



Goose Chase

Patrice Kindl

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It starts when Alexandria, a poor, plain goose girl, offers her own bread and water to a hungry old woman — who just happens to be a witch in disguise. Poof! Alexandria is suddenly heartstoppingly beautiful. Her hair rains down gold dust, and the tears she sheds turn to diamonds. Soon a prince and a king are fighting for her hand, and they've locked her in a tower to keep her "safe." How Alexandria wishes she was a goose girl again! Clearly the only thing to do is escape — which is when her problems really begin!

Patrice Kindl's inimitable voice and craft make this take on the classic fairy tale extraordinary-and extraordinarily hilarious.

"A delightful, witty fairy-tale spoof.. . Kindl's humor, the strong characterizations, and vibrant action give the story wings." (*Booklist*, starred review)

Goose Chase Details

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Author : Patrice Kindl

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From Reader Review Goose Chase for online ebook

Laura says

I loved this book. It was charming and funny. Alexandria Aurora Fortunato, or Goose Girl as she is referred to for the bulk of the book, was given several annoying fairy gifts. She is more lovely than the dawn, when she brushes her hair she sprinkles gold dust everywhere, and her tears turn into diamonds. These gifts bring her to the attention of the cruel King of Gilboa and the somewhat dim Prince of Dorloo. Both men want to marry her, and they lock her in a tower until she picks one of them. Completely uninterested in either man, Alexandria stalls until she can figure out a way to escape the tower. Aided by her 12 geese, she makes her escape only to fall into the hands of three bloodthirsty, but not too smart, ogresses.

There's a failed rescue attempt by Prince Edmund of Dorloo, magical growing hair, more help from the geese, and evil plots by the King of Gilboa. Fast-paced and very fun.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Safia Abdul for TeensReadToo.com

Many would think Alexandria Aurora Fortunato to be blessed. She is not only extraordinarily beautiful, but gold pours from her hair and diamonds fall in place of her tears. However, truthfully, she has been cursed with these gifts ever since an old hag showed up at Alexandria's humble cottage and begged for a bite to eat. As a reward for Alexandria's kindness, a spell was cast--and Alexandria's life changed forever.

No longer a simple goose girl, Alexandria is kept locked in a tower where she is forced to sew every last stitch on her gold wedding gown. When the last stitch is finished, she will be forced to marry either King Claudio the Cruel or the dim-witted Prince Edmund from the neighboring country. Both want her only for her wealth, and Alexandria knows she must find a chance to escape. Luck is on the way, and she manages to run away with the help of her flock of enchanted geese. Now her real adventures are set to begin!

Along the way, she and her goose friends have magical adventures involving hungry ogresses, a bumbling prince, dark dungeons, and a special set of royal jewels. Add in a sprinkling of romance and you get a good fantasy novel with a fairytale spin that every girl can enjoy! The character, Alexandria, is strong, witty, brave, and a perfect heroine for this awesome novel. An exciting and twisting plot will keep readers entertained for hours, but will there be a happy ending? Read the book to find out more!

Mimi 'Pans' Herondale says

3.75

Ellen says

This is what happens when one reads an ok book right after an amazing book

Goose Chase is the story of a goose girl who has been given the gifts of being beautiful, Her hair when combed yielded gold dust, and when she cried her tears became diamonds. She is being pursued by a cruel king and a prince who is a few pickles short of a jar.

The story is solid. The blending together of Wild Swans, Rapunzel, Toads and Diamonds, and a few more is done very well.

The Characters are solid Alexandria is interesting and never whiny. She knows her situation and it clever about what she does to save herself and those around her

The Romance is actually pretty good. Its not intense and the guy she likes acutally falls for her and not her wealth. No spoilers here. I also like how both Alexandria and her guy sacrifice themselves for each other no matter the outcome.

