to making milk-enriched soaps offers an opportunity to expand their soapmaking skills in new and exciting ways.

Sarah J. Maas's global #1 bestselling THRONE OF GLASS series reaches new heights in this sweeping fourth instalment. Everyone Celaena Sardothien loves has been taken from her. Now she returns to the empire – to confront the shadows of her past ... Bloodthirsty for revenge on the two men responsible for destroying her life, and desperate to find out if the prince and his captain are safe, Celaena returns to Rifthold. She has accepted her identity as Aelin Galathynius, the lost Queen of Terrasen. But before she can reclaim her throne, there are dark truths to learn and debts to be paid. Aelin must stay hidden beneath her assassin's hood and draw on her mortal strength as Celaena to prevent the King of Adarlan from tearing her world apart. Only then can she fight for her people. Readers will be held rapt as Celaena's story builds to an agonising crescendo, packed with heart-pounding action and searing romance.

A thorough introduction for Java developers to the SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) for designing and implementing web services, covering both the Apache SOAP tools and IBM Web services toolkit, the use of Brazil as a small SOAP server, UDDI and WSDL, and other information exchange applications. Original. (Intermediate)

This recipe book contains 50 recipes for cold process soap and 64 essential oil blends. Recipes include classics such as Oatmeal Lavender, Oatmeal Milk & Honey, Aloe & Cucumber and Pumpkin Spice. Some recipes are more unique, including Summit Soap, Yarrow Shave Soap, Pumpkin Lavender, Almond Orange and Mocha Mint. The recipes are categorized into seven categories including Basic Bars, Designed Recipes, Salt Bars, Bar Soap for the Face, Exfoliating Bars, For the Fellas and Alternative Liquids. Each recipe, except for those in the Basic Bars category, includes an essential oil blend and some contain additives for color or exfoliation. 20 more essential oil blends are listed at the end, giving you 64 blends total! Though it does contain basic steps, it is not an advanced soapmaking book and doesn't go into details on advanced soapmaking topics. The recipes and essential oil blends in this book are provided to inspire creative formulation on your part. Sure you can use a recipe as-is, but don't be afraid to experiment and change things up!

Create Fabulous Modern Soaps The Truly Natural, Eco-Friendly Way With this new comprehensive guide, herbalist Jan Berry offers everything the modern-day enthusiast needs to make incredible botanical soaps. Beginners can join in the sudsy fun with detailed tutorials and step-by-step photographs for making traditional cold-process soap and the more modern hot-process method with a slow cooker. Jan presents 50 easy, unique soap recipes with ingredients and scents inspired by the herb garden, veggie garden, farm, forest and more. Sample soap recipes you won't want to miss are Lavender Milk Bath Bars, Sweet Honey & Shea Layers Soap, Creamy Avocado Soap, Citrus Breeze Brine Bars, Mountain Man Beard & Body Bars and Classic Cedarwood & Coconut Milk Shave Soap. Featured resources are Jan's handy guides to common soapmaking essential oils and their properties, oil and milk infusions with healing herbs and easy decoration techniques. The book also contains Jan's highly anticipated natural colorants gallery showcasing more than 50 soaps that span the rainbow. Soap crafters of all levels will enjoy referencing this book for years to come. *All recipes are sustainably palm-free!* Expand your herbal product collection with these other books in Jan Berry's bestselling series: - Easy Homemade Melt & Pour Soaps - The Big Book of Homemade Products for Your Skin, Health & Home

Camelot--a vibrant pageant of love, heartbreak, hatred, jealousy, revenge, and desire--as seen through the eyes of its queen, Guenevere Raised in the tranquil beauty of the Summer Country, Princess Guenevere has led a charmed and contented life, until the sudden, violent death of her mother, Queen Maire, leaves the Summer Country teetering on the brink of anarchy. Only the miraculous arrival of Arthur, heir to the Pendragon dynasty, allows Guenevere to claim her mother's throne. Smitten by the bold, sensuous princess, Arthur offers to marry her and unite their territory while still allowing her to rule in her own right. Their love match creates the largest and most powerful kingdom in the Isles. Arthur's glorious rule begins to crumble, however, when he is reunited with his mother and his long-lost half-sisters, Morgause and Morgan. Before Arthur's birth, his father--the savage and unscrupulous King Uther--banished his wife's young daughters, selling Morgause into a cruel marriage and imprisoning Morgan in a far-off convent. Both daughters will avenge their suffering, but it is Morgan who strikes the deadliest blows against the King and Queen, using her evil enchantments to destroy all Guenevere holds dear. When the Queen flees to Avalon, Morgan casts a spell on Arthur and seduces him. In the chaos

that follows his betrayal, Arthur sends a new courtier to protect Guenevere, the young French knight Lancelot. Her loyalty to Arthur already destroyed, Guenevere falls in love with Lancelot, a love that may spell ruin for Camelot.

