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Rumpelstiltskin (Timeless Fairy Tales Book 4)



Synopsis

Things look grim for Gemma, a seamstress, when she is ordered under the threat of death by the insane King Torgen to spin straw into gold. Unwilling to forfeit her life, Gemma tries to escape her royal prison, earning her the respect of the mysterious mage, Stil. Stil offers to complete the impossible task for a price. Greedy and unsatisfied, King Torgen demands more and more straw to be spun into gold, and decrees that he will reward Gemma by marrying her. With death or marriage to a crazed king clouding her future, Stil offers Gemma a bargain that seems too good to be true. Will Gemma's trust in Stil be her downfall, or will he defy the entire country to save her? RUMPELSTILTSKIN is a fairy tale retelling of love, magical bargains, and high stakes. Filled with humor, adventure, and clean romance, it belongs to the best selling series TIMELESS FAIRY TALES. The books in this series take place in the same world and can be read all together, or as individual, stand-alone stories.

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Customer Reviews

Review: Since I thought the retelling of Cinderella by the same author was wonderful and the synopsis for the current book was intriguing, I bought the latter as soon as I discovered it and started reading immediately. I wasn't disappointed and the first book wasn't a fluke by a mile, on the contrary. I was again swept away to this fantasy world, where new life has been blown into dusty fairy tales, characters were exciting and 3D and a clearer, coherent and whole picture started to form in my mind in regards to what is going on and how all the books are connected in the series. I loved the smaller yet profound changes from the original fairy tale, particularly the fact that the villain is now the hero and what a charming hero he was. Otherwise, nothing overly major was changed, but despite this, the story felt fresh and new and this is, I gather, mostly due to the well-executed characterization, dialogue and general plot and background of the series. The latter makes me quite excited, because it's imminent that something huge is coming from the villainous side and I can't wait to see everything unravel and witness the big bang. I really appreciate where the author is going with this series in regards to that. I also liked that the series feels connected via references to characters, places and events from other books. My favourite aspect of the book was, however, the main couple. I really loved the subtle clash of the characters of Stil and Gemma. The first being sneaky, charming, slightly vain in an adorable boyish and sweet way and the latter having her feet completely on the ground, being practical, realistic and with no time for nonsense. Moreover, I appreciated that neither was too overbearing, suffocating, clingy, oh-so-tortured or any other extreme that most YA and NA main characters nowadays tend to be. With differences, came similarities, both were exceptionally talented in diverse areas, Stil in craft magic and Gemma in making clothes. It was nice to see that both had something they were passionate about and it wasn't only each other. I also thoroughly enjoyed the dialogue between them which was bantery, smart, funny and sweet. I will, however, never forget how Stil twisted the original meaning behind the Rumpelstiltskin quite "I want your firstborn" into something that was utterly swoon worthy. I honestly thought they were a lovable couple and despite me still only slightly favouring Cinderella and Friedrich from the previous book, Gemma and Stil managed to upstage a huge portion of YA and NA main couple I read about. Also, a fairy tale without either of the main couple being royal is always a welcome change for me. I didn't so much enjoy the secondary romance. The idea was intriguing and quite unexpected, and there was also a definite usefulness in regards to the plot, but they simply didn't catch my fancy compared to the main couple. I would even say that I would have preferred more time dedicated to Stil and Gemma on the expenses of the secondary couple. Overall: This series has turned out to be a

real gem! Good storytelling on the basis of beloved fairy tales, extremely easy to like characters with distinct personalities, noteworthy dialogue and plotting— I'm definitely sticking to this series! Now I simply have to find the time to read the first two books. Why is time my enemy in regards to reading? Also, can I ask for a Puss in Boots version and some other lesser known fairy tale books?

