



The Luthier's Apprentice

Mayra Calvani

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Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840), one of the greatest violinists who ever lived and rumored to have made a pact with the devil, has somehow transferred unique powers to another...

When violinists around the world mysteriously vanish, 16-year-old Emma Braun takes notice. But when her beloved violin teacher disappears... Emma takes charge. With Sherlock Holmes fanatic, not to mention gorgeous Corey Fletcher, Emma discovers a parallel world ruled by an ex-violinist turned evil sorceress who wants to rule the music world on her own terms.

But why are only men violinists captured and not women? What is the connection between Emma's family, the sorceress, and the infamous Niccolò Paganini?

Emma must unravel the mystery in order to save her teacher from the fatal destiny that awaits him. And undo the curse that torments her family—before evil wins and she becomes the next luthier's apprentice...

The Luthier's Apprentice Details

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Author : Mayra Calvani

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Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Supernatural, Mystery, Fiction, Adventure, Music, Romance, Paranormal Romance

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From Reader Review The Luthier's Apprentice for online ebook

Victoria says

I know there are some mixed reviews on this book but I actually really enjoyed it. I think the imagination needed to write this book was pretty awesome and I'm glad I took the time to read it. If you want an interesting, fast-paced, highly entertaining paranormal book this is the book for you!

Julie says

The Luthier's Apprentice by Mayra Calvani is a 2014 Twilight Times Books publication. I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This YA novel is one of the most original and inventive premises I have come across in a good long while. For those who, like myself, are not all that educated on the world on violins, a Luthier is someone that makes the instrument by hand. This is what Emma's grandfather does and Emma is his apprentice. There are often times when Emma wonders why her grandfather seems to behave as though she weren't working with him.

Of course Emma also takes violin lessons and when her teacher disappears, one of several virtuoso violinist that have recently vanishes, Emma is stricken. When her mother leave to care for her Aunt who has been ill, Emma is determined to discover what has happened to her mentor, so she and her best friend decide to investigate. Right away Emma finds out she is not the only one who has decided to find out what happened. Emma literally runs into Corey, a young man that is well versed on Sherlock Holmes. This charming trait bonds the couple together because Emma is also a huge fan of Sherlock Holmes.

As they begin to compare notes, a long running mystery in Emma's grandfather's home gets solved by accident. It would appear the creepy attic that Emma can never seem to gain access to is a portal and she and Corey fall through it. What they discover is horrifying.

You never know what you will learn when you read a book and for me I learned a little about violins and famous violinist. First of all Niccolo Paganini was considered to be the greatest violinist of all time. He practiced fifteen hours a day and yes, there were rumors that he sold his soul to devil and those rumors were never really refuted. (A quick internet search will give you a more plausible explanation for his incredible talent)

So, the story has some basis in fact, but this is pure fantasy. I enjoyed this novel and thought the author did a great job with plotting and pacing, and character development. There is a door that is left open just a little bit that suggest the story is not as finished as the characters believe it is, so we could see a sequel to his book, which would be fine with me.

There is only a smattering of language, pretty mild stuff, but there are dark themes and adult situations, though there is no SC. I would put this in the mature YA range for those who might need that information. Otherwise I think anyone who enjoys a good story with paranormal elements would enjoy this one. This one is five stars.

Kathy Davie says

I think Calvani has more work to do on this, and as she contacted me with a request to review her book, I'll be sending the review to her and not posting it.

Dianne says

With a touch of magical fantasy, both of the musical and mysterious kind, Mayra Calvani's **The Luthier's Apprentice** is the perfect invitation for younger readers, heck ALL readers to enjoy the intrigue of another realm, the legend of Master violinist, Niccolo Paganini, and the adventures of three teens, one who may be destined to carry on the cursed magic of creating violins with soul, literally.

