

Godmother: The Secret Cinderella Story

By Carolyn Turgeon

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A new take on *Cinderella*, told from the perspective of the fairy godmother living in modern-day Manhattan

Lil is an old woman who spends her days shelving rare books in a tiny Manhattan bookstore and lonely nights at home in her apartment. But Lil has an intriguing secret. Tucked and bound behind her back are white feathery wings--the only key to who she once was: the fairy godmother responsible for getting Cinderella to the ball to unite with her Prince Charming.

But on that fateful night, something went terribly and beautifully wrong. Lil allowed herself the unthinkable: to feel the emotions of human beings and fall in love with the prince herself, going to the ball in place of Cinderella in her exquisitely gorgeous human guise. For her unforgivable mistake, she was banished to live among humans, far from her fairy sisters and their magical underwater world. But then one day she meets Veronica--a young, fair-skinned, flame-haired East Village beauty with a love of all things vintage and a penchant for falling in love with the wrong men--and suddenly it becomes clear to Lil that she's been given a chance at redemption. If she can find a soul mate for Veronica, she may be able to right her wrong and return to the fairy world she so deeply longs for.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
This retelling of *Cinderella* follows the oft ignored character of the fairy godmother, who may or may not be a mentally ill New Yorker. Lil, as this godmother is known, is now living in New York City, broke and employed at a bookstore, years after being exiled from the kingdom of fairies for betraying her charge. Condemned to live as an old woman, her wings bound to her back as penance, Lil is overcome by longing for what she has lost, slipping in her recollections of her idyllic past into the harsh present. When she meets Veronica, a young woman perpetually dogged with man problems, Lil sees an opportunity to redeem herself. But as the narrative progresses, cracks in Lil's story (and psyche) emerge. Needless to say, readers expecting magical carriages and glass slippers will be surprised by the novel's morose tone, and though the surprise conclusion doesn't quite work, Turgeon's takes on nostalgia and regret are surprisingly clear-eyed given her narrator's unbalance. *(Mar.)*
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From Booklist
In a decidedly different take on Cinderella, Turgeon limns the travails of Lil, the fairy godmother chosen to ensure that, because she is fated to marry the prince, Cinderella gets to the ball. Lil, however, lets herself feel human emotions, falls in love with the prince, and goes to the ball in Cinderella’s place. The fairy elders banish her to the human world, where she lives, wings furled and bound behind her back, as an old woman working in a tiny Manhattan rare-book store. This take on the tale unfolds in alternating first-person accounts, one of Lil in the past, the other of Lil in the present, yearning to rejoin her sister and friends in the fairy world and finding a way to redeem herself when she meets Veronica, a vibrant young woman, and realizes that by finding a soul mate for Veronica, she could make up for that night so long ago. Lil is complex and appealing, and vivid imagery and lyrical writing give shape to a charmer with a very satisfying, enigmatic ending. --Sally Estes

Review
“A terrific book, sweet, touching and great fun. I loved it.”
—Joanne Harris

“*Godmother* is earthy, lyrical, sensual and deeply, intelligently romantic. Carolyn Turgeon has a gift for mingling the magical and the mundane. Her earthy, sensual and richly imagined take on the fair folk should appeal to fans of Holly Black.”
—Alisa Kwitney/Sheckley, author of *Flirting in Cars* and *The Better to Hold You*

“*Godmother* is a transcendent little gem of a book.”
—Novelist Cherie Priest for *Subterranean Magazine*

"Turgeon's work is haunting and hypnotic, blending the line of reality and magic into a gorgeous flowing narrative. Set against a modern day backdrop, this tale reexamines an all-too familiar story and breathes new life into it."
—Anton Strout, author of *Dead to Me*

“With a fairy's touch, Carolyn Turgeon expands the familiar Cinderella story into something deeper, richer and darker than we've ever been allowed. A stunning reminder that enchantment -- both its pleasures and dangers -- is as human as we are.”

—Daphne Gottlieb, author of *Kissing Dead Girls*

"*Godmother* is a true exploration of the dark vitality of city life and the hidden horrors of the fantastic."
—Nick Mamatas, author of *Under My Roof*

“Turgeon must have a magic wand for a pen–these haunting, dazzling pages turn themselves.”
—Jennifer Belle, author of *High Maintenance and Little Stalker*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Archie Moriarty:

Do you one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Godmother: The Secret Cinderella Story book is readable by you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer involving Godmother: The Secret Cinderella Story content conveys thinking easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different as it. So , do you continue to thinking Godmother: The Secret Cinderella Story is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Daniel Smith:

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Ann Gonzalez:

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