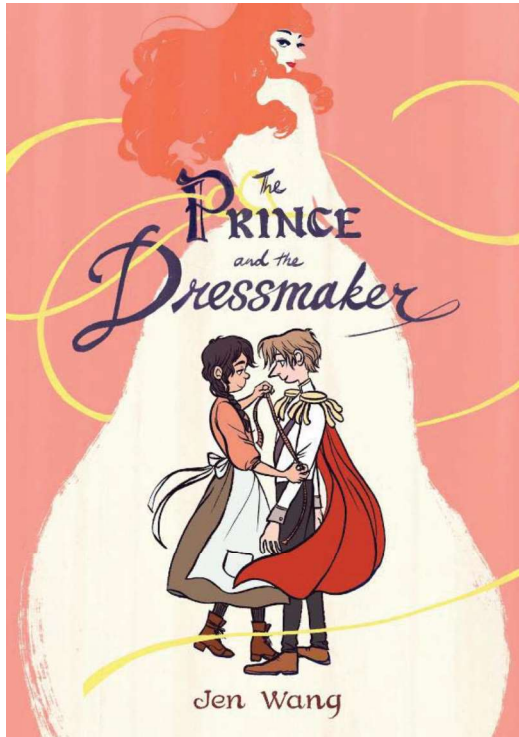


# Review: The Prince and the Dressmaker

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*The Prince and the Dressmaker*  
by Jen Wang  
2018, First Second  
277 pages, softcover  
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*The Prince and the Dressmaker* is a touching story about the friendship between a young man with a secret and the young woman who helps him live out his secret. Frances is working as a dressmaker in a shop and is told to make a gown for a young noblewoman who will attend a ball that the royal family is hosting. Catering to the young woman's wishes, Frances creates a bold and daring gown. Impressed with the style and design of the gown, a disguised Prince Sebastian requests an audience with Frances where he asks her to make dresses for him to wear secretly. Prince Sebastian feels he cannot openly wear ladies clothing, thus the persona Lady Crystallia is born. Frances and Sebastian become close friends, but their relationship becomes increasingly complicated as Frances's work becomes more widely known. Sebastian refuses to admit to being Lady Crystallia and Frances is unable to openly take credit for her designs.

Within the story there is a troubling scene where Prince Sebastian is outed publicly as Lady Crystallia. This is an uncomfortable moment in the story and some readers who have had similar experiences may be affected by this scene. Gender non-conforming teens (or other readers) may relate to Prince Sebastian. The unconditional love and acceptance Frances feels and shows for Sebastian is integral to theme and feel of the story. Jen Wang's *The Prince and the Dressmaker* is beautifully illustrated and told, and the reader will fall in love with the artwork and the characters.

Wang, J. (2018). *The prince and the dressmaker*. New York: First Second.