



2020

Spinning Silver

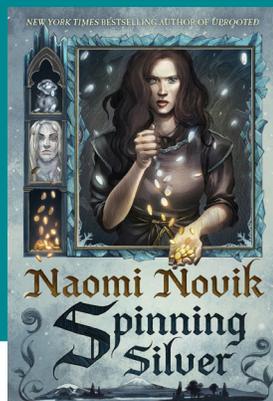
Giselle Davis

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Book Review

Spinning Silver

Author

Naomi Novik

Reviewer

Giselle Davis

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Young Adult

.....

Pages

466

Year

2018

ISBN

9780399180989

Publisher

Del Rey

Miryem's father is a moneylender who hates to collect the debts he's owed. Fed up with living in poverty for the sake of others, Miryem takes over the job, but with her boast that she can spin silver into gold, she catches the attention of the king of Staryk. Three times Miryem successfully trades Staryk silver for gold, but now the king wants her for his wife. Whisked away to the Staryk, Miryem works together with her friends to keep demons and the Staryk perpetual winter from overtaking their homeland forever.

Novik takes well-known fairy-tale elements and weaves them together into a completely fresh retelling. Great care is taken in developing the plot, which creates a very tight narrative that encourages multiple readings, just so new connections can be found. The characters are flawed and complex, particularly Miryem, who is incredibly stubborn. She often acts cruelly if it will serve her interest, but she also grows to care for others around her. Other character arcs stem directly from the conflict surrounding them, creating the core of a story that will entertain and excite readers hungry for a story with powerful female protagonists.

*Contains mild violence and mild language