The riveting history of a beautiful queen, a shocking murder, a papal trial -- and a reign as triumphant as any in the Middle Ages. On March 15, 1348, twenty-two-year-old Joanna I, Queen of Naples, stood trial for the murder of her husband before the Pope and his court in Avignon. Determined to defend herself, Joanna won her acquittal against overwhelming odds. Victorious, she returned to Naples and ruled over one of Europe's most prestigious courts for the next three decades -- until she herself was killed. Courageous and determined, Joanna was the only female monarch in her time to rule in her own name. She was widely admired: dedicated to the welfare of her subjects, she reduced crime, built hospitals and churches, and encouraged the licensing of female physicians. A procession of the most important artists and writers of the time frequented her glittering court. But she never quite escaped the stain of her husband's death, and the turmoil of the times surrounded her -- war, plague, and treachery would ultimately be her undoing. With skill, passion, and impeccable research and detail, Nancy Goldstone brings to life one of history's most remarkable women. The Lady Queen is a captivating portrait of medieval royalty in all its incandescent complexity.

This is the first book published with recipes, methodology and tips on how to make Melt and Pour Soap from Scratch. It is written from the perspective of a Cosmetic Formulator on the production of the popular cosmetic base known as, Melt and Pour Soap. Whether you are a crafter, hobbyist or business owner this book has everything that you need. This book give you guidance on how, as a small home based business, you can follow the regulations, labeling laws and industry standards for selling soap and cosmetics. My entire journey into the cosmetic industry started with Melt and Pour Soap shortly after I discovered aromatherapy. The roots of our business, Essential Wholesale, all started in December of 1998. Over the years we moved from our home kitchenette to a 600 square foot space, to a 2500 square foot building, to a 10,000 square foot space in a bigger building, and from there we have expanded into 30,000 square feet of that same building. In 2011 our business will be moving to an even larger 58,000 square foot building. As our business expanded we began to focus on natural cosmetics and personal care products. However, I never lost my curiosity and fascination with Melt and Pour Soap. Our relationship with Melt and Pour Soap changed over the years. At first we sold retail customized Melt and Pour Soaps. We then bought and sold the company Critter Soaps. Later we sold thousands of pounds worth of wholesale Melt and Pour Soap base and eventually discontinued selling Melt and Pour Soap because the price kept rising. At the time Melt and Pour Soap was the only cosmetic base we sold that we didn't manufacture ourselves. It simply didn't make sense to wholesale someone else's base when our business model had changed to selling only the bases we manufactured ourselves. It was at this point in our business that I decided it was time to formulate our own Melt and Pour Soap ourselves. It didn't take long to have working formulas, but at that moment we were using up every inch of space in our 30,000 square foot building. We were bursting at the seams and couldn't accommodate the manufacturing and cooling of the Melt and Pour Soap Base in bulk. Our space was so tight we couldn't possibly cool an 8,000 lb batch of Melt and Pour Soap base into multiple 1 lb, 20 lb and 40 lb blocks to sell in bulk. But we got continued requests to manufacture and sell Melt and Pour Soap base. My solution is this book. I decided to share these basic recipes with you to give you the freedom to make your own Melt and Pour base in the quantities that work best for your business. These recipes will teach you the foundational information that you need and give you tips on how to customize your base.