Emma is a gifted violinist, destined for a rewarding life in the world of music. She is also apprenticing with her dour grandfather to be a master luthier or violin maker, but when violinists are disappearing and her teacher is among the missing, Emma can't help but be intrigued. Something is going on and she is determined to find out what. With the help of two friends, she discovers a world of evil magic ruled by a twisted entity who steals the souls of the masters in order to imbue their gifts into the wood needed to create the "soulful" sounds of the world's finest violins. Is this to become her world or can she rescue the tortured souls of the greats?

Mayra Calvani manages to create a dark scenario that follows a twisted, yet exciting path while keeping her tale youthful and magnetic! Her characters are endearing, adventuresome and often brilliant as they willingly forego what is known to embrace the possibilities of the unknown and seemingly impossible! Careful planned this journey is well-paced, the dialogue is real, and each character plays their part to perfection! With a light touch on teen romance, as well as a little history and legendary greats, I was caught in the spell of her writing and the "what ifs" she gives us! Ms. Calvani has built a fascinating world to journey to, and believe in! I highly recommend this as the perfect way to enjoy the magic of reading!

I received this copy as part of the The Luthier's Apprentice Tour & Giveaway stopping at Tome Tender May 15, 2014.

Publication Date: May 10, 2014

Publisher: Twilight Times Books

Genre: Middlegrade/Teen Fantasy Mystery

Print Length: 190 pages

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

Sue says

I received a free copy of this book in return for an honest review.

The Luthier's Apprentice is a unique, paranormal story. It is wonderfully written and keeps you turning the

pages. It is fast paced and keeps you engaged with its gripping storyline and intriguing mystery.

The main protagonist is Emma, a young girl who is a highly talented violinist and destined to go a long way in her musical career. Emma is also an apprentice to her grandfather who is a luthier – a maker of violins. When her mother has to visit a seriously ill relative, Emma has to stay with her grandfather, who is quite grumpy and makes sure she understands not to go into the locked room upstairs. Ever.

Of course, Emma is curious about why she's not allowed in that particular room, and together with the recent news of a number of missing violinists, including Emma's own beloved music teacher, a clever and captivating mystery begins.

This fascinating story is full of wonderful characters who are all very likeable - Emma, her mother, her grandfather, her mysterious aunt, and her friends. The writing style is easy to read and the dialogue is really well written and makes the characters all that more believable.

A lot of supernatural elements are packed into this story – dark magic, a sorceress, zombies, psychic powers, an eerie haunted forest, portals, a curse – every paranormal lovers dream come true! Add to that a light sweet romance, the curious mystery of the missing violinists, and the involvement of the infamous musician Paganini, and you have a brilliantly executed paranormal mystery that will appeal to everyone, young and old.

The Luthier's Apprentice was a fantastic read and I highly recommend it. Younger readers would especially enjoy this story and it's the perfect book to read at Halloween (because the story takes place around this time)! This book is perfect for those who love paranormal stories, detective stories, mysteries, and for fans of Sherlock Holmes.

Sarah says

Mayra Calvani's "The Luthier's Apprentice" is an imaginative short novel composed of elements diverse enough to appeal to a variety of readers. As the story opens, sixteen-year-old Emma Braun discovers that her beloved violin teacher, Monsieur Dupriez, has disappeared, as have several other violinists around the world. Determined to emulate her favorite literary hero, Sherlock Holmes, she sets about investigating, forming new alliances and uncovering centuries-old secrets about her family's luthier craft and her aloof grandfather, to whom she is apprenticed. Suddenly the strange feelings she has been experiencing and the puzzles associated with her heritage begin to become startlingly clear, thrusting Emma into a bizarre realm in which all that she loves becomes endangered.

A mixture of paranormal fantasy and science fiction with a light romantic element, "The Luthier's Apprentice" provides enough excitement and mystique to engage readers without being overtly frightening, and fans of Sherlock Holmes will appreciate the myriad quotations that Calvani employs. Given the characters and simple yet descriptive writing, the target audience is young adult, although older readers will enjoy this story as well. A slight caveat: there are a few instances of mild profanity during some of the more tense scenes, and Italian phrases and terms are scattered throughout the story, although with either an immediate translation or sufficient context clues to figure out the meaning. Short chapters keep the action moving at a steady pace so that there are no lulls, and the story does come to a logical conclusion, although Calvani cunningly leaves the door (or should I say portal?) open for a sequel.

