



## Once Upon a Marigold

By Jean Ferris

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### Once Upon a Marigold By Jean Ferris

Who knew love could be so amazing—and stupefying? Not Christian. He was clueless when he started spying on the royal family through his telescope. He lives in a cave with a troll for a dad, after all. If his dad had only warned him about all that mind-boggling love stuff, maybe things wouldn't be such a mess. But then, maybe, Princess Marigold would be dead.

But Christian *wasn't* warned. And now that he's fallen for the princess, it's up to him to untwist an odd love triangle—er, *rectangle*—and foil a scheming queen who wants to take over the kingdom, even if it means bumping off her own daughter.

With echoes of William Goldman's modern classic *The Princess Bride*, Jean Ferris's hilarious parody of "Once upon a time . . ." overflows with oddball characters and sage observations—and ends with a slapstick happily-ever-after that's full of surprises.

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## Once Upon a Marigold By Jean Ferris Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #144714 in eBooks
- Published on: 2004-06-01
- Released on: 2004-06-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In a gratifying fantasy that contains elements of classic fairy tales, Ferris (*Love Among the Walnuts*) breathes new life into archetypal characters by adding unexpected and often humorous dimensions to their personalities. The protagonist, Christian, has been raised in the forest by a troll named Edric. As he nears manhood, Christian decides it is time to see the world-or at least the section across the river, where the lovely Princess Marigold resides. Having spent many hours gazing at Marigold through a telescope and corresponding with her by "p-mail" (letters sent by carrier pigeon), he has already felt the sting of Cupid's arrow by the time he lands a job in court. Marigold readily returns his affections, but unfortunately, she is about to become betrothed to Sir Magnus. Meanwhile, Marigold's evil mother, Queen Olympia, is plotting to murder both Marigold and her kindly, doting father, King Swithbert. Readers swept into the lighthearted spirit of this novel will likely not be bothered by the predictability of outcomes. As in fairy tales of old, jabs are made at social values and norms, and concepts of nobility and ignobility are painted in very broad strokes. Nonetheless, heroes and heroines emerge as convincing, well-rounded characters embodying flaws as well as virtues. Their foibles-Edric's tendency to mix up adages, Christian's stubborn streak and Marigold's penchant for "awful" jokes-make the good guys all the more endearing. Ages 10-up. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-9-As the cover proclaims, this story is truly "part everything-but-the-kitchen-sink." Readers first meet Chris when he is a strong-willed, clever child of six. He has run away from home, determined to live on his own in the forest. Edric, a troll, finds him and gives him shelter but cannot make him go back home, and Chris grows up with Edric and his dogs as his family, guided by an etiquette book found in the forest and Edric's own wisdom. As the boy grows, he continues his interest in inventing and watches the princess in the castle across the river. She is headstrong but lonely, and when Chris contacts her by carrier pigeon (or p-mail), they become best friends. When he takes work at the castle, there is no way that Chris, a commoner, can tell Marigold who he is, and he can only stand by as she is to be married to an unsuitable suitor. When he learns that her life is in danger, he must find a way to save her and the kingdom. This complex, fast-paced plot, a mixture of fantasy, romance, comedy, and coming-of-age novel, succeeds because these characters are compelling, well developed, and sympathetic. Quirky personalities and comic subplots give the story additional texture. Readers will be drawn into this world and be satisfied by the denouement. This blend of genres will appeal to a wide range of readers, and it's all great fun.

*Shara Alpern, The Free Library of Philadelphia*

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Review

Cold indeed is the heart not made warm by this bubbly fairy-tale romance. --Kirkus Reviews

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Berneice Ritzman:**

Now a day people that Living in the era where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in having

any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information especially this Once Upon a Marigold book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

**Thad Whitehead:**

The knowledge that you get from Once Upon a Marigold will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Once Upon a Marigold giving you buzz feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by simply anyone who read the idea because the author of this publication is well-known enough. That book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this specific Once Upon a Marigold instantly.

**Jon Pittenger:**

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