



# Princess without a Palace: A King Thrushbeard Fairy Tale

*Kristen Niedfeldt*

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**Once upon a time...**

Princess Liesel is adamant that the last thing she would ever want is to have to leave her splendid palace and marry a prince. But after she scorns one too many suitors, her father loses his temper with her spoiled ways and declares that she must marry the next man who dares to seek her hand! Unfortunately for her, the next man who proposes - albeit unintentionally - is only a humble, traveling minstrel.

Now, cast off and penniless, she finds herself at the mercy of her handsome betrothed who intends for her to become a proper peasant. But after a lifetime of being pampered, ordinary chores and tasks are not as easy as she expected, and she soon realizes she will need her prospective husband's help if she hopes to salvage anything of her future. Will the two strangers be able to find a way to work together and perhaps free themselves from their forced betrothal? Or might they find that "happily ever afters" sometimes happen in unexpected ways?...

**(A retelling of the timeless Grimm fairy tale *King Thrushbeard*. This book is a clean and proper romance.)**

## Princess without a Palace: A King Thrushbeard Fairy Tale Details

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# From Reader Review *Princess without a Palace: A King Thrushbeard* Fairy Tale for online ebook

## Dorn Carran says

### Lovely and entertaining

This was a well written story with a nice balance of humour and romance. The outcome was a little obvious and the book dragged on a bit towards the end. It should have ended at the ball as everything beyond that was unnecessary.

However I still enjoyed it and would highly recommend this book to historical fiction fans.

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## Emily says

I was familiar with the original fairytale this story was based off of going into it, so I kind of knew ahead of time where the story was going to go. That being the case, as I *was* familiar with the tale, I was hesitant to start the book right away. (I do like the fairytale it's based on, but the princess character can be kind of cringe-inducing and not likeable at first.) I was very pleasantly surprised with *Princess Without a Palace* when I was presented with a princess that was not a completely unsympathetic spoiled brat. Liesel wasn't perfect, and she did make mistakes that got her into trouble, but she was far from the original heartless heiress that you have to warm up to just to get behind her getting a happy ending. In fact, the personality of Maria, the sister of Roderick the minstrel, was closer to how the typical princess of *King Thrushbeard* is written. I definitely was rooting for Liesel to succeed.

I greatly enjoyed this retelling of *King Thrushbeard*. It had several little changes from the original/other retellings I have read that I really liked. I liked Liesel's relationship with her family. It added an extra bit of depth to the story that I've not come across in other retellings. I also liked Liesel's determination to learn and thrive in her new life. She didn't spend a lot of time feeling sorry for herself. Instead, she channeled her energy into making something of the life she was thrown into. I also liked the relationship between Roderick and Liesel. While it was a tad bit fast how quickly the romance progressed, it wasn't unbelievable or based off of superficial things. They come to care for each other because they see the others' goodness of heart and integrity, not just looks or titles.

*Princess Without a Palace* is not a heavy or deep read, but I found myself staying up all night reading because I got so enthralled in the story. If you enjoy fairytale retellings and gentle romances, I highly recommend this book. It's clean, sweet, and has a satisfying conclusion.

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## Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

3.5 stars. Kindle freebie for readers who like MG/YA fairy tale retellings. This is a cute retelling of *King Thrushbeard* (note: if you're not already familiar with it, reading this folktale will be a spoiler).

Liesl is a lovely princess with a stubborn streak and a bit of a temper, and she's decided not to marry anyone,

especially a prince, because of Reasons. To chase away her suitors, she resorts to dressing in peasant clothing at formal dinners and dishing out insults, even though deep down she's aware she's probably making a mistake being so snotty. After her latest escapade insulting the kingdom's royal neighbors--the handsome Prince Cornelius, as well as the king of Brenhausen and his sons and entourage, all of the latter with 6 inch long beards, who Liesl privately nicknames the Thrushbeards)--her exasperated father, the king, tells her she'll be forced to marry the next man who asks for her hand in marriage.

That man happens to be a young minstrel, who sings a romantic song to the court a few days later containing the words "Will you marry me?" Score!! Daddy packs her off with the hapless minstrel to go to Brenhausen, where the minstrel, Roderick, lives. Roderick drops her off to live with his sister Maria in a hut (who promptly takes a strong dislike to Liesl), and puts her to work to help earn their living, saying that they'll marry when a clay jar is filled with money. But every chore and job they try creates issues for a princess who's never worked in her life. And even when Liesl begins to become attracted to Roderick, how can a princess marry a poor commoner?

This is a fairly enjoyable retelling of the folk tale, with more emphasis on the romance and a few twists to the original story that make it a little easier for readers with modern sensibilities to swallow. Liesl's initially bratty attitude irritated me a little, though I can see that it's a necessary part of the story.

The story is told in a straightforward manner with fairly simple language, at the middle grade to young adult level. It's a self-published work, but I didn't catch too many punctuation or grammar errors. Recommended for those who like very sweet and light romantic fairy tale retellings. This would be a good one to give to a young teen girl.

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### **Amy says**

This story gets me to smile while thinking about it. I really enjoyed reading this!

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### **Diane says**

Quick cute read that concludes all neat and tidy. I'm giving it a 3 because I flew through it and liked the characters. But it was a bit predictable and didn't captivate me. I found myself continuing to read in order to finish it, not necessarily to discover how it ends. Kudos to the author for creating a sweet and clean romance as well as a clever climax and aggravating antagonist.

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### **Summer Turner says**

A great retelling of a fairy tale! Very well written. The characters are interesting and well rounded. The story is entertaining and flows nicely, you don't want to put the book down. Perfect for readers age 10 and up.

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## **Gregandemy says**

Not going to win awards or change your life, but very enjoyable as a cute, clean read. I want to pass it on to my 11 yr old daughter now as I think she would love it. An enjoyable story for fairy tale fans of any age.

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## **Rose Kinsey says**

### **Not your typical princess story!**

I was so excited to read this! After reading a ton of the same stories (Beauty and the Beast, Sleeping Beauty, etc.) it was awesome to find a new story.

It was a light read. There's not a ton of depth, but it has a lot of heart.

The protagonist undergoes some great character development and she was very relatable. I loved the surprise twist at 75%!

No sexual content, recommended for all ages! I think parents would enjoy reading this to their children.

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## **Teya Peck says**

Honestly I loved it! It was charming with a great twist. I loved that she has to be a pauper and work to find herself. However, hearing her reasoning i actually liked her more. In fact I loved all the characters except the mintrals sister.

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## **Marie says**

I loved every minute of this book.

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## **Hollie says**

This was my first time to read this writer's work but it certainly won't be my last. This was a really sweet and charming fairytale retelling. It was a clean romance to easily be enjoyed by various readers of all.ages. I liked it quite a bit.

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## **Sarah S says**

Amazing!!!!!!

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**Lisa says****Such a fun read!**

This was a quick read, which means I read it in a day because I couldn't put it down! It is a fun romance, with a little mystery. Added bonus, it is a good clean read! I know my girls will love this book too!

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**Sabina says**

A clean, engaging story of overcoming a great trial brought about by the protagonist's actions. A wonderful story of redemption.

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**Allison Tebo says**

One of the best and sweetest fairy tale retelling that I have ever read. This is a really tough story to pull off but the author did a wonderful job, making the characters much more likeable then they were in the original tale. So cute!

Content: Some kissing but not excessive description.

Spoilers: It almost felt like there should have been a sequel to bring closure to Maria. I also would have preferred that Roderick hadn't been royal, or that his family disowned him that way he and Leslie could go back to their cottage. :) <3

So happy to have a paperback copy to read this time - highly recommended!

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