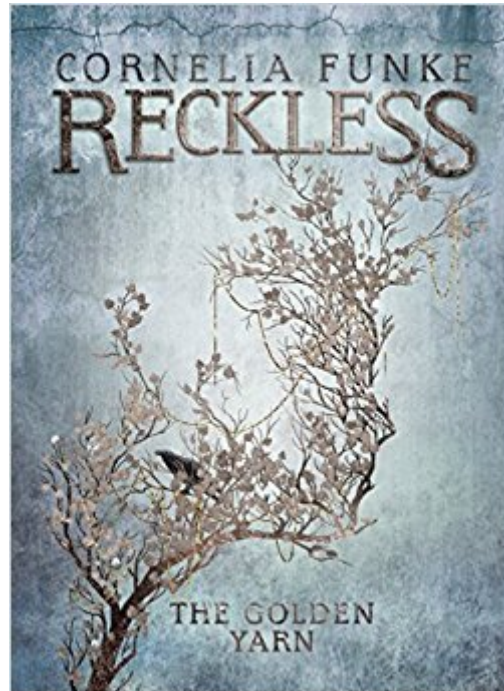




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# The Golden Yarn (Reckless)



## Synopsis

Jacob Reckless continues to travel the portal in his father's abandoned study. His name has continued to be famous on the other side of the mirror, as a finder of enchanted items and buried secrets. His family and friends, from his brother, Will to the shape-shifting vixen, Fox, are on a collision course as the two worlds become connected. Who is driving these two worlds together and why is he always a step ahead? This new force isn't limiting its influence to just Jacob's efforts; it has broadened the horizon within MirrorWorld. Jacob, Will and Fox travel east and into the Russian folklore, to the land of the Baba Yaga, pursued by a new type of being that knows our world all too well.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-The fantastical adventures of brothers Jacob and Will continue in this exciting installment in Funke's fairy tale-inspired series. Will's girlfriend Clara pricks her finger on a magical brooch, and when Will is unable to awaken her with a kiss, he goes through the mirror to enlist Jacob's help-but can't find him. Instead, Jacob's treasure-hunting rival, Nerron, kidnaps Will to get revenge on Jacob. Meanwhile, Jacob and the shape-shifting vixen Fox set off into the eastern part of the lands to rescue Will. The Dark Fairy is also fleeing from a false murder accusation. Mirrorlings, eerie humanlike figures made of glass and silver, hinder the brothers' search by attacking them and trying to smother them in silver. Jacob and Will come to understand that "and they lived happily ever after"

is truly hard earned. All the characters grapple with heartbreak and betrayal and find that the Golden Yarn, the inseparable bond between lovers, does determine their destinies. Those who haven't read the previous books in the series may be confused by allusions to prior events, but those who have will be intrigued by this story set in a richly imagined world full of familiar fairy tale elements in a unique and compelling way. VERDICT An absorbing read for fans of the previous works in this series.-Sharon Rawlins, New Jersey State Library, Trenton

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Dark fantasy, fairy-tale elements, a magic mirror portal into another realm, I am SO THERE with many, many bells on.

• Kirkus Reviews Five Shields; I loved it. Every twist and every turn felt not only real, but very well planned and executed. So this is the book that truly redeems this series for me, I mean the previous installment laid a lot of the groundwork, but this is where I really got invested in the world, the characters, and what's going to happen next. I can't wait to continue!

• Zack's YA Reviews 4/5 stars. A lyrically written fantasy that tugs at the golden heartstrings. If you love high fantasy, or want to love high fantasy but have a hard time with heavy writing, pick up the story of Jacob Reckless, and I assure you, you won't be disappointed.

•The Underground The story draws you in from the very start...I have always been a fan of immediate action in a book.

•Turnabout Media I love how Funke's world is based on a combo of many different fairy tales. So many times in retellings we will get one or maybe two but never have so many been put into one story! And it's just amazing what Funke has done! She does so well with all of the characters in her stories that even through there are many you don't get lost and you know everything that is going on.

• Night Owl Reviews 4.5/5 stars. It is such a nice, wonderful and enchanting reading experience.

• Bookfrog4/5 stars. There's a depth and darkness to Funke's creation that makes it one of the best I've ever seen. To often fantasy settings feel static and changeless, but Funke's feels vibrant and alive.

• The Illustrated PageThe Golden Yarn combines

•once upon a time's excitement with endless possibilities and breathless hopes for a few

•happily ever afters.