Once upon a time there was a coffin, an evil stepmother, and a girl destined for greatness. Serena Smith is unusual. Growing up as an outcast in her backwoods village, her life is grim and hard and lonely. Then, on her eighteenth birthday, she is given a magical heirloom and suffers a heart-breaking loss. Still reeling, she is forced into exile, snatched by fae and condemned to a lifetime in chains. Dragged to Aldar, a fae kingdom ruled by a tyrant witch, Serena soon discovers the embers of a forbidden love, and meets fellow exiles, each with their own secrets. As the lives of warriors, rebels, and witches clash, they discover a shared destiny. For only together, and with Serena's newfound gifts, can she and her companions escape a cruel master and survive a realm of monsters and spies, while building the flames of a revolution. From the author of the Southern Fire series comes this explosive new fantasy adventure with lots of heart and a sting in its tail. *Contains mature content. Not suitable for the younger reader.*

With the entry of cable television in 1992, the television industry in India was poised for a gigantic leap. All that it needed was a fairy godmother to wave the magic wand. And it found one in Ekta Kapoor and Balaji Telefilms. Kingdom of the Soap Queen is the enchanting narrative of Balaji Telefilms. It is the story of how a laid-back seventeen-year-old became one of the most powerful women in global media, how a project kicked off by a teenager in her father's garage turned into the biggest entertainment provider across India. And like every fairy tale, this too has its share of magic, curses, spells, potions, and pixie dust. With insights from over a hundred television celebrities, Kovid Gupta - who has written for popular television shows Balika Vadhu, Bade Acche Lagte Hain and Chhan Chhan - chronicles the larger-than-life narrative right from the christening of the company in 1994 all the way to its transformation into the most influential production house of 2013. He not only depicts the initial struggles of the media house, but also explores every aspect of its growth - the creation of the iconic Tulsi and Parvati, its K-fixation, how it changed the very demographic of TV viewers in the country, the social impact of its daily soaps, the charges of being regressive that it has consistently battled, and the company's very successful and high-profile foray into cinema. This is the fascinating behind-the-scenes story of the 15,000 hours of television software that have made India laugh and cry for fifteen years.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Around the year 1049, William, Duke of Normandy and future conqueror of England, raced to the palace of Baldwin V, Count of Flanders. The count's eldest daughter, Matilda, had refused William's offer of marriage and publicly denounced him as a bastard. Encountering the young woman, William furiously dragged her to the ground by her hair and beat her mercilessly. Matilda's outraged father immediately took up arms on his daughter's behalf. But just a few days later, Baldwin was aghast when Matilda, still recovering from the assault, announced that she would marry none but William, since "he must be a man of great courage and high daring" to have ventured to "come and beat me in my own father's palace." Thus began the tempestuous marriage of Matilda of Flanders and William the Conqueror. While William's exploits and triumphs have been widely chronicled, his consort remains largely overlooked. Now, in her groundbreaking Queen of the Conqueror, acclaimed author and historian Tracy Borman weaves together a comprehensive and illuminating tapestry of this noble woman who stood only four-foot-two and whose role as the first crowned Queen of England had a large and lasting influence on the English monarchy. From a wealth of historical artifacts and documents, Matilda emerges as passionate, steadfast, and wise, yet also utterly ruthless and tenacious in pursuit of her goals, and the only person capable of taming her

formidable husband—who, unprecedented for the period, remained staunchly faithful to her. This mother of nine, including four sons who went on to inherit William's French and English dominions, confounded the traditional views of women in medieval society by seizing the reins of power whenever she had the chance, directing her husband's policy, and at times flagrantly disobeying his orders. Tracy Borman lays out Matilda's remarkable story against one of the most fascinating and transformative periods in European history. Stirring, richly detailed, and wholly involving, *Queen of the Conqueror* reveals not just an extraordinary figure but an iconic woman who shaped generations, and an era that cast the essential framework for the world we know today. Praise for *Queen of the Conqueror* "[Tracy Borman] brings to life Queen Matilda's enormous accomplishments in consolidating early Norman rule. Alongside her warrior husband, William I, Matilda brought legitimacy, a deeper degree of education, diplomatic savvy and artistic and religious flowering to the shared Norman-English throne. Borman . . . the chief executive of Britain's Heritage Education Trust, fleshes out the personality of this fascinating woman, who set the steely precedent for subsequent English female sovereigns by displaying great longevity and stamina in a rough, paternalistic time. . . . A richly layered treatment of the stormy reign that yielded the incomparable Bayeux Tapestry and the Domesday Book."—Kirkus Reviews "Tracy Borman tells this story with a steady eye and a steady hand, tracing what can be known of Matilda's part in the events that were to change the course of English history."—Helen Castor, *Literary Review*