Annelise Lestrangle says

Review originally posted on The Book Adventures of Annelise Lestrangle :)

I received this copy from **Lola's Blog Tours** in exchange for an honest review. Let's go :D

The Story

Goodreads' Blurb

Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840), one of the greatest violinists who ever lived and rumored to have made a pact with the devil, has somehow transferred unique powers to another...

When violinists around the world mysteriously vanish, 16-year-old Emma Braun takes notice. But when her beloved violin teacher disappears... Emma takes charge. With Sherlock Holmes fanatic, not to mention gorgeous Corey Fletcher, Emma discovers a parallel world ruled by an ex-violinist turned evil sorceress who wants to rule the music world on her own terms.

But why are only men violinists captured and not women? What is the connection between Emma's family, the sorceress, and the infamous Niccolò Paganini?

Emma must unravel the mystery in order to save her teacher from the fatal destiny that awaits him. And undo the curse that torments her family—before evil wins and she becomes the next luthier's apprentice...

The Analysis

Just remembering that those were my impressions and opinion as a reader :)

This book was so promising and seemed so different that I couldn't wait to start reading. Sadly, I was left with only promises. The Luthier's Apprentice wasn't able to hold my attention and was too obvious in every small detail. I didn't care for the characters, the plot and not even the wonders of the violin making present in the story were able to keep me focused. Also, I couldn't handle well the instalove and overpower presents on the book. However, as the characters didn't annoy me and the pieces about the art of making a violin were indeed interesting when I could pay attention, I decided it is a three stars book :)

The narrative style was third person with switching points of view between the characters. As much as this is my favorite type, in The Luthier's Apprentice's case, I think less points of view would have helped to keep the mystery unsolved for a longer time in the reader's mind. When I reached 40% of the book (according to my Kindle App), I already got the whole story figured out in the minimal details. It was so boring! Especially considering that the theme of the book was so nice and different. Calvani's writing style wasn't my cup of tea either. I felt the story wouldn't flow, that she was too concern with every small detail and forgot to move on with the plot. Besides, at many times I felt the writing to be a little rough or mechanic :(

The plot was meant to be complex, but it was executed in a way that everything got too simple – especially if you, like me, are a veteran in both YA and Mystery. I'm glad to announce that you won't find many clichés

at this book, but I confess that the one I clearly identify bothered me: instalove.

I simply don't understand why girls and boys rarely can pull off a friendship in books without it falling into romance. It's so highly unfair! =O On The Luthier's Apprentice, as it is the start of a series, there was lots of room for friendship turned into something more with, guess what? TIME!

Anyway, characters. Despite the good background and development, I couldn't bring myself to care for anyone. Not the not-so-plain protagonist Emma, not for the quick-and-funny Annika, not for the oh-so-handsome Corey. And when you don't care about what's happening with the characters... Well, that is such a bad sign! It explains why it took me four whole days to finish a less than 200 pages book. Well, it happens. I simply wasn't the right YA audience that this book intended to charm, haha!

Nevertheless, I must insist that I loved that the book was set in Brussels and the learning experience about violins and musicians was worthwhile.

Overall, if you like traditional YA books – read this in any way you'd like to – with a handsome Sherlock Holmes' fan, a cozy mystery to keep your mind busy and a fantasy world hidden on an attic, you probably should give The Luthier's Apprentice a go :)

Thanks so much for reading my review! Also, thanks once again to **Lola's Blog Tours** for my copy, it was an overall interesting experience :)

Vonnie says

I have read Mayra Calvani's children's books and have quite enjoyed them. When I learned that she wrote a YA book, I could not wait to read it. The Luthier's Apprentice was a very unique story with a mixture of fantasy and mystery. I was very entertained with this book.

