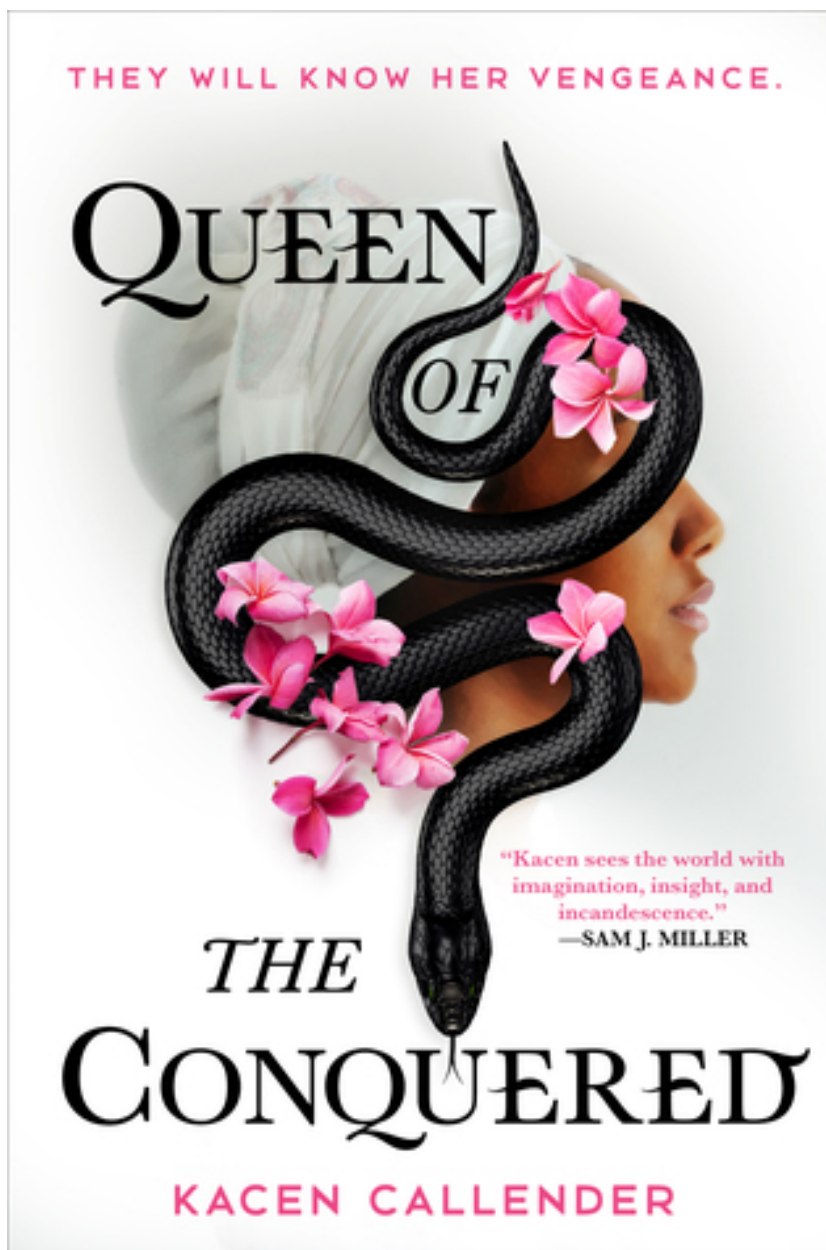


Queen of the Conquered Book PDF Download



By:
Kacen Callender

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What people Say:

karen

NOW AVAILABLE!!!

i showed up early to a book reading/signing last week, and once i had settled comfortably into my seat, i took this book out of my bag and started reading. the woman next to me noticed the cover and exclaimed that she had just finished it herself and loved it, enthusiastically praising its merits.

this is that kind of book. the people who love it are going to gush about it; chatting up strangers, recommending it to friends, gift-wrapping it for family members. me, iâ€™m the jerk who

