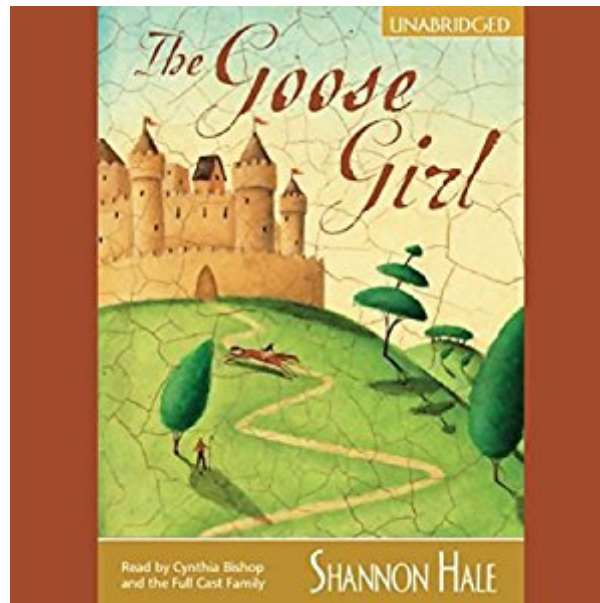




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# The Goose Girl: Book One Of The Books Of Bayern



## Synopsis

Princess Anidori-Kiladra of Kildenree was born with a word on her tongue, and a secret magic. Though she is raised in luxury, she is never quite comfortable with who she is, or what she is to become. Then she is sent on a journey to marry an unknown prince. The trip is difficult, and before it is finished all her expectations are overturned. Alone, friendless, stripped of her crown and her title, Ani must learn to make her own path in the world. Along the way, she just might learn to be a princess. Bold in concept, stunning in execution, *The Goose Girl* is one of the most spectacular debut novels of recent years. Now more than four dozen actors bring it to thrilling new life in this unabridged audio edition—a recording that will delight those who already love the book, and enthrall those who have not yet discovered it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm a fairy tale connoisseur and love to read new and different versions in addition to the classic versions, and this one kept me turning pages. I was disappointed I couldn't just veg and read it in one sitting!! The copy I received was in almost pristine condition considering its age, so I'm especially happy. I bought my own copy after borrowing it from the library.

*The Goose Girl* is a fantasy based on a fairy tale. It is a slow moving tale at first, and some might be tempted to stop reading in the opening chapters where we are introduced to the excessively timid Princess Ani, a girl taken from her position as next in line to the throne and instead sent on a months long journey through the forest for a strategically arranged marriage to the prince of a larger

neighboring kingdom. Ani has the ability to talk to swans and other birds and communicate telepathically with her trusted horse. But Ani is often tongue-tied as she speaks to humans, making her seemingly weak as royalty. On her journey to meet her betrothed she is attacked by those she once trusted, almost killed, and sent escaping into the forest. There she is cared for by a forest dwelling woman and her son, eventually preparing her to enter the city and find a way to reclaim her identity from one who has stolen it. That leads her to months spent as the palace goose girl, tending her flock of geese, learning their language, and in the process learning exactly who she is and who the poorer people of Bayern truly are. This is a beautiful story. I didn't originally think that it would appeal to me, and the slower pace of the beginning chapters still hadn't convinced me that this story would be a five star read for me. But somewhere down the line I ended up falling in love with this book. Ani was a wonderful heroine for this book. Yes, she really is a pushover and weak and uninspiring for a lot of this book. She allows almost everyone to walk all over her. But seeing her transformation from the weak Crown Princess Ani into the stronger goose girl, Isi, and finally taking her place as Princess Ani, future wife of the prince of Bayern was fascinating to read. It was a journey that should appeal to all girls who have felt awkward and weak and poor spoken as they try to make their way in the world. A lot of us feel that way sometimes, and especially when we are in those awkward years of adolescence. This is a story of overcoming, finding our place, and making a difference in the world. Beautiful. Princess Ani drives this story capably, but the story is enriched by the wide number of supporting characters she encounters in her time as a goose girl. The forest people who befriend her are loyal and kind, willing to sacrifice all for her once they know her secret. Talone ... love him! Such loyalty and devotion. The romance is subtle, but oh so sweet. I couldn't help smiling at the Happily Ever After ending of this story. And once you read how the romance happens, you can hardly imagine that it could have worked out more perfectly any other way. If Ani had simply rode into the palace as the girl who left her kingdom at the beginning of the story she would not have been the strong princess that she became after her struggles throughout this book. Loved it! This is a book I highly recommend to all readers of all ages. It is a beautiful tale with great characters, and it is definitely my favorite Shannon Hale story. Five stars!

I read a lot of fairy-tale-based books, and *The Goose Girl* is one of the best I've ever read. Anidori-Kiladra Talianna Isilee, or Ani for short, has known all her life that she will someday have to become queen of Kildenree. Taught by her aunt to talk with birds at a young age and able to converse with her horse, Ani is felt- and feels herself to be- unsuitable for her role as future queen. She does her best, aided by her friend and lady-in-waiting Selia. But after the death of her father the

king, her mother announces that her brother is to be the Crown Prince, and Ani is to be married to the prince of the powerful neighboring kingdom, Bayern. On the way to Bayern, Ani is betrayed by Selia, who has the power of people-speaking (it gives you the power to easily persuade and convince others. There are also the powers of animal-speaking: talking to animals. And nature-speaking: talking to the elements like wind and fire, which is very rare). Selia takes Ani's place and with the help of some of Ani's guards massacres the rest. Ani is forced to flee, and ends up as the goose-girl in the castle of Bayern. I won't tell you the rest, but I can say this: Hale never disappoints. I've read other rewrites of this fairy-tale, and this one deals with all the problematic parts in the original. It has an excellent pace, Ani's character development is believable and well-written, the minor characters are excellent, amusing and lively. The world Hale builds feels real and whole. The one thing that bothered me was that romance is a bit hard to swallow, because we don't get to know him as well as Ani does. It's a great book. I read really quickly, but I didn't go through *The Goose Girl* too fast because every sentence is worth reading and draws your attention. I don't think there's a superfluous word in the whole book, which isn't something you can often say. To conclude: it's worth the money. I'm hoping that I get to read the other books in this series soon.

My sister recommended this book to me. The title kind of threw me off a bit, but I decided to read it anyways. I really enjoyed it & was happy to find that there were books to follow. Soon my teen daughters were reading all the books as well & loved them. The lead characters in this book, and in the series that follow, are usually young women who are strong and willing to fight for what is right. It is full of funny little spots that kept my daughters and I giggling as we read, along with action, drama and clean romance.

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