Eighteen-year-old Shaheen Mistri, having grown up around the world, spends the summer in Mumbai and wanders into the Ambedkar Nagar slum community. She sees Pinky, who becomes the first of the thousands of children whose lives she will touch on her journey. Hers are the endlessly compelling stories of the underprivileged children of India, the harsh realities that they face, and the hope and love that will catapult them into being a future generation of leaders. This is a story of the power of personal reflection and makes us ask ourselves the question, 'What is the greatest life I can live?' And in answer are the personal accounts of so many Teach For India Fellows and staff, India's best and brightest, who have shown that each and every one of us, working together, towards the belief that one day every child will have the opportunity to receive an excellent education, has the power to change the world.

"Intimate and epic. It compels you to read on." - Evan Winter, author of *The Rage of Dragons* "Villoso's cunning, exciting debut is a new fantasy epic that readers will clamor for." - *Library Journal* (starred review) From "a powerful new voice in fantasy" (Kameron Hurley) comes the tale of a queen who must unite her divided land, even if she's hated by the very people she's trying to protect. "They called me the Bitch Queen, the she-wolf, because I murdered a man and exiled my king the night before they crowned me." Born under the crumbling towers of her kingdom, Queen Talyien was the shining jewel and legacy of the bloody War of the Wolves. It nearly tore her nation apart. But her arranged marriage to the son of a rival clan heralds peace. However, he suddenly disappears before their reign can begin, and the kingdom is fractured beyond repair. Years later, he sends a mysterious invitation to meet. Talyien journeys across the sea in hopes of reconciling their past. An assassination attempt quickly dashes those dreams. Stranded in a land she doesn't know, with no idea whom she can trust, Talyien will have to embrace her namesake. *A Wolf of Oren-yaro is not tamed.* "Intricate, intimate, and intensely plotted." - Nicholas Eames, author of *Kings of the Wyld* *The Chronicles of the Wolf Queen* *The Wolf of Oren-yaro* *The Ikessar Falcon* *The Dragon of Jin-Sayeng*

Handmade soap from scratch! Lavender Geranium Ribbon Seaweed Salt Scrub Ocean Fresh Cream Soap Making your own luxurious and lovely soaps is easier than you think! With *DIY Artisanal Soaps*, you'll find everything you need to make all-natural, custom-designed soaps using locally sourced ingredients and beautifully scented essential oils. Featuring easy-to-follow instructions and tips for personalizing your designs, this book guides you through every step of soapmaking, allowing you to create unique bath and home products every time. Learn how to turn your garden or farmers' market finds into beautiful, handcrafted soaps, with invigorating scents like peppermint and rosemary or the summer-inspired pairings of ginger and papaya. You can even customize the fragrances and textures in the recipes to create the perfect product for your skincare needs. Complete with stunning photographs and unique ideas for gifting, packaging, and selling your creations, *DIY Artisanal Soaps* helps you bring the vibrant colors and scents of nature into your home.

When Queen Victoria stepped onto the throne of Great Britain and Ireland in 1837, gone were the days when the monarch had supreme authority over the kingdom. Victoria ruled at the head of a government with which she was meant to converse, debate, and ultimately guide, and it was a job she sometimes struggled to perform.

The riveting true story of mother-and-daughter queens Catherine de' Medici and Marguerite de Valois, whose wildly divergent personalities and turbulent relationship changed the shape of their tempestuous and dangerous century. Set in magnificent Renaissance France, this is the story of two remarkable women, a mother and daughter driven into opposition by a terrible betrayal that threatened to destroy the realm. Catherine de' Medici was a ruthless pragmatist and powerbroker who dominated the throne for thirty years. Her youngest daughter Marguerite, the glamorous "Queen Margot," was a passionate free spirit, the only adversary whom her mother could neither intimidate nor control. When Catherine forces the Catholic Marguerite to marry her Protestant cousin Henry of Navarre against her will, and then uses her opulent Parisian wedding as a means of luring his followers to their deaths, she creates not only savage conflict within France but also a potent rival within her own family. Rich in detail and vivid prose, Goldstone's narrative unfolds as a thrilling historical epic. Treacherous court politics, poisonings, inter-national espionage, and adultery form the background to a story that includes such celebrated figures as Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Nostradamus. *The Rival Queens* is a dangerous tale of love, betrayal, ambition, and the true nature of courage, the echoes of which still resonate.

