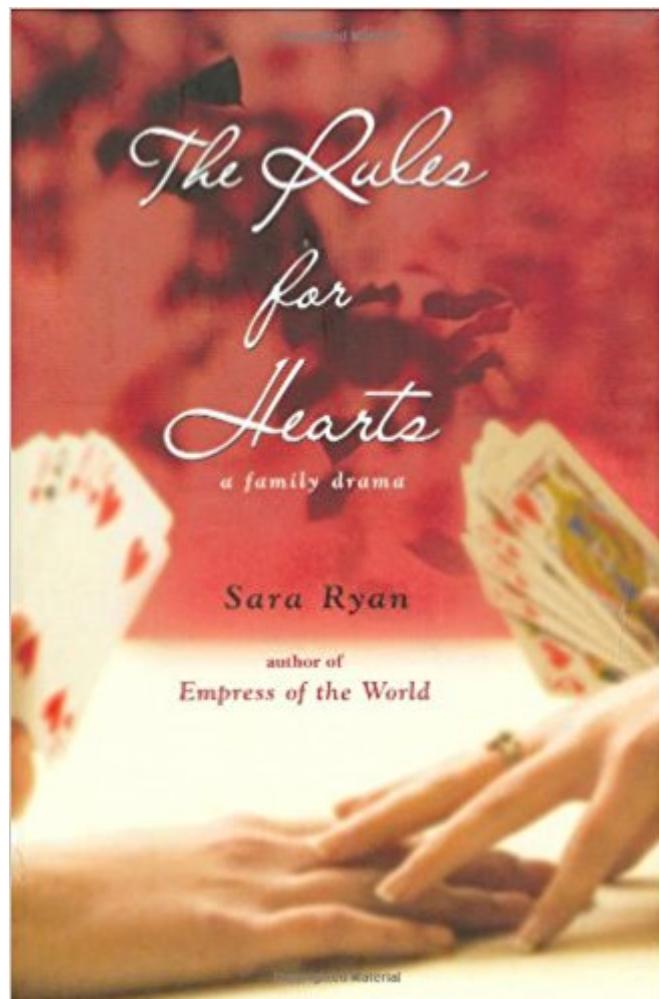


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# The Rules For Hearts



## **Synopsis**

Battle Hall Davies is sure of some things: she's going to Reed; she loves girls; and her older brother, Nick, is cooler than she could ever be. Nick ran away when Battle was in high school, and four years later, he's tracked her down. Now she's spending her summer before college in "Forest House," the co-op where he lives in Portland. Battle is quickly swept into Forest House's community Shakespeare production, its all-night card games, and the arms of her new roommate, Meryl. It turns out that Nick isn't who Battle thought he was; and Battle's not who she thought she was, either.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 10 Up • Readers of *Empress of the World* (Viking, 2001) will relish another chance to spend time with Battle Hall Davies in this terrific sequel. Now 18 and about to start college, she decides to spend the summer with a houseful of quirky actors and bohemians in Portland, OR. What her parents don't know is that one of the Forest House residents is Battle's older brother, who ran away from home at 17. Her reunion with Nick is a prickly one, though, as she finds that he is not always dependable. Her crush on Meryl, a swimming instructor who lives in the house, is also full of ambiguities. Meryl is alternately seductive, manipulative, and confused, often leaving Battle baffled and hurt. Ryan does a wonderful job of portraying a group of creative young people with limited finances, fluid sexuality, and complicated relationships. This novel celebrates the process of becoming an adult without providing any easy answers. Battle's summer is a challenging one, full of

possibilities and disappointments, and it's a joy to share her journey.â•Miranda Doyle, San Francisco Public Library Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

In this follow-up to Ryan's *Empress of the World* (2001), Battle, just graduated from high school and still hurt from her breakup with girlfriend Nicola, has arrived in Portland, Oregon, where she'll start college in the fall. Her parents don't know that Battle chose Portland to be with Nick, her estranged older brother, and that her home for the summer is the rambling Victorian that Nick shares with fellow members of a theater group. Writing in Battle's strong, believable voice, Ryan memorably captures an older teen's tumultuous first summer of independence. As in *Empress*, the artsy, ensemble cast is memorable, and both gay and straight relationships are described with refreshing honesty. Battle begins a tumultuous romance with a sexy female housemate, but the family feelings are the story's core. Battle quickly realizes that charming, charismatic Nick is also "a thoughtless bastard," who steals and lies, and Battle, "the queen of competence," struggles between anger and a powerful yearning to save him. Confusing and exhilarating, Battle's first stretch into adult life will resonate strongly with the target audience. Engberg, Gillian

I was SO beyond excited to read this book. I had been waiting forever to get my hands on it so when the chance came to get it, I downloaded it to my Kindle the first chance I got. I know that since it's a pick up from *Empress of the World* and everyone's (almost) all grown up, there would a big difference between the two books. And there was. A big huge difference. Unfortunately it wasn't a great one. I loved Battle(and her name lol)to death so I was MORE than happy to read about what happens to her next. But it seemed to just ramble on forever with out really making sense about a LOT of things. And I couldn't STAND Meryl and Nick just seemed unbearably and unbelievably flat out annoying and pitiful. Usually I can read a book pretty quickly, but with the way it just rambled on and on and on with no clear stopping point made it worse. I still love Sara Ryan but this pick up book from *Empress* was a epic fail of massive proportions. It was just okay to read, but I wouldn't ever read it again. I'm sure just as many people will love it. But personally...it bombed.

Sara Ryan is back with her second novel, a sequel to *Empress of the World*. Battle hall Davies has graduated and heading off to college, her somewhat estranged brother lives in Portland Oregon and Battle has moved in with him and the various other roommates that inhabit the house.Ryan's writing is more assured and stronger in this book and it was an enjoyable read. I loved the theatre bits and

the various character's, while some are cliches, they are good cliches and really round out the parts making the scenes fuller and realistic. My favorite part is the wedding scene and I must give Ryan props for having one of the character's wear a kilt and not present it as a man in drag or the source of drunks attempts at humor. The relation between Battle and her brother is the main focus of the book though Battle's attempts to have a lesbian relationship are explored as well, it is the family story, blood family and adopted family, that is the true heart of the book. Ryan has shown herself to be a writer that improves with each work and I look forward to reading more of her prose work as well as her comic book writings. *The Rules for Heart's* is definately going on my growing shelf of YA books.

I started and finished this book the same day, it's the kind of story that just drags you in and captives you until the very end. Though it's in the same world as *Empress of the World* this is more like the first books older, more mature cousin. It's also not a love story, and that more than anything is it's strength. Instead you get a deep dive into Battle's mind as she struggles not with coming out, but with growing up.

I finished this book in less than 24 hours. I agree with some of the other reviews I read, I definitely enjoyed *Empress of the World* better, but it was interesting to learn more about Battle. She is such a cool character, wish there was more resolution.

The companion, and first book, to this book is better. This book tells Battle's story after camp (*Empress of the World*). It had its moments, but I wasn't nearly as interested in this book as i was in *Empress of the World*. If you read *Empress of the World* it is worth the read because it give you and interesting perspective. It makes you think about how other people view situations because it gives a drastically different image of Nic than *Empress* gave.

good second book... would have like to see more at the end of the book though

I loved how the chapters were split into acts, it made it that much better to read. I had purchased this as a teen in high school and still own it today. It was my introduction into the lgbt culture that I couldn't find in my own town.

After reading *Empress* I wanted to know what happened next. This book might be better than

Empress. I Love this book.

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