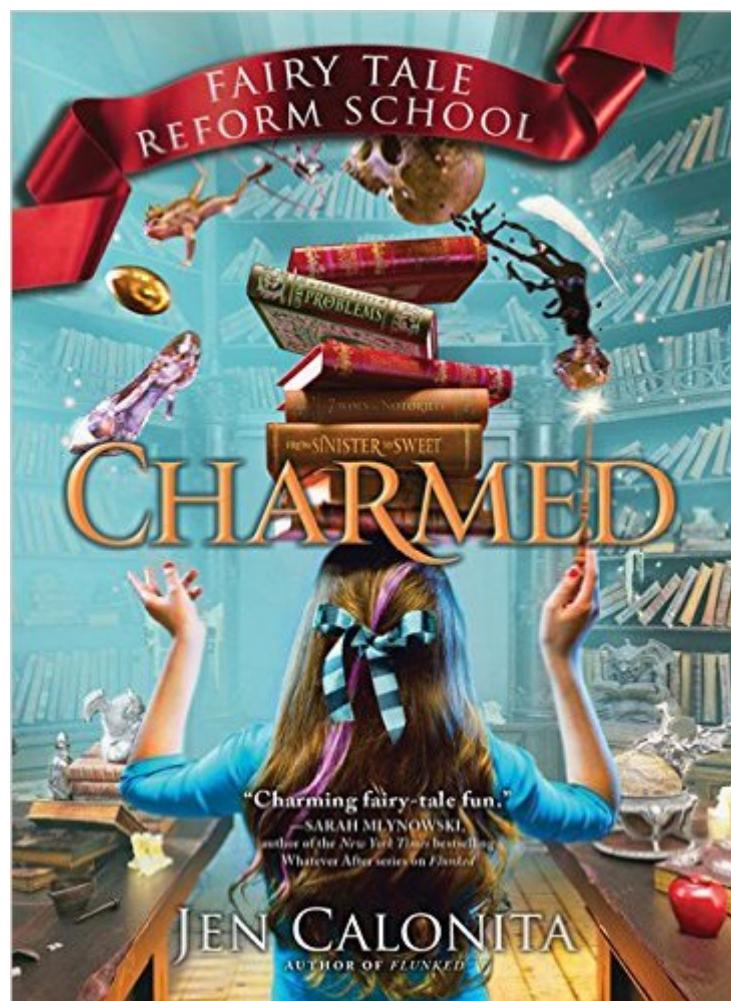


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# Charmed (Fairy Tale Reform School)



## Synopsis

Sometimes it's good to be bad...Charmed is the exciting sequel to the wildly popular Flunked • second in the brand new Fairy Tale Reform School series where the teachers are (former) villains. "Charming fairy-tale fun." •Sarah Mlynowski, author of the New York Times bestselling Whatever After series. It takes a (mostly) reformed thief to catch a spy. Which is why Gilly Cobbler, Enchantasia's most notorious pickpocket, volunteers to stay locked up at Fairy Tale Reform School...indefinitely. Gilly and her friends may have defeated the Evil Queen and become reluctant heroes, but the battle for Enchantasia has just begun. Alva, aka The Wicked One who cursed Sleeping Beauty, has declared war on the Princesses, and she wants the students of Fairy Tale Reform School to join her. As her criminal classmates give in to temptation, Gilly goes undercover as a Royal Lady in Waiting (don't laugh) to unmask a spy...before the mole can hand Alva the keys to the kingdom. Her parents think Gilly the Hero is completely reformed, but sometimes you have to get your hands dirty. Sometimes it's good to be bad...Praise for Fairy Tale Reform School: Flunked"Fairytale Reform School has a clever concept and a fresh and funny take on the enchanted world. (I always wanted to know what happened to Cinderella's stepmother too!)"-Julia DeVillers, author of the Liberty Porter, First Daughter series and co-author of the Trading Faces series"Spell-binding and wickedly clever."-Leslie Margolis, author of the Annabelle Unleashed novels and the Maggie Brooklyn mysteries

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Charmed is the second book in the Fairy Tale Reform School series and is a wonderful middle grade read. It is a follow up to Flucked, where Gilly gets thrown into reform school for stealing and ends up becoming a hero. In this book, we again follow Gilly and her friends as they try to defend their school from Alva - the wicked one that cursed Sleeping Beauty and in doing so learn more about reforming themselves and the power of teamwork and trust. What I really love about this book and the one before it, is the clever way Calonita takes fairy tales and has mashed them all together for this story. The characters and world building are wonderfully done and the book is funny and really keeps a read on their toes. I hope this middle grade series has more books, they are very enjoyable reads and I think younger readers will enjoy them and even parents will too.