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Foreward Reviews

Cornelia Funke's books only get better. The Golden Yarn was so full of beauty and heartbreak, and I never wanted to stop reading. She brought back all of the characters we know and have grown to love and added a few new faces who leapt off the pages like old friends. The Mirrorworld series is so much darker than her Inkworld trilogy, but I've always loved the darkness and fear that lingers

behind the mirrors of the world she's woven with ink. Jacob never can catch a break. He has many demons to fight in *The Golden Yarn*, and a force he can't hide from on either side of the mirror is threatening his happy ending. It was great to have Will behind the mirror again, and I loved how Nerron tried so hard not to like him. The Bastard's heart isn't as hard as he likes to believe, and we definitely see that in this book. I've always loved Kami'en and the Fairy together, and their story has put more cracks in my heart than the sun and cold have put into Hentzau's skin. I'm hoping for a lot of happiness later on in the other books. Hentzau is still my absolute favorite character. I was beyond happy with seeing so much of him in this book.

*The Golden Yarn* is the third book in the highly enjoyable *Mirrorworld* series by Cornelia Funke. The prior books are *Reckless* and *Fearless*, and I recommend reading them prior to *The Golden Yarn*. I really loved *Fearless* when I read it a couple of years ago, and I think my expectations for *The Golden Yarn* were possibly too high. Not that *The Golden Yarn* is a bad book by any means – it just didn't inspire the furor that would cause me to give it a five star review. The premise of the series is that there exists another world from which many of our fairy tales and myths come. Jacob Reckless, a twenty something American, has been traveling through an enchanted mirror and exploring this magical world since childhood. This fairy tale land has not gone unchanged since the days of the stories origins and is being shaped by war and industrialization. There are fairies, but also trains and early automobiles. The industrialized fairy land is one of my favorite fictional worlds. There is a depth and darkness to Funke's creation that makes it one of the best I've ever seen. Too often fantasy settings feel static and changeless, but Funke's feels vibrant and alive. It also feels broad and expansive, and I liked that *The Golden Yarn* journeyed farther east than previous installments, taking us to an alternate version of Russia. Something I've loved about the previous two books is how sympathetic the antagonists were. Nerron, Kami'en, and the Dark Fairy continue to be as beguilingly likable as ever, despite the actions they take against our lead character. In particular, the Dark Fairy is tragically compelling, and possibly not even an antagonist at all by *The Golden Yarn*. A newer antagonist was introduced in *Fearless* and is very important for the events of *The Golden Yarn*. At this point, I believe that he will be the main villain for the whole series. "It was hard to let go of love. Once woven, its ribbon was hard to tear, and this one she'd woven quite firmly herself." Thematically, I believe *The Golden Yarn* to be about romantic love. Fox and Jacob's relationship been shifting towards romance over the course of the

series, and it becomes ever more important here. Meanwhile, the Dark Fairy's relationship with Kami's son has fallen apart after he rejected her for his human wife. For a final reason to love The Golden Yarn, each chapter is headed by an illustration drawn by Cornelia Funke herself: When I examine why I might have liked The Golden Yarn less than Fearless, I can think of a number of potential answers. Possibly there were too many POV shifts which impacted the pacing. Maybe it's that The Golden Yarn feels less like a self-contained story and more like set up for additional books. I also think that Clara was thrown under the bus here, and I'll be peeved if everyone totally forgets about her. Despite those quibbles, I still loved returning to this series and would recommend it.

This book pulls together all the characters from the first two in the series and races forward with them. Each chapter shifts viewpoint to so that four different, parallel stories are told simultaneously and in an interwoven way that justifies the title. I loved it. It's a great addition to the series, does justice to the characters and further develops the Mirrorworld backstory.

Super character development and place creation. Not as compelling as book 1 & 2. Still. Not as complex or entertaining as Inkheart series

The Golden Yarn is Cornelia Funke at her absolute best! Filled with beauty, heartbreak and the most intricate of plots you get a literal fairy tale. Not just a retelling or reimagining. An actual fairy tale. As someone who grew up adoring Inkheart I am absolutely thrilled to still be so thoroughly enchanted by books. You need this one. Right now.

I loved this and can't wait for the next book!

I think this is my favorite Cornelia Funke series so far. The characters are all fascinating and the world itself is immersive. This book left some more questions unanswered than previous entries, but was still an excellent story. Can't wait for the next one!

I love Cornelia Funke's works!

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