As I mentioned before, the story was very unique. I would not think that a plot concentrating on violins would be exciting. I found myself fascinated to see how Calvani was able to weave a mystery tale of violinists disappearing with a twist of fantasy elements. It was told in an easy, simplistic manner that made it quick to read yet it was filled with very rich details. The descriptions on the curse of the Luthier's family, the reason behind the disappearances, and the world with the trees were captivating. I was eager to learn more about the secrets behind everything and I couldn't wait to find out how the problem would be resolved.

Also, the characters were fun. The protagonist, Emma, was a sixteen-year-old who was smart, brave, and talented. It was interesting to read how she was an apprentice to her grandfather in making violins. Though she was more "sophisticated" than other teenagers, Emma still acted like your everyday teen. This was great because it made her character believable. Unfortunately for me, I don't relate to teenagers as much anymore, so this aspect made me not care as much as I should have about Emma's insecurities when it came to boys. Next, we had the antagonist, who's identity was a little obvious in the beginning. However, I found myself liking her character the most. The reasons behind why she did what she did was something refreshing. I loved how there was a feminist aspect to her, even though she was evil.

Another element that made this book enjoyable was how it alluded to Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock Holmes was the inspiration for Emma's investigation on the disappearance of her violin teacher. Quotes from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works were sprinkled all over the book. It was nice to come across something familiar

while reading this book.

As a whole, this was a wonderful book with a different kind of topic. Other than me not relating to teenagers as much, I highly recommend this book. It is fast, it is clean, and it's simply a great story!

Doris says

I was given a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

What do you do when your music instructor goes missing? You go al Sherlock on everyone and go out and see for yourself what is going on! Well.... at least that's what Emma does in this book!

She finds out that there is a world she never knew or could imagined existed!

She makes her mistakes but she keeps on going!!

Keep on the look out, I have a feeling that there could be more to this one!!

Loved it! It's different and engaging!

~Dowie

Aur lie (Exploring Pages) says

More reviews on my blog, Exploring Pages.

"They spent the next hour talking "violin talk"-harmonies, favorite composers and violinists, trills, pizzicato, vibrato and other techniques. Time just flew by. He was just as passionate as she was and she couldn't wait to see him playing Brahms in a tuxedo."

- Mayra Calvani, *The Luthier's Apprentice*

Thank you Mark My Words Publicity and Netgalley for providing me with a copy of this book!

The Luthier's Apprentice surprised me in more ways than I imagined. If this book has been bad then I would have been able to say that I was fooled by the beautiful cover. This novel, however, has plot twists at every corner and is above all, filled with mystery. It's unlike any other book in the young-adult genre I've ever read, and definitely deserves the four stars I didn't think I would have given.

A book of which its main storyline is centered around music and violins usually gives the impression that it's not made for everyone. I can agree on certain terms. You will always have these people who are not into classical music or don't want to read about it. I would have considered myself to be a part of that group, if not for this book. There are still many names and musical definitions in here that I have never heard about. I really am not the biggest fan of classical music and its history, nor do I know much about it. Still I enjoyed this part of the story very much. It's different in a good way, and it's obvious that the author combined her real-life passion with writing. I can honestly say that I learned so many new things while reading, and yet I never felt like I was reading a textbook.

The actual plot itself has, as it's obvious by now, a lot of musical elements to it, but also lots of mystery. From the start of the book when I thought this was going to be a slow read, the story started progressing and it built up lots of mystery. There's a continuous flow of questions and answers, and still I found myself to be

desperate near the end of the book. I was trying my very best to retrieve the last pieces of the puzzle just because I was so intrigued. My guesses were therefore sometimes very close, yet in the end I never got it right. There are just a lot of plot twists involved that kept the story going. On a side note, I also loved how the author combined facts and historical figures with a paranormal storyline. There are so many options to continue with if that's the case, and it's clear that Calvani used it well.

