



The Silver Strand

L.J. Clarkson

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Ever since twelve year old Isabelle Tresdon's silver strand of hair sprouted, it's been nothing but trouble: bleeding pink dust and sparking like a firecracker. Refusing to be known as the girl with the freaky, grandma hair, she wishes it never grew and the hair withers and tarnishes.

The only problem is, the strand is Isabelle's source of magic, and she can transform particles of energy into matter. It's also her ticket into Mastermind Academy, a secret school inside the earth's core. Five days remain before the strand drains her magic and life, forcing Isabelle to enter into a deal with two trickster Masterminds to save it. But what she doesn't count on is that there is more at stake than just her life.

The Silver Strand Details

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Author : L.J. Clarkson

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From Reader Review The Silver Strand for online ebook

Anna says

I am nine years old and I think this book is AWESOME!!! One day in the story, Isabelle is playing sports and gets hit by a ball and she starts bleeding pink dust! Then her hair sprouts a 'granny hair' even though she was only twelve years old! And in science class, Isabelle figures out that the silver hair is actually made out of actual real silver & might be even magical.

And there's a vain talking cat called Boldrick with a silver whisker, just like Isabelle. I thought he was funny and can picture him with his posh English saying that his hair is like a Da Vinci canvas and he even has a fur ball problem before going into the tunnel, maybe because of all his over fur cleaning just like my cat Princess Fluffy. Oh and I can't stop thinking about Boldrick's vanilla hair gel and fringe and I thought that was funny but don't think my cat would like hair gel like Boldrick does. (=^.^=)~

There are lots of funny parts, too, I like how its written and the funny things that are said by Bianca like "horse mite" & Isabella like "Warterella" and what Esme says reminds me of my teacher last year, she would have loved the Agartha stuff and I think that would be cool if it was real because it would help the planet heaps.

This book is well written and I found it really easy to picture what was happening and what the characters were like. It even made super gross toad cuisine, Isabella was eating seem super yummy but thought the parts about Mozzy's toad family members was very sad. Everything about the story is interesting like the magical stuff, Agartha tech and the cheeky stuff they said.

Oh yeah and Isabelle has to pass three tests. The silver strand she has had it's magic drained and now Isabelle has only five days to live, and she gets turned into a toad and that's when things start to get dangerous and I don't wait to spoil it for anyone by saying more about the story.