The "fascinating . . . lively" story of the Russian slave girl Roxelana, who rose from concubine to become the only queen of the Ottoman empire (*New York Times*). In *Empress of the East*, historian Leslie Peirce tells the remarkable story of a Christian slave girl, Roxelana, who was abducted by slave traders from her Ruthenian homeland and brought to the harem of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent in Istanbul. Suleyman became besotted with her and foreswore all other concubines. Then, in an unprecedented step, he freed her and married her. The bold and canny Roxelana soon became a shrewd diplomat and philanthropist, who helped Suleyman keep pace with a changing world in which women, from Isabella of Hungary to Catherine de Medici, increasingly held the reins of power. Until now Roxelana has been seen as a seductress who brought ruin to the empire, but in *Empress of the East*, Peirce reveals the true history of an elusive figure who transformed the Ottoman harem into an institution of imperial rule.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer brings to life the most intriguing woman in the history of the world: Cleopatra, the last queen of Egypt. Her palace shimmered with onyx, garnets, and gold, but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Above all else, Cleopatra was a shrewd strategist and an ingenious negotiator. Though her life spanned fewer than forty years, it reshaped the contours of the ancient world. She was married twice, each time to a brother. She waged a brutal civil war against the first when both were teenagers. She poisoned the second. Ultimately she dispensed with an ambitious sister as well;

incest and assassination were family specialties. Cleopatra appears to have had sex with only two men. They happen, however, to have been Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, among the most prominent Romans of the day. Both were married to other women. Cleopatra had a child with Caesar and--after his murder--three more with his protégé. Already she was the wealthiest ruler in the Mediterranean; the relationship with Antony confirmed her status as the most influential woman of the age. The two would together attempt to forge a new empire, in an alliance that spelled their ends. Cleopatra has lodged herself in our imaginations ever since. Famous long before she was notorious, Cleopatra has gone down in history for all the wrong reasons. Shakespeare and Shaw put words in her mouth. Michelangelo, Tiepolo, and Elizabeth Taylor put a face to her name. Along the way, Cleopatra's supple personality and the drama of her circumstances have been lost. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff here boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order. Rich in detail, epic in scope, Schiff's is a luminous, deeply original reconstruction of a dazzling life.

Make your own custom-tailored and perfectly formed cold-process soaps! Learn how to use milk jugs and yogurt containers for molds, and how coffee, avocado, and even beer can add unique dimensions to your creations. This encouraging introduction to the art of soapmaking makes it simple to master the techniques you need to safely and easily produce your own enticingly fragrant soaps.

In a world filled with pollution and chemicals, this book shows you how to create your own soaps and bathtime luxuries using only natural ingredients and very little specialist equipment. Create the perfect gift for family and friends, kids and grown-ups. This book features a huge range of tempting ingredients, such as peach, peppermint, ylang ylang, cinnamon and chocolate, and includes recipes for shampoo bars, body splashes and bath creams. The simple, sumptuous and easy-to-follow recipes and luscious photography will be an inspiration to anyone who cares about what they put on their skin.

The #1 New York Times bestselling series! Red Queen, by #1 New York Times bestselling author Victoria Aveyard, is a sweeping tale of power, intrigue, and betrayal, perfect for fans of George R.R. Martin's Game of Thrones series. Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction. One wrong move can lead to her death, but in the dangerous game she plays, the only certainty is betrayal. And don't miss Broken Throne: A Red Queen Collection, featuring three brand-new novellas and other exclusive content, coming in April!

In the astonishing conclusion of Anne Bishop's Black Jewels Trilogy, the Dark Court has been formed and the end—for some—draws exceedingly near... Jaenelle Angeline now reigns as Queen—protector of the Shadow Realm. No longer will the corrupt Blood slaughter her people and defile her lands. But where one chapter ends, a final, unseen battle remains to be written, and Jaenelle must unleash the terrible power that is Witch to destroy her enemies once and for all. Even so, she cannot stand alone. Somewhere, long lost in madness, is Daemon, her promised Consort. Only his unyielding love can complete her Court and secure her reign. Yet, even together, their strength may not be enough to hold back the most malevolent of forces. And in the end, under the emergent shadow of evil and unforeseen betrayal, only Jaenelle's greatest sacrifice will save those she loves—and the realm she's bound to protect...