It doesn't happen very often when I read a book where almost all the characters are lovable. Ranging from protagonists to side kicks to minor characters, they all had a personality of their own. They all had their flaws and they all came across realistically. Some maybe more developed than others, but I didn't pay that much attention to it as I was already gripped by the story. If it wasn't for the characters themselves, I often found myself being very interested in certain characters's backstories. Corey's background with his dad and other ancestors is a great example of that, especially it eventually all comes together in the end.

The only downfall this book had for me was the villain that shouldn't be named because of possible spoilers. This villain had my eyes rolling way too many times to come across as believable. To be honest, I'm not very picky when it comes to villains in books. There only has to be considered with the fact that villains themselves should have this vibe of evilness and cruelty. With this one, however, I had to constantly wrap my head around the fact that people were actually scared of her. In my mind, she looked like a spoiled princess who's so-called revenge has gone to her head. It just would have been great if she wasn't like any other villain in young-adult books with those typical evil lines and luxurious attire.

To write about something lighter again, I found the romance between Emma and Corey to be sweet and enjoyable. They began to know each other through a friendship, like normal teens would do. The normal friendship soon turned into flirting, so I knew this had to turn into romance eventually. That transition is done well because it was built up slowly and believable. You have your typical teen romance but because of the involvement of the plot, it still felt like something different. The Sherlock Holmes quoting between the two of them felt a little bit over the top in the beginning. There was already so much going on and I didn't need another teen obsession which didn't feel right. It also had to be that the two had to have that also in common. Yet it soon grew on me when I realised I have the same thing, but with many other books I've read.

In other words, *The Luthier's Apprentice* is a beautiful combination of music, mystery and paranormal. It's not something you find a lot, and because of that you should read it if you're intrigued after reading the synopsis. With characters you surprisingly get to love, a plot that keeps you on the edge of your seat and an eyeroll worthy cliché here and there, *The Luthier's Apprentice* is an excellent read.

Ashten says

Book Review - The Luthier's Apprentice The Luthier's Apprentice
Published: May 10, 2014

Print Length: 190 pages
Publisher: Twilight Times Books

Book Description

Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840), one of the greatest violinists who ever lived and rumored to have made a pact

with the devil, has somehow transferred unique powers to another... When violinists around the world mysteriously vanish, 16-year-old Emma Braun takes notice. But when her beloved violin teacher disappears... Emma takes charge. With Sherlock Holmes fanatic, not to mention gorgeous Corey Fletcher, Emma discovers a parallel world ruled by an ex-violinist turned evil sorceress who wants to rule the music world on her own terms. But why are only men violinists captured and not women? What is the connection between Emma's family, the sorceress, and the infamous Niccolò Paganini? Emma must unravel the mystery in order to save her teacher from the fatal destiny that awaits him. And undo the curse that torments her family—before evil wins and she becomes the next luthier's apprentice...

Review

How would I classify this book? Well I would have to say it is a mystery, paranormal, fantasy book. I have never read a book like this. Mayra Calvani breathes new life into the YA genre of books. I really like the fact that this book did not focus on romance. There is a little flirtation going on but that is all it is.

Our main character Emma is a budding violinist who also happens to be really good at making violins. At the beginning of the book Emma's mom says she is going away to see her dying sister and Emma will be living with her grandfather until she comes back. Emma does not like this because she feels that her grandfather does not want her there. On top of that her violin teacher goes missing in a weird way. He is the fourth male violinist to go missing in a matter of months.

So her and her best friend Annakia start to investigate what is going on and find some unusual things. Along the way they meet Corey. Who had the same violin teacher as Emma. So the three of them investigate together.

Another thing I like is how this book is not set in America it is set in Brussels. The characters are very relatable. It is just a fun story and I can't wait to see what happens in the next book.

I want to give a special thank to T. Michelle Nelson who contacted me and told me about this. Thank you to the author who wrote this book. And finally to Royal Street Publicity who is doing the blog tour.