This book is really really awesome, unique and has lots of super cool interesting stuff and tons of funny surprises!!

~~~(=^.^=) = Boldrick the cat

\*\*Actually, I read this book but on Amazon and I read the one with Boldrick the cat on the cover with the cute hair gel curl in his hair. (^.^)~

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### Cabiria Aquarius says

A cute tale about a girl who is different from her schoolmates and learns she's got a magic strand of hair that is silver. It's a cute tale of learning how to survive and revive the hair and saving the world of magic.

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### Karen Vega says

I really like this book. I think it's one that middle school children would enjoy. This book contains fantasy

and magic. I feel like girls would enjoy this book more because it has a heroine, Isabelle. Isabelle is just a normal girl just trying to fit in school. She gets a silver strand of hair and adventure and humor follows as she learns more about her mother and self. There are great characters in this book readers will love like Boldrick (who's a cat). I would definitely recommend this book for children 9-12 years old.

Disclaimer: I received this ebook copy for free and received no monetary compensation for this review. All opinions about this book are my own.

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## **Erik This Kid Reviews Books says**

Isabelle is shocked when a silver strand of hair pokes through her scalp and grows into a large streak. Isabelle feels very embarrassed by the hair and thinks it looks weird and it makes her self-conscious at school. That day at home, she wishes that the strand never appeared. Then, the strand shrivels up and gets discolored. Isabelle is even more shocked when 2 people (well 1 person and one talking cat who used to be a person) from a magical world called Agartha (a strange world of magic) show up and tell her she's going to die in five days unless she can heal her strand. Isabelle learns that the strand is a source of magical powers, HER magical powers and she must pass some "tests" in order to heal it. But is it too late?

This was one of those "I-got-in-trouble-because-my-parents-caught-me-reading-this-book-under-my-covers-with-a-flashlight-at-ten-o'clock-at-night-on-a-school-night" books. I really liked the plot to this story and I couldn't put it down (hence the "under the covers" part :)). The book was a fun read for me because of the magic part of it and there was the right amount of humor mixed into it. Isabelle is a great main character. I enjoyed getting to know her and I cared about what was happening to her. Esme and Boldrick (the two from Agartha) were good characters too. Ms. Clarkson did a good job writing an exciting story that is good for younger kids. By the end of the book, I was wanting more (but in a good way). I am glad to see that this is book 1 so I am guessing a book 2 is being written! YAY! The only thing I would change is that the cover was a bit too dark on the ebook version I read, but it still looks cool.

\*NOTE\* I got a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

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## **Meghan says**

After some surprising events in school one day, Isabella finds out that her mom has been keeping a big secret from her. That night she meets two interesting, um, people from her mom's past - and heads off to Mastermind Academy on an adventure to save her magic, her life - and much more.

I totally fell in love with the cover of this book. But I was disappointed in this book.

The whole idea of bleeding pink dust and growing a silver strand of hair sounded really unique and interesting, but when it played out at the beginning of the story, it ended up being stupid. "A cold and metallic rod ran from the temple to her shoulder. She twirled the chunky, silver hair between her thumb and forefingers. It gave off fuchsia colored sparkles at her touch." It became even more stupid when you find out that it is literally silver.

There is some bullying in this book and, instead of the coach stepping in and immediately taking care of it,

it's as if he joins in. Now, I do like the comment he makes at the end of gym class, but by then it is too late.

Once they set off for the school, things do get a little better, but not enough to make up for the beginning.

I usually really like YA books and try to enjoy it like I did when I was younger, so you can understand how this was a bit disheartening for me. I may consider reading the rest of the series, though, just so I can find out what happens, but I won't rush to grab it up.

Note: I was given a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Susan says**

An interesting story. A young girl is having a horrible time in school because of a bully and then after a week of headaches she is hit in the head with a basketball. And then ....., can't tell you. A lady with a cat shows up at her house and her mom goes out to talk to her and Belle goes also--guess what--she can hear the cat talking. She can hear frogs talking also. Belle has to complete three tasks and the book really takes off then. A fast read--read it in one setting. Would like to find out what happens next!! I recommend this book.

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### **Lakisha Spletzer says**

Disclaimer: I received this ebook copy for free and received no monetary compensation for this review.

The target audience for this novel is 9-12 years old. I definitely feel that the main character, Isabelle, who is 12, behaves and acts like a child in that age range. (Trust me I have kids, so I know.)

I felt the flow of the story was a little rushed in places but not so much that a child would complain. I really think my favorite character is not the heroine of the story but her best friend.

There is plenty of humor and funny moments that liven up the book as well. Would I recommend it to others? Yes, I would.

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### **Zoe says**

This was such a fun book to read. I think all ages can enjoy this book for I thoroughly enjoyed it even if I'm way past 12 years old. :) It's light, funny and is a delightful story about the young heroine Isabelle. I'm anxious for book 2!

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### **Patricia Reding says**

Reviewed for Readers' Favorite (at [ReadersFavorite.com](http://ReadersFavorite.com))

*The Silver Strand*, by L. J. Clarkson, introduces readers to Isabelle Tresdon—an artist and scientist—not an

athlete—who, while suffering through gym class with a headache, ends up on the floor with pink dust that sparkles around her, then fades away. Minutes later, Isabelle sprouts a “granny hair.” This silver streak worries Isabelle. Will the other kids now give her grandma nicknames, like Ethyl, Beryl, or Shirley? With the assistance of her best friend, Bianca, Isabelle attempts to cut off the silver streak. Only later does she learn that it was to be her ticket into the Mastermind Academy, a school of magic.

Presented with a series of tests she must pass in order to earn back her silver streak, Isabelle begins a journey full of chaos, worry and fun! She discovers how to use her imagination to envision the solution to a problem, how to appreciate her own unique beauty and that of others, and how to believe in herself.

