

Title: *Gilded*
Author: Marissa Meyer
Genre: Fantasy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Olivia G., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 26, 2022

Gilded is a fresh new retelling of the fairytale, Rumpelstiltskin. The book follows Serilda, a young woman marked by the god of lies who has been bestowed a talent to tell fantastical and spellbinding stories. However when one of Serilda's stories draws the attention of the Erlking and his undead hunters, Serilda finds herself swept away into a ghost world where phantoms and monsters reside. The Erlking orders Serilda to spin straw into gold or be killed for lying. Serilda is saved when a mysterious boy comes to her aid, spinning the straw into gold for a price. As Serilda becomes better acquainted with this mysterious boy in this ghoulish land she learns that the Erlking and his castle holds more than one sinister secret.

Did the plot keep you interested?

The plot was very interesting. It was the perfect balance between fantastical and haunting, keeping you at the edge of your seat for its entirety. It provided a refreshing twist on a popular fairytale and I enjoyed it very much.

Was the pace of the book too fast, too slow or just right?

I think overall the pace of the book was good, the only thing I would say is that it starts off a little slow.

What age would you say this book is appropriate for?

I would say this book is appropriate for ages 11 and over, the books contain some violence as well as scary ghosts and monsters.

Who would you recommend this book to?

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a new twist on an old story and anyone who enjoys a haunting tale with a brave heroine.

What would you rate this book?

I would rate this book 5 stars, it was a great read and kept me interested the whole time.

Reviewer Name and Grade: Dan W., 8th

Date Reviewed: 4/1/2023

The book *Gilded* written by Marissa Meyer tells the story of a young girl named Serilda whose dad helped save the God of Mischief and Lies during the Hunt. The god granted Serilda's dad one wish and his dad asked for a healthy, smart and beautiful daughter, but also having Serilda being able to wield lies from her mouth. The God of Mischief granted him his wish for the daughter he asked. But after Serilda's mother gave birth to Serilda she disappeared. The Hunt is carried out during the full moon where the gods supposedly roam the Earth where Erlking and his undead warriors go out to hunt for the Gods and other magical animals. But during one of the hunts Serilda is captured by the Erlking and his huntsmen for hiding magical animals. She gets

scared and she starts to lie about turning straw into gold. The Erlking believes her and takes her into his carriage to his castle. But before she goes the magical animal gives her a pendant that you call on in times of need. When she is at the castle she uses the pendant but nothing happens. Then all of a sudden a small child hops out and starts turning straw into gold. But during their time at the castle they figure out that inside these castle walls there's a curse where the Erlking and his men are trapped from the mortal world. During the time they spent at the castle they tried to break the curse so the Erlking and his hunters could turn back into their mortal forms and go back to their regular lives.

The traits Serilda shows is being clever, calm and observant. She shows these traits when they are about to get cornered by Erlking's hunters but she finds a secret room where the magical child and herself hide in. A time when Serilda was being clever is when she told the Guards at a gate in the castle that the Erlking wants to see them in a very believable way because she dressed up as one of the huntsmen and had a determined look on her face.

This book I rate this a 4 out of 5 because the book should have told more in depth about the Erlking's past and the huntsman's pasts before they were turned into undead hunters.