

By successfully combining past and future, 'Tearling' is a present

Having already played one other-worldly teen heroine in the Harry Potter series, Emma Watson is attached to star in the film adaptation of *Tearling*.



Johansen's debut is part of a planned trilogy.

Novel unwraps alluring characters, kingdom

Call it the *The Hunger Games* of *Thrones*.

It's easiest to describe Erika Johansen's debut novel, *The Queen of the Tearling*, as a genre mash-up: medieval fantasy meets dystopian future.

The teen-friendly book, the first of a planned trilogy, takes place in the 24th century, when humanity has rejected technology and returned to a feudal society.

While the conceit might seem conveniently trendy — *Tearling* has, after all, been optioned as a film starring Emma Watson — the setting, combined with Johansen's deft hand with character and plotting, really does work.

Tearling focuses on 19-year-old Kelsea Raleigh Glynn, heir to the throne of her kingdom, the Tear. She was raised in exile after the death of her mother put her evil uncle on the throne. The book opens on the day Kelsea is set to return to the capital city of New

London and claim her throne, escorted by the remainder of her late mother's guard, who neither trust nor respect Kelsea.

The idea that in order to lead, one must first have respect is a prevalent theme. Kelsea is able to command her new guard captain, Lazarus "the Mace," only after proving herself to him. She also wins the respect of her people, "the Tearling," by beginning to correct the many atrocities of the kingdom, which she was blind to during her long exile. Of course, fixing atrocities only makes enemies of those who were profiting off them, such as the ominously named Red Queen of the neighboring country of Mortmesne.

The Red Queen — who is steeped in mystery and dark magic, just like any good fantasy villain should be — is just one of the many enemies Kelsea must face. But the new leader also has plenty of allies — a steadfast lady-in-waiting and a mischievous thief who is bound to come up as a love interest at some point — and they may or may not be enough to save her. It's a credit to Johansen that the many characters are as well drawn as the world itself.

The novel occasionally suffers from first-in-series syndrome. While some teases for the sequel are welcome — especially when it comes to foreshadowing trouble from the kingdom's church — others seem deliberately vague.

There is also a strange preoccupation with Kelsea's physical appearance: The book frequently mentions her "plain" face and actively laments her slightly above-average weight, all the while calling vanity a vice. It seems odd, considering Kelsea is a heroine likely to draw the same kind of admiration from young girls as the Katnisses and Hermiones of the world do. (Johansen has addressed this herself in an essay on BuzzFeed titled "Why We Need 'Ugly' Heroines.")

If nothing else, *The Queen of the Tearling* is an addictive and enjoyable adventure. Once you accept that sword and sorcery will be intermingled with references to electronics and books from the 20th century, the Tear is just as easy to get sucked into as Westeros or Hogwarts or Panem.

Johansen may have created a complex kingdom, but you'll never feel lost in it.

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DOB: Jan 27, 1998 Sex: Male
Race: Hispanic
Missing: Dec 9, 2013 Hair: Black
Age Now: 16 Eyes: Brown
From: Lindsay, CA

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PUZZLES

CROSSWORD
EDITED Timothy Parker
BY Rob Lee

GOOD THING TO BE ON

- ACROSS**
- Mournful poem
 - Like some chatter
 - Lingerie material
 - Tree for chocoholics
 - Crude, unpleasant person
 - Toward shelter, nautically
 - Make like a doodlebug
 - Bring to bear
 - Hardly genteel
 - Loud sleeping sounds
 - Brunch serving
 - Anesthetized
 - Italian province or its capital
 - Open mic night participant
 - Magician's wrist movement
 - Soft-drink choice
 - Friend of Pooh
 - Boston, or one of its hits
 - Harvest goddess
 - Womanizer
 - Filled to the brink
 - Temples in the Far East
 - With a discount of
 - Fashionable
 - Sound a stethoscope detects
 - Some chicken servings
 - "I'm listening"
 - Legend of the ring
 - Showing disbelief, in a way
 - Fantasy refuge from the rat race
 - Minute amount
 - Elite military unit
 - Pain in the neck
 - Certain hotel amenity
 - Adventurer's inventory
- DOWN**
- Linen color

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20				21					22				
		23	24						25				
26	27				28		29	30	31				
32				33					34		35	36	37
38						39	40					41	
42				43								44	
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		49	50					51	52				
53					54		55				56	57	58
59						60					61		
62							63				64		
65								66				67	