In *The Silver Strand*, Clarkson has provided Isabelle support via a cast of characters rich in quirky personality traits. Meet Bianca, the tough best friend who uses her shirt to wipe off “a year’s worth of smudges” from her eyeglasses. Meet “Mom,” who has kept her own silver streak hidden all these years! One after the other, from Mr. Higgins, the science teacher who conducts dangerous in-class experiments, to Jemima, who accuses Isabelle of being an alien, to Boldrick, destined to live in the form of a cat for years, to Esme the daredevil, to Max the toad, to Ramala the dragon—who initially intends to season, roast and then eat Isabelle—*The Silver Strand* delivers! With charm, wit and laugh-out-loud dialogue and prose, Clarkson has created a story that is destined to become a favorite for middle grade and pre-teen readers!

Also posted on my site at [www.oathtaker.com](http://www.oathtaker.com), on BookLikes at <http://patriciaareding.booklikes.com/p...> and on my Facebook page (/PatriciaRedingAuthor), tweeted on Twitter, added to my Pinterest page and noted in postings made on two Google+ book review communities.

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### **Linda says**

This was a very enjoyable middle grade story about a 12 year old child coming into her magical inheritance. It is interesting enough to be enjoyed by adults and children. There are real worries when Isabelle turns into a toad and must hide from her toad killing father. The science and environmental concerns are very well done. Boldrick, the man that was turned into a speaking cat until he can break the curse certainly added humor. I would recommend this to any one.

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### **Ashley Bailey says**

"The Silver Strand" is a fun story with an interesting premise and beautiful characters. I absolutely loved it! The idea that one's magic can come from a single Silver Strand of hair is both exciting and frightening! Are my grays meaning I'm turning magical? To wield such power would be such a big responsibility. But 12 year old Isabelle takes it with a stride. When she finally figures out what the strand's all about, she also has to figure out how to get hers healed. Unfortunately, wishing something away usually works! I'm definitely looking forward to the second book, and a more in-depth look and exploration of Mastermind Academy. Likened to the Harry Potter, the "Mastermind Academy" series is definitely something to watch for.

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### **Angela Burkhead says**

Isabelle has five days to unlock the mysteries of her sick silver strand before its failing magic drains her of

life. After wishing away her silver strand at the end of an embarrassingly strange school day Isabelle learns of her magic and the world she could have been a part of had she not unknowingly wished her magic away.

Three tests bar her path into mastermind academy where she will learn to use magic... if she can get it back. Dragons, shape shifters, scheming council members, death seems to await her around every corner and with every passing minute.

The Silver Strand enters a world of lost races and magic of the mind. The voice is perfect for the age group the book is targeted towards and makes for a quick while creatively entertaining read for adults. I didn't want to put it down.

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### **Agnes says**

I won this book on GoodReads from the author and promised to return with an honest review - here it is:

Isabelle is just a normal girl until one day at school she notices that she has a strange silver strand of hair, which shoots out pink sparkles, and that starts her on an amazing path of adventure and discovering who she really is. She has to undergo different trials using all her skills and knowledge, and only if she succeeds will she be able to save her strand from dying and two worlds from a disaster.

The book is about the adventures of a young teenager, but I loved it despite my teenage years being already some time behind me! It is light, funny, interesting, fast-paced and all around a really pleasant read. The characters really leap out of the pages and "feel" alive - I especially loved Mozzy! Reading about what happens to Isabelle at school brought me back to those days, and during the later adventures I wished I was her :) It was lovely to read and I'm looking forward to the next books in the series!

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### **Melanie says**

(3.5 stars) Isabelle's life starts out pretty ordinary. She's trying to survive gym class, along with her best friend, Bianca. She's had a headache for a few days and, suddenly, she's bleeding pink dust and feeling something wiggle out of her head. She grew a silver strand of hair that she tries to get rid of. She's not sure what to do and then Esme and Boldrick (a cat) show up. Her strand is dying and she has five days to revive it or she will die as well. She has to pass three tests and if she does, she will then be admitted to Mastermind Academy.

This is a cute, quick, clean read! Isabelle is likable and I found myself cheering her on. Boldrick is a cat and he was pretty funny. Esme is quirky and unpredictable.

I liked the beginning, then Isabelle turned into a toad and that part felt kind of long to me. Then, later, she met a dragon, which was enjoyable and then she went on a few more adventures with Esme and Boldrick. She learned more about what was happening and what the real mission was. It was fast-paced with a satisfying end. I was hoping to read about her experiences in the Academy, but I guess that will be book 2! I recommend this for mid-grade readers, 9-12.

Mel's Shelves

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## **Moonlight says**

\*Received from the Author in exchange for an honest review\*

**Unique and individual, this story is unlike any other! It is a lovely magical read, showing a girl build her confidence and belief in herself. The cover is mysterious, dark and interesting with the arch representing her entry into a new world.**

After an embarrassing day back at school when Isabelle discovers she has a silver strand, she believes it is ugly and horrible, but is soon convinced by her best friend that it is indeed magical and special... after she wishes it away, oops! To earn back her silver strand, her source of magic, she must complete three dangerous challenges to earn the right to go to Mastermind Academy. However, she is lead into an even more dangerous situation when she goes along with Boldrick and Esme.

Isabelle is a lovely character who cares about everyone, no matter what they are or where they come from; for example Mosey who is a toad. My favourite character out of everyone was without-a-doubt Mr Boldrick, I found him very funny but was additionally sensible with his gentleman like manner, furthermore he intrigued me with his history and I wanted to learn more about his mysterious past.

This is a lovely, magical story, it is light and easy to read but holding your attention till the end. There are many different aspects to this story that will appeal to everyone, additionally the story is continuous meaning something is always occurring. Full of imagination, this story a perfect read!

I thoroughly enjoyed this story and am looking forward to the second instalment.

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