Once Upon a Marigold by Jean Ferris

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Edric the forest troll’s life changes forever when he finds and adopts Christian, a little boy wandering in the woods. When Christian grows older, he uses his creative inventions to get to know Princess Marigold, who lives in the castle across the river. The two become fast friends, and a lovestruck Christian begins working in the palace to get closer to Marigold. One day he overhears the queen's diabolical plot to take over the entire kingdom. Christian, Marigold, Edric, Marigold's family, and an ankle-biting collection of dogs will all need to work together to restore peace to the kingdom and make sure everyone gets their own happily-ever-after.

Once Upon a Marigold is charming. The dialogue is delightfully silly, and the characters will surely win readers’ hearts. The romance between Christian and Marigold is heartfelt and sincere, while still funny. The characters are easy to relate to, and the plot trips along cheerfully from one point to another, making the book hard to put down. Although the tale could be enjoyed by readers as young as eleven or twelve, adults and teens will also appreciate this lighthearted romantic romp through a silly fairytale kingdom. And with a male main character like Christian, boys and girls alike will enjoy the story. Although the book stands well on its own, there are two sequels for readers who just can’t get enough.

Reviewer: Mary-Celeste Lewis

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