Fairytale Retellings #4: Cold Spell

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Book Review

Title: Fairytale Retellings #4: Cold Spell  
Author: Jackson Pierce  
Reviewer: Aylea Stephens  
Publisher: Little, Brown and Company  
Publication Year: 2013  
ISBN: 9780316243599  
Number of Pages: 323  
Interest Level: Young Adult  
Rating: Significant Shortcomings

Review

Kai and Ginny were best friends for most of their lives, but now they are more than friends, in love, and have every intention of running away together. One night, however, Kai goes off with a stranger named Mora. Ginny discovers that Mora is the Snow Queen through the help of Kai’s grandmother who had an encounter with her when she was a teenager. Ginny decides to do whatever it takes to go after Kai and get him back, but she soon realizes that even in the United States there is a world of monsters and villains that she never expected. With the help of new friends Ella, Luke, and Flannery, future queen of Kentucky, Ginny chases down Kai, fights the snow queen, and learns about the mysterious wolf creatures that follow her in her quest.

While it had so much potential with intriguing ideas and worked to retell a fairy tale that is not as commonly known, Cold Spell didn’t live up to the possibilities. The characters weren’t particularly well rounded. Ginny has no identity outside of her boyfriend, and Kai is not developed much more than that either. Other characters are more interesting than they are. In the book Ginny is supposed to be discovering herself and that she is capable on her own, but it is not convincing. Some of the things could have been more interesting, but were not developed enough to show the readers why they should care. It is in a series, but it also works as a stand alone book. The plot should have been exciting with the chasing the Snow Queen, but it was mostly just dull. While the take on the Snow Queen could have been interesting, overall the story and characters are too underdeveloped and uninteresting.

* Contains strong language, moderate violence, implied sexual content.