Why 4 stars instead of 5? While everything is solid, the ending is hard to follow and I felt like the author could have developed the ending a little more

Recomended for kids and fairtale fans

Jaemi says

This book was a wonderful treat in silliness. Not only was the fairy tale in and of itself enjoyable, our main characters, Alexandria and the Prince, not to mention her 12 geese, are quite a riot. Even when things are dire, the story is told with a humorous spin, and our hero and heroine are always concocting some new crazy scheme to get out of the next trouble. The way I figured it, any book that starts out "The King killed my canary" just has to be funny. And in no way did it disappoint. If you need some humor or a little light-heartedness, give this book a try.

Anne Osterlund says

Alexandria is a goose girl with serious issues. Like being locked in a tower by the King and the Prince who think that is the way to win her hand in marriage. And then there's the old hag, who gave Alexandria diamond tears, gold dust dandruff, and looks as beautiful as the dawn. Which, of course, have contributed to Alexandria's current "locked-in-a-tower" status.

Fortunately our fair heroine has twelve geese. Geese with the ability to poach mattresses off of clotheslines and turn them into the first flying Alexandria-get-away vehicle.

Unfortunately, Alexandria still has issues. Like the fact that one of her "suitors" is also a murderous plotter intent upon marrying her in order to fund his own attempts to usurp the kingdom.

Goose Chase is a tongue-in-cheek fractured fairy tale full of original humor, a few powerful lessons, and one great surprise. I enjoyed Alexandria's scathing opinions of traditional fairy-tale ideals. And I enjoyed even more seeing her dawning realization that perhaps her own judgment might also be a wee bit flawed.

Tracy says

A nice enough fantasy that incorporates elements from several fairytales to tell a new story. The heroine is smart and feisty (although she does ignore those geese when they seem to be warning her to danger, a trait which I found out of character). Like a wild goose chase, this girl is on the run and falling from one predicament into the next in rapid succession. The language of the dialog is funny but often awkward, as it tries to be Olde English and is sprinkled with made-up words. It seemed to end too quickly, and left several loose ends--does she still cry diamonds? Does her hair still shed gold dust? Also, what was up with that Prince? At first he seemed like a dolt, but then suddenly he wasn't. I was waiting for an explanation on that, but never got one.

Kaylabee says

First of all, let me just say that I LOVED the heroine of this story. She is so smart, spunky, funny, and brave. I didn't exactly find myself relating to her (were I in her position, I basically would have just flat out died) but I did find myself wishing I could be more like her.

The setting was interesting, but not, like, the best i've ever read. I think what really made this story so good was

A. The main character

and

B. The language.

Sometimes I had to read a sentence a couple of times to finally get it, but it was super funny and cool for everybody to be talking in that old-timey way. I really loved that!

The story itself is pretty good. I mean, it was actually a little bit TOO magic-y for my taste. And not a lot was explained, but I suppose it was meant to be a fairy tale type story, so I guess it's okay.

I would say that if you're looking for a book that's light-hearted, funny, with an admirable lead, then this is the book for you.

Barb in Maryland says

Clever and entertaining. Our Goose Girl is a great heroine. Lots of fun.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

The past few times I have been at the library I have seen this on the suggested reading shelf; I liked the cover but never really stopped to look at it. Finally, I decided I would see what it was about, after reading the inside cover I decided to check it out. It is definitely meant for younger audiences, but I thought it was a fun quick read. It has a nice fairy-tale feel to it and the story was cute. I liked our heroine Alexandria, but was disappointed in Prince Edmund. At first he is portrayed as goof, and unfortunately that doesn't change throughout the book. There were a few loose ends that weren't quite tied up and the only other thing that bothered me was how many times the author used the word "Twas", which drove me crazy. Other than that, if you are looking for a quick, lighthearted read than this is a great choice. I couldn't help imagining if I had a daughter I could read this with, I think it would be a fun book to read with your children.

Taffy says

First line:

"The king killed my canary today."

What a great first line!

What a fun book to read! Full of fairy tale twists and characters.

