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The Golden Braid



Synopsis

From *The New York Times* bestselling author comes *The Golden Braid*! The one who needs rescuing isn't always the one in the tower. Rapunzel can throw a knife better than any man. She paints beautiful flowering vines on the walls of her plaster houses. She sings so sweetly she can coax even a beast to sleep. But there are two things she is afraid her mother might never allow her to do: learn to read and marry. Fiercely devoted to Rapunzel, her mother is suspicious of every man who so much as looks at her daughter and warns her that no man can be trusted. After a young village farmer asks for Rapunzel's hand in marriage, Mother decides to move them once again—this time, to the large city of Hagenheim. The journey proves treacherous, and after being rescued by a knight—Sir Gerek—Rapunzel in turn rescues him farther down the road. As a result, Sir Gerek agrees to repay his debt to Rapunzel by teaching her to read. Could there be more to this knight than his arrogance and desire to marry for riches and position? As Rapunzel acclimates to life in a new city, she uncovers a mystery that will forever change her life. In this Rapunzel story unlike any other, a world of secrets and treachery is about to be revealed after seventeen years of lies. How will Rapunzel finally take control of her own destiny? And who will prove faithful to a lowly peasant girl with no one to turn to?

The Golden Braid is a delightful, page-turning retelling of the story of Rapunzel. Dickerson brings this familiar fairy tale to life with a fresh and unique plot that is full of complex characters, a sweet romance, and danger at every turn. Rapunzel's search to understand her place in the medieval world is a timeless identity struggle that modern readers will relate to. Her growing courage and faith are inspirational and will have readers cheering her on and sad to see the story come to an end.

—Jody Hedlund, bestselling author of *An Uncertain Choice*

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Customer Reviews

This is the first book by Melanie Dickerson that I have ever read. I LOVED IT! I will definitely be reading her other books! It is a huge plus for me that I still have my "little girl" love of a good fairy tale princess story. It seems to be a stand-alone story even though it is the second book in a series. If characters in this book were in the first one there is enough information about them that I never felt confused as to who each person was. The characters are so wonderfully presented that I was able to connect with them and really understand them. I loved both Rapunzel and Sir Gerek. There are a number of secondary characters that I also felt a connection with. At the same time it was very easy to absolutely hate Mother Gothel and a couple of the other characters, they just oozed with evil intentions. There was no guessing as to who the "bad guys" were in this story. The story development was fantastic. It was definitely a new story for this popular fairy tale character. There were just enough elements that were kept the same so that there was no doubt as to which fairy tale it was taken from. I really enjoyed how much dependence the main characters had on God. I found it to be very refreshing and encouraging. I received a free eBook copy of this novel through NetGalley. I chose to write this review expressing my personal opinion.

As always, Melanie Dickerson delivers on sweet and clean fairytale romance. Set in the fictional town of Hagenheim Germany in 1413, Rapunzel and her Mother have just moved into town. Rapunzel's mother is...off, to put it mildly. She has it in for men and every time one shows an interest in her daughter, she forces them to move again, which becomes more difficult the older she gets. Rapunzel loves her mother, but it is becoming clear that she needs to step back and make her own life. When she helps an injured knight on the road, she might get her chance, as well as making her

greatest dream come a reality. I learned to read. The characters in Golden Braid were...okay, I guess. Rapunzel was tough, but sweet as well. However I thought she spent way too much time vacillating back and forth over her decisions, it became slightly tedious to read at times. I could understand her care of her mother and fear of leaving her, but way that woman acted, I couldn't believe she took so long to come to that decision. Gerek I never got particularly attached too. The romance might have been sweet, but it felt a bit flat this time. It just wasn't quite up to par with her earlier works. The story was very sweet, though slow, and when the action finally came in, it was slightly difficult to follow. I highly recommend that you read Dickerson's earlier novel - The Princess Spy - before diving into this one. It will explain a lot, and if you haven't, you might have trouble keeping up with what is happening. Things were challenging enough for me and I did read Princess Spy first! Safety Rating: please note that it has been a while since I read this book and though I hope I have everything listed below, it is possible some details have been forgotten. Romance: Clean. A villain did attempt to attack a girl, but nothing came of it. Drinking/drugs: none I recall. Language: clean. Violence: mild fighting, a few injuries/broken bones, and the aforementioned attack.

So I loved this book! Read it in one day! I adore Melanie Dickerson's medieval fairytale retellings, and should seriously think about collecting them all! ^_^ Anyway, The Golden Braid did not disappoint in any way. Another five-star rating for Melanie's sweet romances! This one is a retelling of Rapunzel, one of my favorite fairytales. Rapunzel is a nineteen-year-old young woman living with her rather reclusive stepmother. Though innocent and a bit naive, she's skilled at knife-throwing and other odd hobbies; but nevertheless, her mother warns her again and again not to trust people; especially not men. And she must not show anyone her long, golden-blond hair. It's simply indecent. Devoted to the woman she calls 'mother' - who found her, abandoned, when she was just a baby - Rapunzel strives to please her, and turns away many a suitor. But then, on yet another journey to a new home, they meet a brave young knight, Sir Gerek. He, along with many secrets, are about to change Rapunzel's life forever. *Squeal* I just loved it! Fairytale retelling, adorable romance, wonderful heroine, heartfelt faith themes, exciting action ... eep!

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