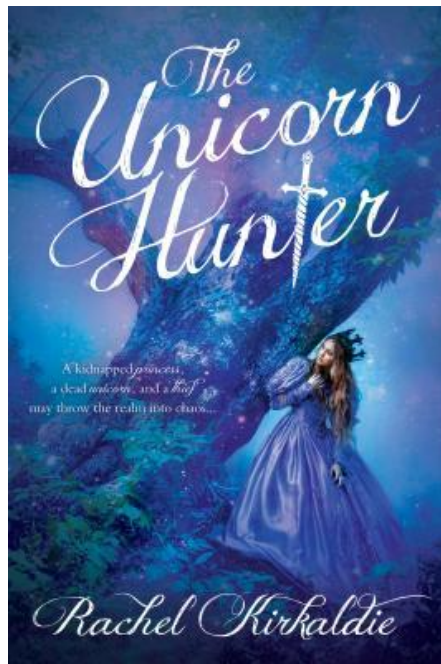




The Unicorn Hunter

Rachel Kirkaldie

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Princess Jessalyn's betrothal is the talk of the realm, but all she cares about is escaping her family's smelly fishing kingdom. As queen of Gontir, her life will finally be perfect. But her plans are shattered when she's kidnapped by a murderous unicorn hunter in a plot to destroy Gontir. With her dreams in ruins, Jessalyn must decide if the life she's always wanted is worth the price of her heart.

The Unicorn Hunter Details

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Author : Rachel Kirkaldie

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From Reader Review The Unicorn Hunter for online ebook

Constance Roberts says

This story has every element I devour in a book: enchanting world building, forbidden magic, haughty royals and thieves thrown together on a quest. The Unicorn Hunter was captivating from the very first page. Jessalyn seems to be the epitome of your typical spoiled princess. But as much as you want to hate her, you love to roll your eyes when she complains or laugh at her when she does something stupid and gets mud all over her favorite gown. And, it's even more rewarding to watch her grow and realize there's more to life than jewels and mirrors.

Her sister princess. basically the polar opposite of Jessalyn ,was definitely more my speed. There wasn't nearly enough of her in the book, so much so that I can't actually remember her name, but I'm guessing she's going to have her own story soon enough.

Kirkaldie does an excellent job fleshing out both the male and female characters. The chapters jump back and forth between Jessalyn and Erik and make the story much more rounded.

The only real complaint I had upon finishing it, was that it seemed to be over in a blink. Erik and Jessalyn's story didn't feel quite finished, so I imagine there will be a sequel in the near future. And hopefully her sister will be in it!

Nicole says

The Unicorn Hunter is a grand adventure through a fascinating world. The author took me on a journey of discovery as she revealed the principles of magic and history that rule the lands. The story moves quickly and every word helps to move it forward. I so enjoyed not being bogged down with long explanations and descriptions; instead the author develops the characters, setting, and conflict through the story progression. The fast pace and lack of distraction or disruption from the story was perfect for the genre. The author's voice works perfectly with the story and genre as well. She's not scholarly, flowery, or fancy; neither is she juvenile, crude, or flat. It's just right for being pulled into the story quickly and being held there to the end. It doesn't take too much work to follow. You just get in and enjoy the ride.

I loved that I didn't love princess Jessalyn at the start. It was refreshing to read about a heroine who really doesn't have much heroism to offer. I was intrigued as to how she would develop and become likable. I wondered what events could break through her vanity, cleanliness, and too perfect exterior? What could happen to add depth to her priorities that at the start were about as shallow as an empty yogurt cup? Then the "hero" of the story was introduced and he wasn't much better with life motivations completely focused on wealth, and thievery being his method of achieving his desires.

But the author builds a plausible plot that believably reveals the redeeming qualities of a selfish princess and thief. She succeeds in getting readers to care about these characters and their world. The cast of supporting characters such as the royal family and the thieving band are shown more in glimpses, but those glimpses are so clear that you really get a strong feel for their motivations right away. I liked them immediately for their strengths and weaknesses and they provided a perfect contrast for the initial shallowness of the main characters.

My only complaint for the book is that I wanted more. By the end I was starting to see the main characters blossom, but I didn't feel completely satisfied with their growth or with the plot reconciliation. In my opinion there was more to be told of this story. There is plenty of foreshadowing for sequels (and I am crossing my fingers that there is at least one more) but even for this portion of the story I think there was more to tell. More information about the villains would give a much more satisfying end. I wanted more story to show me where Jessalyn and the thief would go from there. I could see that their experiences had changed them, and I wanted to know how that would affect their goals and direction for the immediate future. But I was left hanging.

Without a sequel this story is definitely incomplete, and because I felt there should have been more to the ending I would really give the book 3.5 stars; but I rounded up to a 4 because it was such an enjoyable read. I just wanted more! So I'm crossing my fingers and wishing on stars that there will be a sequel. And soon!!

See more of my reviews at thereaderssalon.com

Elle says

This book was very simple and the characters were flat. There was hardly any character development or feeling to this book. Rather than YA, I would expect this to be a children's novel. A very childish read.

Book Magic says

Not what I expected

Though an interesting book, it wasn't what I expected. I found the romance to be juvenile and far fetched. Several parts tended to drag along, but there were some fun redeeming parts as well. I'd consider reading the next installment. This was a library book I checked out, and I must admit I'm glad I didn't purchase it because it's not one for my keeper shelf.

