

*Dagger and Coin*

HarperTeen, 2018

hardcover ISBN 978-0062324641

also available in e-book

Ages 14 and up

Soraya Gamo was meant to be queen of Qilara, until an Arnath slave rebellion destroyed the monarchy and the capital city. Now, improbably, she sits on the new Ruling Council beside her former enemies, finally holding the political power she always wanted – but over a nation in ruins. As she works to rebuild Qilara, she can, at last, use what everyone once told her to hide: her brain.

But not everyone is ready to accept the new equality that the Ruling Council has decreed between the Arnathim and Qilarites. So when a slave ship arrives in the city, full of Arnathim captured before Qilara fell—the civil unrest that has been bubbling since the rebellion erupts.

Forced to confront her own prejudices, Soraya struggles to gain the trust of the Arnath people she once disregarded and establish peace in what has become chaos. With the threat of attacks high, Gelti, a former guard captain, trains Soraya in self-defense. As the two grow close, tension within the city ramps up, with danger, betrayal, and deception meeting Soraya everywhere she turns. Friends become foes, adversaries become companions, and the clashing of classes threatens to unravel all the good Soraya has been trying to do. Can Soraya, raised to be a proper Qilarite lady, learn to be a true leader? Or will the sins of her past forever haunt the footsteps of her future?

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"Rich in politics, intrigue, and betrayal, *Dagger and Coin* is a complex feminist fantasy featuring a tough and prickly ex-princess that I couldn't help but adore." – Heidi Heilig, author of *The Girl from Everywhere*

"[A] riveting fantasy sequel...Soraya's compelling narration makes the minutiae of management as thrilling as the betrayals, murders, and desperate gambits propelling the plot...A fine balance of political intrigue, relationship drama, and thoughtful characterization." – Kirkus Review

"MacMillan builds tension slowly, and soon readers will be locked into the wrangling for power and influence that goes into forging a new foundation." – *Booklist*

"MacMillan has created a complex, nuanced world. Strong female characters taking the lead in a fast-paced plot will appeal to fans of fantasy, mythology, and works by Kristin Cashore...Those who haven't read the first title in the series will not be disappointed or confused. A good choice for fantasy shelves." – *School Library Journal*

*Dagger and Coin* (HarperTeen, 2018; hardcover ISBN 978-0062324641)

**General Bio (118 words)**

Kathy MacMillan is a writer, American Sign Language interpreter, librarian, signing storyteller, and avowed Hufflepuff. Her debut young adult novel, *Sword and Verse* (2016) was a finalist for the Compton Crook Award, and its companion novel, *Dagger and Coin* (2018) has been called a “complex feminist fantasy” by author Heidi Heilig. Kathy serves as the co-Regional Advisor for the Maryland/Delaware/West Virginia Region of the Society for Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Her other books include *She Spoke: 14 Women Who Raised Their Voices and Changed the World*, the *Little Hands Signing* board book series, and eight resource books for educators, librarians, and parents. She lives near Baltimore, MD. Find her online at [www.kathymacmillan.com](http://www.kathymacmillan.com) or on Twitter at @kathys\_quill.

**Short bio (89 words)**

Kathy MacMillan is a writer, American Sign Language interpreter, librarian, signing storyteller, and avowed Hufflepuff. Her debut young adult novel, *Sword and Verse* (2016) was a finalist for the Compton Crook Award, and its companion novel, *Dagger and Coin* (2018) has been called a “complex feminist fantasy.” Her other books include *She Spoke: 14 Women Who Raised Their Voices and Changed the World*, the *Little Hands Signing* board book series, and eight resource books for educators, librarians, and parents. She lives near Baltimore, MD. Find her online at [www.kathymacmillan.com](http://www.kathymacmillan.com).

**Very short bio (52 words)**

Kathy MacMillan is a writer, American Sign Language interpreter, librarian, signing storyteller, and avowed Hufflepuff. Her debut young adult novel, *Sword and Verse* (2016) was a finalist for the Compton Crook Award, and its companion novel, *Dagger and Coin* (2018) has been called a “complex feminist fantasy.” Find her online at [www.kathymacmillan.com](http://www.kathymacmillan.com).

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