Innovative, creative, complex -- all the adjectives you need to give this series a try even though the story line may sound like something you would otherwise take a pass on. It's worth taking the chance by starting with Flunked, the first book in the series.

Okay, I admit it, I'm an adult and I loved these books. I read the first one and then got this one too. Loved both of them. It's fun to see fairy tales from a different perspective. I recommend the Fairy Tale Reform School books for all ages. It was enjoyable to read them and there wasn't anything I felt was inappropriate for teen readers. Hope they have other books in the series in future.

"Charmed" the imaginary and exciting sequel to "Flunked" begins with Alva breaking the Evil Queen Professor Harlow out of the dungeon at FTRS (Fairy Tale Reform School). There's never a dull moment as students are encouraged to join Alva's rebellion to take over Enchantasia and destroy the royal court, Headmistress Flora keeps disappearing, and a mole at the school is spilling secrets to "the Wicked One". Gilly Copper, thief and pickpocket wants to help her friends find and overcome the villain's diabolical plan so she decides to stay at the school and even joins the Royal Ladies-In-Waiting Club under the leadership of Princess Rose (aka Sleeping Beauty) hoping to ferret out vital information. But with everyone thinking of her as a hero and her popularity feeding her ego, Gilly falls prey to the lure of Princess Rose's Club forsaking her friends and determined to find the mole herself. Only with her father's wise words does she regret her behaviour and seek out Maxine, Kayla, Jax and Ollie, knowing that only together can they get to the root of the problem. Jen Calonita brings to life the magical world of FTRS where escapee Professor Harlow is helping the Wicked One who once cursed Sleeping Beauty and the pirate Bluebeard has not only taken over as

coach of her fencing team, but seems to be romancing Madam Cleo. Fast-paced and humorous the mystery mounts in a roller-coaster ride of twist and turns and cryptic clues that keep Gilly and Jax baffled to the identity of the informant. I love this twist on classic fairy tales where the former villains are respected professors, and one of the royal Princesses may have a dark selfish heart. Intensity and suspense builds with gargoyle attacks on the Royal Manor and Enchantasia, bizarre signs that urge the students and the populace to join Alva's army, and threats against Gilly's family's prosperity. Yet at the heart of the story lies Gilly's growing ego as she begins to neglect her friends and succumb to the praise of Princess Rose and those in her club. Only through her father's wisdom and Jocelyn's snide remarks does she realize that she needs their help if the mole is to be found and Alva's plan thwarted. Rich in characters who are complex, zealous and unforgettable they infuse this story with high-energy, excitement and drama. Gilly who didn't have any friends until FTRS has begun to be selfish and self-centered as her popularity grows and she succumbs to the praise of the Princess and members in the club. Stubborn and determined, sensing the wrongness in her sister's rejection and in alienating her friends, only with heartache and wise words does she return to the reliable and spirited friend and caring sister she once was. I loved the animosity between Gilly and the rude, irritating and antagonistic Jocelyn in this book as they duel over their friendship with Kayla and Maxine, but especially as they begin to warm up to each other. We even glimpse a dignified and gracious side to the irrepressible Jax Porter the undercover royal spy and Gilly's steadfast, loyal friend. I loved "Charmed" with its swashbuckling new teacher, and a villainous plan to overthrow the royal court that Gilly and her friends have to thwart. I hope this is not the last of Gilly's exciting adventures at the Fairy Tale Reform School.

Author Jen Calonita needn't worry about the sophomoric blues in her fantasy series for tweens. While I liked Flunked, the first book in the Fairy Tale Reform series I actually liked this newest installment even more which was a welcome surprise. And what about the cover picture? Gah! It is, once again, beautiful and striking artwork. Hats off to the artist. In Charmed Jen Calonita paints a vivid picture of her fantasy world where misguided kids are sent away to a reform school in which former 'baddies' such as the Big Bad Wolf and various other evil characters are now teachers. While the fantasy elements are strong it's the story and relationships between the characters that take centre stage. In Charmed, Gilly and her gaggle of friends - Jax, Ollie, Maxine and Kayla - once again band together to save Enchantasia and hopefully defeat the evil Alva once and for all. Gilly remains a spunky character who has a great group of friends and is okay with bending the rules to keep the plot interesting. But this time there's an added issue. After her success at defeating evil in

the first book she's let her notoriety and fame of that accomplishment give her a hefty sized ego which causes some issues among her friends. She may not be as likeable this time around but how she handles this issue with her friends gives young readers a good lesson too. Charmed is charming, fun and magical. I'd highly recommend it for tween-aged kids ages 8-12. My Rating: 4/5 stars

**Disclaimer:** My sincere thanks to Sourcebooks Jabberwocky and NetGalley for providing me with a complimentary e-book copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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