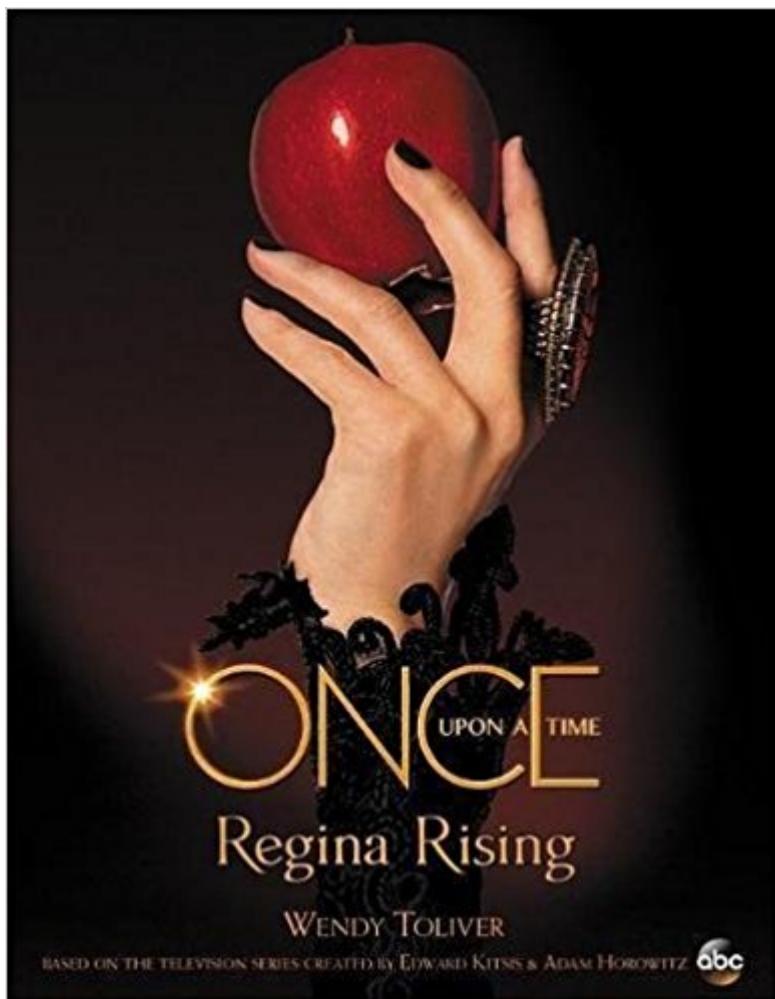


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# Once Upon A Time Regina Rising



## Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Regina is very different from the Regina known by fans of ABC's "Once Upon a Time." She seeks romance, adventure, and approval. Of course, getting approval from a mother like Cora is next to impossible. For Regina, friendships have always been a rare commodity. Could it be that Regina has finally found a true friend? Or is it too good to be true? As Regina struggles to find her own identity and create her own destiny, she discovers that her fate might just be to become everything she despises.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wendy Toliver is the award-winning author of five YA novels: *The Secret Life of A Teenage Siren*, *Miss Match*, *Lifted*, *Red's Untold Tale* and *Regina Rising*. She lives in the Utah mountains with her husband and three sons. She enjoys reading, hiking, wakeboarding, snowboarding, watching movies, Halloween, and daydreaming.

It was everything I expected from young Regina!

I really love the character Regina. She's my favorite but I hate how this book just abruptly ended. I was left wanting more.

Great book!

I brought it thinking it was a addition to the shoe's Evil Queen/Regina. But it's so different.

As a fan of RED'S UNTOLD TALE, I was eager for Regina's story, and I was not disappointed. She's a relatable sixteen-year-old who wants what anyone wants -- true friendship, the love of her parents, and romance...with a kind and dashing painter. :) Yet you can see the darkness glimmering inside her, especially when her mother uses all manner of magic to control her. REGINA RISING shows the twists and turns of young Regina's life--with an ending so sharp and shocking that you'll be left reeling. I adored it, and hope there are more of these books to come!

I decided to get this book because I love the series Once Upon a Time, and Regina is one of my favorite characters. The series shows how Regina became the Evil Queen, but this book tells how that path to becoming the Evil Queen was set. The story is told well, but the ending leaves questions to be answered. One question that is answered is how Regina got the scar on her lip (the series never tells). Now, I'm wondering how Cora worked it so Regina marries King Leopold, and of Jesse and Daniel are actually the same person just different names used. If they are different people, then what happened to Jesse and how did Regina and Daniel meet and develop feelings for each other. Hoping for another Regina installment, but I don't think this going to be a miniseries book....

As a Oncer I love Regina. She has so much backstory to her and I always want to know more about her. I love how this book also gives us the story of her scar on her lip (not gonna give any spoilers away!) I did feel like this story was a bit rushed. There was so much more potential, so much more I wanted to know, and why, yet instead it just came to a sudden closure, which made me wish there was another book coming. You do get to see Regina interact with Snow White as well, which was a nice treat. So many hints at future stories in the Once realm, and interactions as well. I did enjoy it.

As a rabid fanfic reader, this is the review that I wish I had read before purchasing the book via Kindle. I've read a plethora of Regina centered fanfics (which is really what I would consider this) and I have read a lot better. Overall, while it presented some intriguing concepts, it felt underdone. While Toliver presented a lot of themes that seem to be widely accepted as part of Regina's childhood, (body-shaming, physical and emotional abuse, isolation from children her own age) it seemed watered down and not fully explored. Without a heart, Cora would have been merciless in shaping Regina's future. It's doubtful she'd allow her to go gallivanting around to be potentially

wounded by the blind witch or accidentally cursed with an apple. Additionally, I thought Regina's crush on her art teacher took away from her love with Daniel and their first love parallel to Snowing. Not only that, but Regina's relationship with her father seemed to be so greatly diminished. Henry Sr. was displayed numerous times to be more interested in food than his child and only vaguely remorseful about neglecting his daughter's abuse at the hands of his wife. He and Regina have so little interactions that it counteracts Henry Sr. being the thing she loves most to enact the curse. So much was unexplained plot holes bothered me: the dragon ring (possible Maleficent connection?), the meeting between Snow and Regina couldn't have been forgotten just months later when she's rescued, and the problems associated with Regina being unaware of Cora and Eva's meeting in season 3. While I felt that a lot of Cora's dialogue was often well written, I felt like the absence of Daniel and the integration of the King and Snow's lives made the next stage of Regina's life more unbelievable. It takes away from her being viewed as a victim in her mother's orchestrating skills when Regina was aware of so many things beforehand. Bottomline, if you're looking for well-written, realistic young-Regina stories for someone over the age of 13, it's not worth the 10 dollars.

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