I was pleasantly surprised by K.M. Shea's Timeless Fairy Tales series. I was trying to find some fairy tale retelling that weren't "samey," and I originally didn't try K.M. Shea's books for a while because there were so many "meh" reviews that made her sound like she was just cranking out more of the same. Luckily, I was really bored one day and decided to read her Rumpelstiltskin. While yes, it is another fairy tale retelling, I really enjoyed all of the unique ideas and fun characters. There was a good amount of humor that I appreciated, and the main character's romance is sweet. The books in the series are connected with a running idea that some evil is taking hold in the land and we're not really sure what it is. So far, I have only finished this one and Beauty and the Beast. Both were written very well and I liked how the author answered some questions that have always been asked about fairy tale logic, questions like, why in the world would a king believe a POOR man's daughter could spin straw into gold? Why would anyone be willing to marry a king who would threaten to kill her? Why would anyone barter their first-born child? Why would anyone ASK for a first-born child? How do we fix the idea that Belle has Stockholm Syndrome? and similar. There is also some fun insight into how the magic of Shea's kingdom's work that make things feel even more legit.

Quick Synopsis: Gemma is a young seamstress in a wintery kingdom (there is allusion to a snow queen who enchanted the kingdom and whose magic keeps evil magic at bay). Gemma is truly talented at what she does, and has gained favor with some noble houses. Unfortunately, the kingdom is run by an insane king, a king who, when he hears a foolish rumor spread by Gemma's drunk father about Gemma's ability to spin straw into gold, thinks it would be amusing to call the bluff in the most cruel way possible, by demanding that Gemma either spin some straw, or that she and her father will be executed. Gemma is an excellent female character with a realistic strength (meaning she is not super-human, but that she does show great individual strengths). Her particular brand of strength is nobility and compassion. She is very self-sacrificing, but not in a sickly sweet way as some 'compassionate' characters are. Gemma has some friends who try to help her, and even gains an in with the crazy king's son, but none can do more than delay the inevitable. Eventually Gemma must produce gold, so it is lucky for her that a passing mage takes pity and tries to help her out. Stil is a mage running from a pursuing evil. He is trapped in the kingdom because

his evil chaser cannot cross the Snow Queen's boundaries. He is a funny character who enjoys a good game of Eye Spy and has an antagonistic relationship with his donkey. And that is the end of my synopsis because I don't want to spoil the story! The only thing I didn't like about this book was when the love interests relationship came to a head. The "I don't believe you could really love me!" bit was a little too dramatic and went on for too long. ACCEPT that he loves you already gosh darn it! Other than that, it was a very entertaining book that's worth the hour or two it takes to read it. Buy and enjoy! I look forward to more by this author.

I really do love the way K.M. Shea writes, especially her take on the classic fairy tales we all grew up listening to, or watching on television. This specific book is about a girl named Gemma who is an exceptionally talented seamstress. Others in the village of Verglas are skeptical of her talent however, and one night her father, the town drunk, brags to those skeptics that Gemma can turn straw into gold. The crazy King Torgen is informed of this and requests that she do just that, or else forfeit her life and the life of her father. A craftmage, Rumpelstiltskin (Stil), learns of this and begins to help Gemma turn flax into gold in exchange for various objects. Throughout the book, Stil begins to fall in love with Gemma, and will do whatever he can to protect her from the fate that awaits her. My most favorite part of this story was the romantic element. I am definitely a sucker for romance, and this book delivered in such a way that was believable and clean. You won't read about that instantaneous love, which is really nice, nor will you read about anything happening in the bedroom. Although I like books with romantic elements, this book had more than just a romance between Gemma and Stil. We really learn a lot about the type of person Gemma is throughout this book, and we can't really help but like her. She is smart, kind, and a whole lot of other positive traits. It is also nice that K.M. Shea weaves the mention of other fairytale characters into this story, as a way to show the connection to each story in her little universe. There is no cliffhanger in this book, and it is most definitely a HEA. Suitable for Young Adults, as well as Adults who are in the mood for a whimsical story with a kick-ass main character.

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