

# Twin Crowns

AUTHORS

**CATHERINE DOYLE AND KATHERINE WEBBER**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid to Upper Secondary



## SYNOPSIS

*Two sisters. One throne. Who will ultimately rise to power and wear the crown?*

Wren Greenrock has always known that one day she would steal her sister's place in the palace. Trained from birth to avenge her parents' murder and usurp the princess, she will do anything to rise to power and protect the community of witches she loves.

Princess Rose Valhart knows that with power comes responsibility including marriage into a brutal kingdom. Life outside the palace walls is a place to be feared and she is soon to discover that it's wilder than she ever imagined.

Twin sisters separated at birth and raised into entirely different worlds are about to get to know each other's lives a whole lot better...

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Katherine Webber is from Southern California and spent much of her childhood in the Palm Springs desert. Her debut YA novel was the critically acclaimed YA novel *Wing Jones*. For younger readers, she also co-writes the Sam Wu is Not Afraid series and Sunday Times bestselling Dragon Mountain series with her husband, Kevin Tsang.

Catherine Doyle grew up in the West of Ireland by the sea. She is the author of the YA trilogy *Blood for Blood* and the award-winning and magical middle grade *Storm Keeper's* trilogy.

## STUDY NOTES

- Research the term fleur-de-lis, or fleur-de-lys and then answer the following questions:
  - Does the fleur de lis remind you of the pattern on the endpapers of the novel?
  - What associations could the fleur de lis have with the novel?
  - Why would this make the reader curious?
- Look at the design and font of the title on the cover.
  - What symbols are present in this title art?
  - What feelings do they evoke?
  - What feelings or associations does the second crown evoke?
  - Is there a suggestion of conflict?

- How does this title art rouse or attract the interest of the reader?
- How is the suggestion of conflict continued in the opening chapter?
  - Make a list of all the words that have positive and negative connotations.
  - What is the effect of this contrast for the reader?
- Making an intertextual reference from another text, at the opening of a text and throughout the text, orients and engages an audience immediately. It can cast a shadow or frame the text, creating a sense of anticipation or interest. As you read through this novel, think about anything in the text that makes you think of other texts you may have watched or read.
  - Think about how the intertextual references to other stories orients and engages an audience immediately.
  - Do they cast a shadow or frame the text, creating a sense of anticipation or interest?
- Every good story has a blend of conflict, humour and fear. When we read, humour and laughter provide some relief from fear generated by the underlying conflict. Humour strengthens our ability to keep reading about a fearful situation. Readers enjoy reading something that makes them scared, but we also like reading something that makes us laugh too. These two factors help make us keep reading. When they are present, the act of reading itself is a pleasurable experience.
  - Read through Chapter Four of *Twin Crowns*—and draw a graph. Start with identifying the underlying conflict of the chapter, and then every time the authors add humour, make the line go up and then when the situation becomes scary, eg. Rose realises she is not on a sand dune, but a blood beetle, make the line go down. Include evidence from the text. Continue to graph the drama for the whole chapter. What do you learn about the relationship between fear and humour?
  - Write a paragraph on how the authors use humour and fear in Chapter Four to engage the interest of a reader.
  - Now, go through the whole novel and track how the authors use humour, fun and fear throughout the whole novel. Humour can be used for both levity and poignancy. How is humour used to develop the relationship between Rose and Shen and Wren and Tor? How do these elements add to the pleasure of reading?