

Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin

By Liesl Shurtliff

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This funny fractured fairy tale goes behind the scenes of Rumpelstiltskin. *New York Times* Bestselling author Liesl Shurtliff "spins words into gold [Kirby Larson, Newbery Honor winner]."

In a magic kingdom where your name is your destiny, 12-year-old Rump is the butt of everyone's joke. But when he finds an old spinning wheel, his luck seems to change. Rump discovers he has a gift for spinning straw into gold. His best friend, Red Riding Hood, warns him that magic is dangerous, and she's right. With each thread he spins, he weaves himself deeper into a curse.

To break the spell, Rump must go on a perilous quest, fighting off pixies, trolls, poison apples, and a wickedly foolish queen. The odds are against him, but with courage and friendship—and a cheeky sense of humor—he just might triumph in the end.

A Texas Bluebonnet finalist and winner of the ILA award for middle grade fiction, *Rump* is perfect for fans of Gail Carson Levine's *Ella Enchanted* or Adam Gidwitz's *A Tale Dark and Grimm*. And don't miss Liesl Shurtliff's other fairy tale retellings: *Jack: The True Story of Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood*.

"**A fresh riff on the Grimm Brothers' *Rumpelstiltskin,* told with wit from the impish point of view of the troublemaker himself.**" —*People*

"**Lighthearted and inventive**, *Rump* amusingly expands a classic tale." —Brandon Mull, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fablehaven.*

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
Twelve-year-old Rump lives with his grandmother in a mountain village where he endures endless teasing about his name. When he discovers that he can spin straw into gold, he hopes to end their poverty and hunger. Unfortunately, the troublesome magic forces him to accept anything offered in trade for the gold: a sack of flour, a cheap ring, or a queen's firstborn child. Rump leaves home to discover his true name. While on his quest, he finds the knowledge, insight, and courage he needs to understand his gift and claim his destiny. Weaving details from Rumpelstiltskin into an accessible novel, Shurtliff makes the old villain into a young hero and creates an inventive story that extends and embroiders on the original fairy tale. In an era when fantasy often takes the form of high-octane adventure, this story offers a measured pace and the reassuring notion that a hero need not always rely on magic if he has his wits about him. Grades 3-6. -- Carolyn Phelan

Review
People Magazine, August 12, 2013:
"A fresh riff on the Grimm Brothers' *Rumpelstiltskin*, told with wit from the impish point of view of the troublemaker himself."

The Denver Post, May 6, 2013:
"A startlingly original book."

Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews, March 15, 2013:
"As good as gold."

School Library Journal, May, 2013:
"A beguiling take on a classic tale.... This captivating fantasy has action, emotional depth, and lots of humor."

BookPage, April 9, 2013:
"Shurtliff takes the traditional fairy tale and turns it on its head, interspersing humor with tenderness, action with insight. *Rump* shows the other side of Rumpelstiltskin, one of the most vilified characters in fairy tales, and reminds readers that in a good story, very little is as it seems."

"Liesl Shurtliff does more than spin words into gold—she gets us rooting for Rumpelstiltskin, a most magical feat."
—Kirby Larson, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Hattie Big Sky*

"Lighthearted and inventive, *Rump* amusingly expands a classic tale."
—Brandon Mull, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fablehaven*

About the Author
Liesl Shurtliff was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah, with the mountains for her playground. Just like Rump, Liesl was shy about her name, growing up. Not only did it rhyme with weasel, she could never find it on any of those personalized key chains in gift shops. But over the years she's grown to love having an

unusual name—and today she wouldn’t change it for the world!
Before she became a writer, Liesl graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in music, dance, and theater. Her first three books, *Rump, Jack* and *Red* are all *New York Times* bestsellers and *Rump* was named to over two dozen state award lists and won an ILA Children’s Book Award. She lives in Chicago with her family, where she continues to spin fairy tales.

Visit her at lieslshurtliff.com

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Danny Nehring:

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Scott Tucker:

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