



The Glass of Lead and Gold

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In a land of elves, mermaids and trolls, true magic is where you least expect it...

In the snow-covered city of Londra, young Tabetha survives by finding treasures in the mudbanks of the river Themse. On Christmas Eve, a sinister stranger asks her to keep her eyes open for a priceless, long-lost magical object: the Glass of Lead and Gold.

As word of the Glass spreads across the city, Tabetha finds herself with some unlikely companions, not least a one-armed girl and a rather impressive soup chef. But will Tabetha discover that there are even greater fortunes to be found than the magical Glass?

The Glass of Lead and Gold Details

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Author : Cornelia Funke

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From Reader Review *The Glass of Lead and Gold* for online ebook

Tabi Card says

so there's a Cornelia Funke book where the main character is a version of my name and I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS???

Kirsty Stanley says

I'm not familiar with the Mirrorworld where this story is set (shakes head at neverending TBR) but that wasn't an issue, anything that needed explaining was, and in a way that worked within the story. In fact this short tale has definitely made me want to pick up more of Funke's work, now I just have to decide between *Reckless* and *Inkheart*.

Firstly let me just share my admiration for the presentation of this book. It is a small hardback with gold foiling that glistens and adds a magic to the glass on the front. The RRP is £9.99 for a 91 page story which includes intricate black and white illustrations by the author. This is a book that deserves to be shelved face out and one that will be bought out for bedtime reads, especially around Christmas when the tale is set.

Tabetha is an orphan who takes care of herself by mudlarking - collecting items in the banks of the river and selling them for money to live on. This is already a risky way of life so when she is tasked with finding a magical object she is thrown into more danger - both physically and ethically.

This story definitely had a fairy tale feel and reminded me of *The Little Match Girl* although, depending on which version of that you read, not as sad.

I enjoyed the disability representation and the variety of creatures encountered including the creepy looking Thumblings - think evil borrowers.

As all fairy tales are, this is a book exploring morals and human dilemmas - Tabetha has to decide between riches. Will she be lured by the promise of magic? The story is beautifully written and is one you will want to read over.

Thanks to Vicki and Pushkin for the copy to read for the purposes of this honest review

Christina Reid says

4.5 stars

So excited to have finally got my hands on a copy of this!

I love the Mirrorworld/ *Reckless* series and this book has only served to make me even more eager to read the next book in that series (Book 4 should be out next year I hope!)

This novella follows Tabitha, a 15-year-old girl who moved to Londra (Mirrorworld equivalent of London) with her mother. After her mother dies she is forced to fend for herself, trying out various things before finding a talent as a 'mudlark' one of several mud-encrusted young people who search for treasure in the mud

of the Themses. One day a treasure hunter approaches the mudlarks, asking them to search for the Cup of Lead and Gold, a magical object which lets anyone with painful memories transform their tears into gold. Yet, if Tabitha does manage to find a shard, it could be the most valuable thing she has ever owned and it could change her life...so who should she trust?

While you don't have to have read the Mirrorworld series before reading this, a familiarity with fairytales and folklore will help you enjoy this more as various creatures appear, such as trolls and hobs. This was a lovely, atmospheric story with lyrical language and my only complaint is that it was over too soon! A perfect read for a cold, snowy day and definitely a book that I will be hoping to find in my Christmas stocking!

Katrin says

Tabetha is a mudlark. One day she has an encounter with a strange man looking for a specific shard. A shard of the Glass of Lead and Gold. According to the legend this glass can only be found at Christmas. The existence of such a special magical object does not stay a secret and so there are many people who would like to own the glass. But first of all it has to be found.

The story of „A Glass of Lead and Gold“ is set in Londra, the mirrorworld equivalent to London. It is not made clear if the events of the story take place at the same time as the adventures of Jacob Reckless. But that's not relevant for the story itself. The events in „A Glass of Lead and Gold“ have nothing to do with the Reckless series. They only share the same narrated world. Otherwise the magic of the glass wouldn't work. Tabetha is a character one does not like easily. She is rough made so by the years she had to survive on her own. As she had to survive on her own for some time she became good in hiding her feelings. But deep within her heart she still longs for love and comfort. In addition to that the story also takes place at Christmas, a holiday that stresses the importance of love and charity. But in Londra those two aspects are quite rare. Only Ofelia, a pub owner, seems to care about Tabetha. Even if Londra is the London of the mirrorworld one can discover several similarities between both cities. Both cities have experienced a great fire, for example, and in both cities it started in a bakery.

To read a story by Cornelia Funke as an English original has been a whole new experience. But even if she writes in English she keeps her elegant and imaginative writing style although one could notice some differences to her „German“ writing style. She also stays true to her concept of creating a story on the basis of a fairytale. Londra at Christmas time reminds a little bit of „A Christmas Carol“, the magic of the glass has parts of „Mother Holle“. With that in mind it is fascinating to search for hints and parallels in the text while reading. Just like with the Reckless series the reader should have an affinity for fairytales and stories in order to enjoy „The Glass of Lead and Gold“. But one does not need to know the Reckless books to be able to understand the newest story of the mirrorworld as it can be read independently from the series.