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this is that kind of book. the people who love it are going to gush about it; chatting up strangers, recommending it to friends, gift-wrapping it for family members. me, iâ€™m the jerk who canâ€™t keep my mouth shut and just nod along when a very sweet ladyâ€™a fellow book-nerdâ€™is so passionate about a book that she assumes everyone loves it as much as she did, and i gotta go and deflate her squee-bubble with my honest-but-mood-killing, â€œyeah, iâ€™m halfway through and iâ€™m still trying to get into itâ€•

so, yeah. itâ€™s that kind of book, but iâ€™m not that kind of reader.

before i dig in, i will say that the â€œturnâ€™ in this caught me completely off-guard in the best possible way; a perfectly â€œfair playâ€™ resolution to the mystery that i did not see coming, but was so satisfying a solution that i thought it was going to be one of those books with such a strong ending that it would redeem the so-so feelings iâ€™d had up until that point. but no; the ending is more like a baton-pass or a hot potato, which wouldnâ€™t ordinarily bother me, if iâ€™d been enjoying the book, but in this case it made me feel like shouting â€œWHY IS THIS

RESPONSIBILITY??â€•

still, for a third-act chunk of it, i was so hooked.

Chelsea Humphrey

I feel like this particular snake is making an appearance on all my highly anticipated SFF novels of 2019, and I'm not mad about it.

Holly (Holly Hearts Books)

Angelica

At this point, I'm just gonna add every book with this snake on the cover. It's the exact same snake and all the books sound oh so good!

K.J. Charles

The premise of this book is incredible. It's set in an alt-Euro-colonised Caribbean island archipelago, where the white colonisers have enslaved the black islanders and the worst vilenesses of slavery go on. The various islands are ruled by white families. Our POV character is Sigourney, the mixed race inheritor of a white family who were murdered by the other top families and who is now scheming her way to becoming the next regent of the islands, in order to wreak revenge for her bereavement

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, you note, in order to free her people. This is not YA, and Sigourney is a magnificent depiction of

the oppressed becoming the oppressor. She talks about wanting to free the islanders, wanting their love--but she's still a slave owner, she sexually exploits slaves and has them whipped or killed when it suits her, and there is a superbly chilling moment when, asked if she will free her people when she's regent, she reflects that, after all, will the islands be economically viable without slave labour? This is one of the best depictions of the corruption of colonialism I've ever seen--she's outraged at racist wrongs to herself but the sorry sordid truth is she doesn't want to change the system so much as she wants to be on top of it. It reminds me powerfully of

in the way it shows the cascade of evils that flow from colonialism.

This aspect of the book is just so good. Sigourney isn't evil or sociopathic: she's not even abnormally selfish, and that's the most monstrous thing of all. The author's note comments that everyone now assumes they'd have been part of the resistance or the revolution or the Underground Railway, whereas, in fact, an awful lot of people and especially those who aren't being oppressed will stay complicit in oppression rather than risking their own privilege. And when it's a choice between Sigourney's own wellbeing or that of a slave...well, she debates it internally, but she always makes the same choice. The awful thing is, we're fairly sure she would have been a perfectly adequate human if she hadn't been born into a society of grotesque inequality and racial cruelty and violence, but she was, and we see how warped it makes her. (Let me state here that anyone going 'oh but the heroine was so unlikeable!' about this book has missed the point so hard they're going backwards.)

There's a sort of mystery element to the book where the top families come together to be considered for the regency in a wild Game of Thrones thing as they set about murdering each other. The revelation of the killer at the end is spectacular

The book is let down by some editing issues, mostly repetition. The narrative tells us the same things repeatedly, giving us the motives or attributes of characters over and over again, sometimes within just a couple of pages. This slows the book badly and really should have been dealt with by a line editor, especially with a book this long--I think you could lose 10% by cutting the repetition. I'm cross it wasn't, because the book is original, powerful, engaging, and necessary.