Disclaimer this book was sent to me for review but all opinions about the book are my own.

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Cameron says

Originally posted on the blog: What the Cat Read

I'll be honest and admit that as I write this review, I'm struggling to describe my thoughts on this title. It was a quick, interesting read, and while I liked it, it didn't wow me as much as I had hoped it would. To be honest, this was a "meh" read for me. It wasn't fantastic, nor was it terrible, it was just "meh." As such, for the sake of this review, I'm going to use a different format to share my thoughts with you about this novel.

=^.^=

The Characters:

The one character that I greatly enjoyed reading was Cory, mostly because he quotes Sherlock Holmes a lot, and as a big fan of all things Sherlock, this appealed to my sense of fun. It also made me want to reread all of the stories mentioned in this book. Beyond this enjoyment though, I found the majority of the characters to be rather basic and lacking growth and depth as the story progressed. This isn't to say that Emma or any of the other characters were unlikeable, they just didn't stand out for me all that much. I liked Emma's natural curiosity and investigative nature, found Niccolo to be rather mysterious, and was rather intrigued by Sonia. Unfortunately, none of these characters are complex and as a result, I found that I didn't really care what happened to them in the end.

The Plot:

Intriguing concept and one that shows a lot of potential. There was just enough mystery in this story to keep me reading. I enjoyed learning about what a luthier was and how they related to violins, thought the history on Paganini was interesting (though I have to wonder how much of it is true), and thought Calvani's take on the concept of selling one's soul to the Devil rather unique. In particular, I found the sacrifice necessary to maintain the deal to be fascinating. Obviously for the sake of spoilers I won't go into detail about what is required to fulfill the bargain, but I must say that it is rather surprising.

On the whole though, there wasn't a lot of complexity to the story itself, and I could have done without the rehashing of important key points at the end between Cory and Emma.

The Setting:

I think this is the first story I've ever read that was initially set in Brussels and as such, I wish that I could have seen more of the city and learned about its history in this story. Likewise, I would have enjoyed learning more about the parallel universe that Emma and Cory discover. I do have to give purrs to Calvani for using my favorite color, purple, as the main signature for not only the sky in this parallel universe, but also the antagonists wardrobe. Add to the fact that the castle is designed to look like a violin, and I have to give further purrs for originality.

General Impression:

It's a great start and one that has a lot of potential. I just can't help but feel that Calvani needs to delve deeper into this story and her characters. Your mileage is going to vary with this one.

Johnnie-Marie Howard says

So far what I have read has really caught my attention, I really like what the story is about! The plot line is very interesting and fun. At first I didn't think I would like the story all that well, but as I'm reading it more and more I'm finding out that I really do like the story. The different POV is another great thing about this story it's actually really helpful as I'm getting almost 2 different stories in 1 but leading into the same thing.

***I received this story for free in exchange for an honest review, see more of my review @ <http://jmhoward2007.blogspot.com> ***

Shannan Williams says

This book was a delight to read for me. I didn't know anything about violins (just that I love their sound) so it was really interesting to read a story based on them. The three main characters are Emma, Annika and Corey and it was great reading about their adventure of trying to save everyone's lives, including their own. This book is full of fantasy and mystery and was a great read. I give this 5 stars and highly recommend it to lovers of this genre. I hope to read more by this author in the future.

Petula says

I received an A.R.C. of this but that does not colour my review in any way.

Emma is sixteen and studying hard to be a violinist. She is also learning how to make them from her grandfather, a master luthier. Something strange is happening. Several world class violinists have gone missing. The latest is Emma's tutor.

Cory is also a student of the same tutor. When Emma decides to investigate she bumps into Cory. He is a big Sherlock Holmes fan, and they team up to investigate together.

This is a lovely mystery and spooky adventure story for Y.A. or teens. There is magic and a little innocent romance. Good strong characters that make this a very enjoyable read. I will recommend this to my young friends.