"In an alternate America, princesses Beatrice and Samantha Washington and the two girls wooing their brother, Prince Jefferson, become embroiled in high drama in the most glorious court in the world."--Provided by publisher.

An epic fantasy filled with adventure, intrigue, and romance from Incarnate series author Jodi Meadows. This duology is perfect for fans of Graceling by Kristin Cashore, The Girl of Fire and Thorns by Rae Carson, and Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo. When Princess Wilhelmina was a child, the Indigo Kingdom invaded her homeland. Ten years later, Wil and the other noble children who escaped are ready to fight back and reclaim Wil's throne. To do so, Wil and her best friend, Melanie, infiltrate the Indigo Kingdom palace with hopes of gathering information that will help them succeed. But Wil has a secret—one that could change everything. Although magic has been illegal for a century, she knows her ability could help her save her kingdom. But magic creates wraith, and the deadly stuff is moving closer and destroying the land. And if the vigilante Black Knife catches her using magic, she may disappear like all the others. . . .

Greta knows two things to be true. The first: trolls don't venture into the forest, especially during the day. The second: kings don't save peddlers' daughters from those trolls, and they certainly don't deposit them atop royal horses and personally escort them home. But sometimes, they do. And sometimes afterward, life gets very complicated... The Queen of Gold and Straw is a romantic fairy tale retelling full of humor, first love, new love, promises, lots of straw, and--of course--gold. Author's note: This is a full-length novel that started as a short story originally published in the Once Upon a Happy Ending anthology. While I was writing the story, I knew there was so much more to tell. Some of the content remains the same, but most of it is brand-new, revised, rewritten, and reimagined.

This book presents all the publicly available questions from the PISA surveys. Some of these questions were used in the PISA 2000, 2003 and 2006 surveys and others were used in developing and trying out the assessment.

Once Upon a Time meets Game of Thrones in book two of New York Times bestselling author Gena Showalter's magical, romantic dark fantasy series, in which the fairy tales we know and love are prophecies of the future. Welcome to the Forest of Good and Evil, where villains may be heroes and heroes may be villains...it all depends on who you ask. Ashleigh Ansklelisa may be called the Glass Princess due to her weak heart, but Saxon, king of the Avian, knows she is more dangerous than broken glass, in this Cinderella retelling that sweeps readers into the magical land of Enchantia, filled with treacherous enemies, unexpected allies, forbidden love, and dangerous magic! Can destined lovers find their way to each other, or will evil win the day? Everything changes at the stroke of midnight as one determined princess fights for her legacy, her love, and the crown that is her destiny. Praise for Gena Showalter: "Utterly unique and absolutely riveting—I couldn't put it down! What a marvelously cool world." —#1 New York Times bestselling author Sarah J. Maas on Firstlife "Firstlife is a nonstop thrill ride that will stop your heart...and shock it back to life. This book is #1 on my keeper shelf!" —#1 New York Times bestselling author P.C. Cast "Firstlife illuminates the depths of human resilience and the power of love, even in the darkest hours." —#1 New York Times bestselling author Kresley Cole

The first book in Chris Colfer's #1 New York Times bestselling series The Land of Stories about two siblings who fall into a fairy-tale world! Alex and Conner Bailey's world is about to change forever, in this fast-paced adventure that uniquely combines our modern day world with the enchanting realm of classic fairy tales. The Land of Stories tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. But after a series of encounters with witches, wolves, goblins, and trolls alike, getting back home is going to be harder than they thought.

