

## Novels

### [Melissa de la Cruz Talks with Roger](#)

- RS: I interviewed [Maggie Stiefvater](#) last year, about her sequel to the movie *Brave*. She hadn't been a Disney kid and was a little nervous, but she was surprised at how much freedom she had. Even though she was dealing with Disney intellectual property in terms of the character, they didn't tell her what story to write.
  - MdC: No, they really don't. That's not how they work. People would be surprised at how much freedom we have. In telling a story, it's never the big arcs or the big story plots that they're worried about. It's small, little things about certain characters or continuity that they would like to preserve. But your imagination is not restricted at all.

### [Q&A: Melissa de La Cruz loves fairy tales so much she'll turn them inside out](#)

- I had to figure out the bring those endings from those movies to "The Isle of the Lost" [the first book]. I had to watch all of the movies again, so that was fun. I think you've got to come in with that reverence, but also with confidence. And a lot of sympathy for these kids who are the offspring of the most evil villains in the world—what's that like? How would you survive? The book is about how impossible it is to win their parents' approval and still be themselves -- I think a lot of us can relate to that

### [Interview with Dove Cameron and Melissa de la Cruz on Disney ...](#)

- Natalie: I loved the large cast of classic Disney characters in your book. How much free reign did Disney give you when it came to writing about them and creating their children?
  - Melissa de la Cruz: The script had already been written and the movie was going to be in production when I had already signed on. So I already knew what the end of my book was because the book was going to be a prequel to the movie. So in a way, I had this kind of narrow range because whatever this story was, it had to end with the stars of the movie. But within that narrow range, I could go into the whole Disney universe. It was so much fun to go back to the classic movies and then also to kind of flesh out the backstory of these kids and these villains. To answer the question of how they got there and what happened between Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, you know, Snow White, and then that moment when they all find themselves on the island. It was really fun so, in a way, I say it was this narrow passage that opened up to this wide world. It was a challenge, like a puzzle. I had to figure how the book fit into that larger story.

### [Melissa de la Cruz: The Descendants: Isle of the Lost Exclusive Q&A ...](#)

- And the funny thing is when I was watching all the movies again of course they're all happy endings, but unhappy endings for all of my characters. I mean I didn't realize how many of them had been destroyed.
- You know, Maleficent is like in a puddle of green. The Evil Queen falls off a cliff. Cruella falls off—there's a lot of cliff falling. So, I was like, oh, my God. They're all destroyed! How

do I bring them back? So I had this line that being on the island without magic is worse than death.

- And some of them were brought back from death.

#### [Descendants: Isle Of The Lost Melissa De La Cruz Interview!](#)

- Some characters are easier than others. Mal and Carlos came really easily. From the beginning I really knew who they were. Jay I had to figure out what his motivation was and what was his character because he is kind of like Mal's brother.
- So they have this kind of sibling rivalry. You know, who's the better thief? Who's the better villain? And then Evie was the hardest, she had the hardest parent in a way.
- The Evil Queen isn't as vicious as Maleficent. But she has this, you know, expectation of Evie to be the fairest of them all. And she was always doing her makeup and has kind of this relentless obsession with beauty.
- And I think part of me was really kind of like, oh, God, it's so hard to live under that mom who always told you you weren't pretty enough.
- I think it was kind of like a nightmare. So it was harder to write her character just because I felt maybe worse for her because in a way Maleficent is kind of indifferent. And she is kind of cold. But she's not as around, I think, maybe as suffocating as the Evil Queen. So, it was hard to write about.

#### Videos

[Melissa de la Cruz on "The Isle of The Lost" at the 2015 Miami Book Fair](#)

[Melissa de la Cruz on "The Isle of the Lost: A Descendants Novel" at BookCon 2015](#)

[Jessica Brody Announcing the Descendants School of Secrets Book Series!](#)

#### Other Videos

[Descendants: Wicked World 💖 | FULL SERIES | Compilation | @DisneyDescendants](#)

[Under the Sea 🐡 | A Descendants Short Story | Descendants 2](#)

#### Descendants the Musical

[Descendants the Musical Libretto Vocal Book](#)

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