Poor Alexandria became beautiful because of her god deed. Now the king of a neighboring kingdom seeks her hand in marriage as does the prince of her own kingdom. Her beauty helps as does the gold flakes that fall from her hair when she brushes it. Do these men really love her? Or her golden hair?

Alexandria is known as the Goose Girl because of the twelve geese she takes care of. And they take care of her. Rescuing, saving, protecting and hissing at their mistress is what those geese do well.

Goose Girl is told from Alexandria's humorous, biting voice. She only sees her side of the issues but soon grows up and cares about others. She's in a prisoner in a tower, is rescued, becomes a prisoner again, rescued again, imprisoned again...you get the gist.

Goose Girl is a great, fractured fairy tale that is a fun, twisting read.

Rated: G

V: Fairytale fighting

L: No

S: No

Liked:

Alexandria

The plot & twists

Disliked:

Sometimes the language got in the way of the story

Nannah says

Ah, I haven't re-read this for at *least* ten years. But, ;___; I weep for another childhood favorite gone from five stars down to 3.5. That's not to say it's not a *good* book. It's just not . . . as wonderful as I remembered.

Alexandria the "Goose Girl", was a plain, poor girl before meeting an old woman who "blessed" her with looks to rival the dawn, and gifts that made her cry diamonds and shed gold dust whenever she combed her hair. Unfortunately, these blessings make her coveted by both her country's oafish Prince and the rival country's evil King. And land her trapped in a tower until she can choose which one to wed. If she has her way, though, Alexandria plans to escape with her geese and choose neither.

This retelling of the fairy tale (is it classified as a legit "fairy tale"?) "The Goose Girl" is fun and exciting, but lacks a depth I really want in books right now--even those based on fairy tales. But it does have a charm that I can understand I would have loved at a younger age.

The only thing I really disliked was that ugly = villain. Every unsavory character was definitely described being *incredibly* ugly by our society's standards. Women with body hair, women with ""hideously large noses and chins"" (don't get me started on the racism and antisemitism that goes into why our society finds that "ugly"), huge warts, etc. It really made enjoying the novel more difficult.

But anyway, a fairly enjoyable book, especially for a younger audience.

Mary Dover says

I finally finished it I got this book in 2008 in 8th grade started reading in 2014 and now I'm done. 'Twas good but not the best, at times it was boring and kinda confusing to me. But the last few chapters were good. I'm so glad her sisters were actually her geese. I also think that Alexandria is very fond on the prince and that is why she doesn't want her youngest sister Elaine to have him.

K. says

Needed a bit of light reading in between Dickens and Goethe :)

Read this before, but just reread (Sept 2014). Adore the medieval-ish language, I think that is the most fun part of the book. Loved that I could hand it to my 12 year old and tell her to go for it (she did, read in an hour). Clean, humorous, adventurous. Only the slightest bit of romance in the future (no kissing, no swooning, just sweet, maybe when we're older type thing).

Heartily enjoyed

Kiki says

been a long time favorite for me. I have read this over and over again, and despite the same plot line, same

story, and same ending, it never disappoints, nor gets old. Despite being in my twenties, I still love it like I did when I was a young teen.

It's like a fairytale story that your parents read you before bed, except much more; there's darkness to it. The love triangle is interesting to explore, since it's all from the perspective of a girl who *doesn't love any of them.* Most love triangles go back and forth between the two love interests and you have to pick who you like more, who gets your vote. In this story, you don't have to pick anyone. You can dislike them both; hell, you *should* dislike them both.

The adventures our heroin goes through throughout the book are exciting; they make your heart race and your mind reel. They make you breeze through the book, desperate to see them through. And then, ultimately, you are left with the end of the book, which despite being sad, as you have completed the story, is a beautiful whirlwind, making you want to experience the story all over again.

Again, I know this story is targeted to younger audiences, but I will never stop returning to this book. When I need a fantastic journey and thrilling story, with a happy ending of course, to give me a break between all my dark, dystopia novels and psycho-thriller books, this is my go to.