Do you know what is the advantage of natural handmade soaps and why more and more people create organic handmade soap at home with their own hands? First of all, it is a creative product, with a piece of your heart and soul. Soap crafting is an occupation for your soul and it brings joy and pleasure for those people who are engaged in this process. Soap produced in large volumes, in chemical industries, cleans so well, that it washes, along with dust and dirt, all the protective oils from our skin. And we end up with dry, prematurely aging skin. Our book with handmade soap recipes will teach you how to create the best handmade soap - a soap that contains natural oils and organic additives - honey, oats, calendula flowers, chocolate and more. Homemade soap is enriched with oils such as olive, sea buckthorn, peach, wheat germ oil and many more oils that have a moisturizing, rejuvenating and anti-cellulite effect. Easy natural homemade soap is a great and original gift, which hardly anyone could remain indifferent about. Natural ingredients, the basis of which skin handmade soap is created, have a beneficial effect on the skin. Natural handmade soap is devoid of drawbacks. Cleansing the skin with organic soap, you can get rid of peeling and dryness. By experimenting with different oils, you can create a soap that is suitable for your skin. Scrub effect, moisturizing effect, vitaminizing effect, anti-cellulite effect-all this is achieved by simply adding an ingredient. The aesthetic side is also important. With our recipes for homemade soap, you will find out how to create any shape: heart, flower, oval, car and so on. In addition, mixing colored masses, adding dry flower petals, using other methods of decoration, you can create a truly unique soap that will delight others and will be a real decoration of your bathroom. Homemade soap can be a powerful means of aromatherapy, because it often includes natural essential oils. Now it will not be difficult to create a soap with your favorite smell. Vanilla and lavender, Lily of the valley and lilac - the smell of soap made with your own hands, will be totally unlike the "chemical" smells of soap made industrially. So once again the advantages of natural handmade soap include: 1. Clear skin; 2. Hydration and nutrition, thanks to natural oils; 3. Aromatherapy while using soap; 4. Aesthetic pleasure; 5. Making your own choices in creating handmade soap, you are able to choose an eco-friendly product. If you are looking for the best recipes for handmade soap, for a soap making book with step by step instructions for the cold soap making process, how to design, wrap and store homemade soap, and of course how to choose the best natural ingredients and lye, You ARE AT THE RIGHT PLACE! Just one-click and you will get the full info for soapmaking from a professional! Tags: handmade soap, recipes for handmade soap, homemade soap, make handmade soap, soap crafting, soap making for beginners, cold process soapmaking

"If you can follow a recipe, then you can make soap." The Natural Soap Making Book for Beginners is the only soap making book you'll need to bring your favorite scents and styles to homemade soaps--even if you've never made soap before Making soap from scratch is a fun hobby and a great way to control the ingredients in the products you use, but it can be hard to know where to start. The Natural Soap Making Book for Beginners will show you how easy and simple it is to make your very own homemade soaps without artificial dyes and chemicals. Your senses will tingle as you master the art of cold-process soap making using fresh, floral, woody, and amber scents to create your own handcrafted soaps. Get your hands wet with The Natural Soap Making Book for Beginners when you soak in: Step-by-step instructions, tips, and tricks for mastering cold-process soap making, decorating techniques, and scent pairing--designed specifically with beginners in mind. Natural ingredients that avoid harsh chemicals and artificial dyes, which can dry out and irritate your skin. Over 55 diverse recipes to choose from such as castile soap, shampoo bars, shaving bars, anti-aging soaps, salt soaps, goat-milk soaps, and more. Illustrated charts detailing how and when to use natural colorants, essential oils, and herbal infusions. Join Kelly Cable, a longtime soap maker, herbalist, teacher, and creator of the popular blog Simple Life Mom, as she shares the simple tips and tricks of her craft in The Natural Soap Making Book for Beginners.

Create Beautiful Herbal Soaps The Safe, Easy & Fast Way Feel good about pampering yourself with these artisanal soaps featuring natural botanicals, colorants and exfoliants. This comprehensive, beginner-friendly guide to melt-and-pour soapmaking from Jan Berry, author of Simple & Natural Soapmaking, includes 50 inspiring recipes plus design tutorials and a stunning natural colorant gallery. Her method is incredibly easy; all you need to do is melt your soap base, infuse it with healing herbs or flowers, add essential oils and natural colorants, and pour it into a beautiful mold. As soon as your soap is dry, it's ready to use! This method is a safe soapmaking technique that doesn't require handling lye. Plus, because it's so simple, many projects make for excellent family-friendly crafts. Kids will love helping out with simple soaps like Sunflower Sunshine Bars or playing with Aromatherapy Soap Dough. As you work through the projects, Jan leads you through a variety of techniques step by step. From simple herbal infusions in Wildflower Honey Soap to advanced methods of layering and swirling as in the Ocean Waves Soap, there's always another project to excite beginner and advanced soapmakers alike. Here, you'll find all the information and inspiration you need to make soaps that are gentle on your skin and fun to make!

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