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2 Golden Triangle country

3 They can't stick to one style

4 Guy's companion

5 "Welcome" prelude

6 Footnote word

7 "Another Somebody ___" prelude

8 His wife became a pillar of salt

9 Winged god of love

10 Shakespeare title word

11 Break-in indicator

12 Autograph hound's target (Abbr.)

13 Snakelike fishes

18 Butterfly's cocoon stage

19 Begonias and impatiens, e.g.

24 "Casablanca" cafe owner

26 Certain hairstyle

27 Lunch for boars and sows

29 Having lots of land

30 "This ___ shall pass"

31 Building annex

33 Pakistan's largest city

35 Customer of a public utility

36 Aces, sometimes

37 Mathematical chances

39 Drink at holiday gatherings

40 Batman and Robin are a dynamic one

41 Aromatic ointment

45 Friend of Pooh

46 Hardly melodious

47 Piece of golf apparel

49 Picked

50 The Seven ___ of Rome

52 Retract a statement

53 It might come right before the fall?

54 Barber's motion

55 "___ Jail" (Monopoly command)

57 Like some meat

58 Doctrines

60 Sticky stuff

61 In-flight info

Wednesday's Answer

T	I	E	D	T	O	L	D	N	E	H	R	U
B	O	R	A	R	H	E	A	A	D	I	O	S
S	T	R	I	K	E	O	U	T	T	U	E	E
P	A	S	S	I	M	E	R	I	C	A		
T	O	R	T	E	V	E	N	E	D			
D	A	P	P	E	R	E	R	P	E	D	D	L
U	N	I	T	S	F	U	M	E	S	M	A	N
T	O	G	A	S	I	S	A	L	T	I	T	I
I	L	L	I	W	I	T	T	Y	P	O	S	E
E	N	N	E	A	D	E	S	P	R	E	S	S
S	T	A	R	V	E	E	T	U	I			
P	A	I	S	A	L	E	S	S	E			
C	H	O	S	E	S	L	A	P	S	T	I	C
H	A	K	E	S	K	I	W	I	Y	A	R	E
T	N	E	R	T	S	E	N	T	E	M	U	S

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WORD ROUNDUP

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle:
- Eight one-syllable mammals
 - Four four-letter colors
 - Former Russian president (first/last name)
 - "The Amazing Spider-Man" star (first/last name)
- Nikola ___

Wednesday's answer: COLOMBIA JAMAICA CANADA MEXICO BELIZE BRAZIL PANAMA HAITI CUBA PERU / JENNIFER GARNER / SPACE / ABLE / WALL

QUICKCROSS

By John Wilmes

Let go

Judge's gown

Fusses

"___ the Parents"

Perfume unit

Took the bus

Woodwind instrument

Nuisance

Wednesday's Answer

S	T	O	P
L	I	M	A
O	R	E	S
W	E	N	T

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

2	6			1	4				
1				9	6				
		9		5		3			
8								1	
				1					
6								8	
		2		7		8			
				3	8			7	
		7	6					5	2

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UP & DOWN WORDS

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt

1. DRIED

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

ROLE

Clues:

- Snack for a hiker
- Edible gift
- Nervous wreck
- Detailed account
- Where to read about Columbus
- "The Old Man and the Sea" e.g.
- Important job for an actor

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Wednesday's Answer

C	L	I	N	T
B	L	A	C	K
C	O	F	F	E
T	A	B	L	E
T	A	L	K	
T	A	L	K	
T	O	U	G	H
G	U	Y		
R	I	T	C	H

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TXTPERT

Across: 1. 74255697, 2. 237438, 3. 533, 4. 7678, 5. 238, 6. 6327, 7. 2868

Down: 1. 7425229, 2. 237438, 3. 533, 4. 92837929, 5. 7868

Today's theme: Nautical

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be LOST

ROUNDERS

R	O	U	N	D	E	R	S
I	N	E	T	B	A	L	L
G	I	F	L				
P	L	A	Y				
I	T						
T	E	E	T	A	G		

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DON'T QUOTE ME

Football coach Paul Bryant talks about the key to success.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

EVERYONE HAS MATTERS MATTERS NOT PREPARE WILL WIN

IT'S ___ THE ___ TO ___ THAT ___

___ THAT. IT'S THE WILL TO

___ TO WIN THAT ___

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Wednesday's Answer: "Within every man and woman a secret is hidden, and as a photographer, it is my task to reveal it if I can." - Yousuf Karsh