Sydney says

The Unicorn Hunter by Rachel Kirkaldie is a new exciting and fun fantasy novel with plenty of action and adventure too. A fast, enjoyable read filled with magic, as well as thieves, princesses, and a unicorn. Teens will thoroughly love the delightful storytelling and interesting characters in this debut novel from Kirkaldie. This pleasant and enchanting fantasy novel is one that teen readers of fantasy will certainly want to look into.

Genre: fantasy, young adult, unicorns

Publisher: Cedar Fort

Publication date: June 13, 2017

Number of pages: 192

A review copy of this novel was provided by Cedar Fort. A review was not required and all views and opinions expressed are my own.

Deanna (Deanna Reads Books) says

This Review was originally posted on my review blog Deanna Reads Books

What I really enjoyed about this novel was the world building and the descriptive writing. I loved the fish kingdom of Sharadel, and I wanted to hear more about it! I loved this concept that they are a small kingdom, but there is a bigger more glamorous kingdom that Jessalyn longs to live in. In the story we do get to see Gontir, but at that point there was so much action going on I feel like I didn't get a good feel for Gontir. Although, honestly, I kind of preferred Sharadel. Kirkaldie's writing really gave me a feel for the setting that I could see this book in my head as I was reading. I don't know what it was, maybe the fact that one of the side characters in this novel was named Wesley, but I was getting some mad Princess Bride feels while I was reading this one!

So one problem I did have with this novel was that I just couldn't stand Jessalyn at first glance. I am actually more like her toyboy sister Ila, so I actually wanted to hear more about her adventures. In the first couple chapters it was clear to me that Jessalyn was a brat that was used to getting her own way, and her ideals about a good life came off as very superficial to me. The kingdom is having problems with sea serpents and at one point she actually thinks "Jessalyn was convinced it was some jealous peasant's attempt to take the focus off of her during her betrothal." That line really made me not like this character and I just wanted to shake her and go "NOT EVERYTHING'S ABOUT YOU!!". The Princess has led a very privileged life, and I think that was sort of the point in this novel because she had to find growth as a person. I think she does in the end figure out a few things about herself and I'm glad about the decision she makes, but I wanted to see a little more of that. There is supposed to be another novel, so I would be interested to see how she grows and changes for the better after this experience.

Me not liking Jessalyn that much didn't kill this book for me, because I got to see a lot of things through Erik's eyes, her former kidnapper and the person that is ordered to rescue her from the evil Torel. I think there is a lot more to Erik than what we actually see in this novel, but I liked that he was so level headed, even when having to travel with a bratty Princess and a very inexperienced Knight. I definitely ended up siding with him a lot. I feel like he's kind of a Han Solo character in that he's just out to make some money but when push comes to shove he's going to do the right thing. I was kinda hoping that maybe he and Jessalyn would get together, because I think they could so balance each other out.

I loved the plot line with Torel and Mud, but I feel like there are too many questions about what they are fighting for. I need to know more about both of them, they are way too mysterious. I also don't think we've seen the last of Torel.

This book is a quick read, great for anyone looking for a fun adventure story. I enjoyed it, but I think I just wanted a little bit more from it. I highly recommend it for fans of The Selection Series and of course The Princess Bride!

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

The Unicorn Hunter
By Rachel Kirkaldie

Princess Jessalyn's betrothal is about to be the talk of the Kingdom of Sharadel, but not for the reasons she wants it to be. But a little betrothal mishap is about to be the least of her worries when she is kidnapped from the grounds of her very home.

But far more than a kidnapping of a princess is working its evil through the lands. And Jessalyn is but one pawn within the greater scheme that could topple more than one kingdom. But until she sees past her own vanities she may not be able to see the greater danger that threatens everything she has ever known.

Caught up in this web that has engulfed is Erik, a young man who has allowed himself to be shaped by life's circumstances and tricked into the role he now finds himself in. And Erik is determined to stop the trickster whom he allowed to influence him. But his quest could cost him his life.

The Unicorn Hunter will take the reader into a world where legends are coming to life and where what is known isn't what is. And Princess Jessalyn, with the help of a young knight and a thief, is about to discover that she is more than what she appears and true worth is not to be found in appearance and rank but rather what resides within.

At 183 pages this book is perfect for a weekend read. For upcoming school book reports in the fantasy/adventure genre keep this one in mind - you'll enjoy the assignment. With a cast of characters with distinct and powerful personalities you know there will be a clash or two as they work towards their goals with may or may not coincide.

I was provided a review copy of this book by the publisher with no expectations of a positive review. All expressed opinions are my own.

Theresa says

Fantastic story with memorable characters

Abby says

I received a copy of The Unicorn Hunter from Cedar Fort Publishing in exchange for my honest review.

In a nutshell, I'd say that this book has a great story that needs more development. I really liked the first third of the book, I disliked the second third, and I wanted more development and different plot structuring for the entire story during the last third of it. However, the plot is intriguing and it drew me in. It made me ask lots of questions about this world and the plots of the villains.

To see more of my review, check out my blog, the Writing Worm.

Catherine Labadie says

Full of stereotypes and cliches. I got bored halfway through and could not finish. Considering I won this in a giveaway, I actually feel kind of bad giving this review, but that's just how it is. The cover and design was pretty.
