

Tales from Huo Huan: Usurpa

Not many Book Bugs know how Usurpa came to be—at least, not Usurpa as we know her now, the haughty queen of Castle Verglas—but who she was before all of that. Well, lucky for you, I am what is known as an omniscient narrator and I have a story for you today.

One day, the King of Castle Verglas vanished into the wind. Not many were unhappy at this turn of events, as he had been known to be cunning and cold. All that remained of him was his shimmering gold crown, topped with ice crystals.

The subjects were sent into a flurry without a ruler, and the first order of business was to find a new one. There was just one issue—the crown was too cold. As befitting royalty of the wintry Samudera, the crown of Castle Verglas was freezing cold to the touch, a feat its next ruler would need to withstand.

Bugs from across the land were summoned to the castle, vying for the title of ruler as they tried on the crown. However, most could not bear its icy touch, flinging it off the second it was set on their heads.

Finally, the desperate subjects looked to the little silent town smothered by the shadow of Castle Verglas and began to summon its residents.



Tales from Huo Huan: Usurpa

Young and old, rich and poor, all were welcomed to the castle gates—even little Anna, a street urchin who did her best to make a meagre living off the streets.

The subjects didn't think much of this little urchin as she crept towards the throne. When they placed the icy crown atop her tiny head, she smiled. Moments stretched into seconds; seconds lapsed into minutes. Yet, there was not a twitch of discomfort. It was then that they realised who she was—the new queen of Castle Verglas.

Little Anna had entered the castle, but it was Usurpa who ascended the throne. However, this icy crown exacts a price on its ruler: the longer it is worn, the colder the ruler's heart becomes.

Ask any Book Bug and you will only hear of Usurpa's cunningness and ambition. But there was a time before, when she was just Anna—until a cursed gold crown froze her heart into ice.

