

Gilded



Marissa Meyer

ISBN 9781922458292
FICTION, TRADE PAPERBACK

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PRAISE FOR MARISSA MEYER AND THE LUNAR CHRONICLES

'Marissa Meyer rocks the fractured fairytale genre.'
Seattle Times

'Epic awesome.'
Bustle

'A binge-reading treat.'
MTV

ABOUT MARISSA MEYER

Marissa Meyer is the #1 *New York Times*–bestselling author of the Lunar Chronicles, the *New York Times*–bestselling Renegades trilogy, as well as the graphic novel *Wires* and *Nerve*. Her first standalone novel, *Heartless*, was also a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. Her contemporary romance, *Instant Karma*, was a #1 Indie Bestseller.

ABOUT THE BOOK

What if Rumpelstiltskin wasn't the villain of the story?

Cursed as a baby by the god of lies, a poor miller's daughter now has a talent for spinning stories.

When one of Serilda's outlandish tales draws the attention of the sinister Erlking and his undead hunters, she finds herself swept into a grim world where ghouls and phantoms prowl and hollow-eyed ravens track her every move. Erlking imprisons Serilda in his castle and sets her the impossible task of spinning straw into gold, a task she must complete or be killed for telling falsehoods.

Serilda unwittingly summons a mysterious boy to her aid. He agrees to help her—for a price. Love isn't meant to be part of the bargain.

Soon Serilda realises that there is more than one secret hidden in the castle walls, including an ancient curse that must be broken if she hopes to end the tyranny of Erlking and his wild hunt forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is *Gilded* similar to the story of Rumpelstiltskin? How is it different? Has this book changed how you feel about the original fairytale?
2. Do you think Serilda's talent for spinning stories is a blessing or a curse? Can you think of any trait you have that is both a strength and a liability?
3. Do you think the origin story of how Serilda came to have her golden spinning eyes is true? Discuss.
4. 'But there are two sides to every story. The hero and the villain. The dark and the light. The blessing and the curse.' (p. 2) Do you agree?
5. Who was your favourite character and why? If you could swap places with one character, who would it be and what would you do differently?
6. What do fairytales offer readers that's different from fantasy stories?
7. How are Serilda and Gild similar? Do you think it's their similarities that bind them together or something else?
8. What were your favourite fairytales as a child? Recommend some to your fellow book-club members.
9. What do you think was Gild's motivation for helping Serilda? Do you think he would have helped others in the same way?
10. Do you think Serilda's mother is in the castle?
11. If a god offered you a wish, would you accept it? What would you wish for?
12. *Gilded* is the first book in a duology. What do you think will happen in the second book? What do you hope will be resolved?