



# Hand of Silver, Hand of Gold

*Christopher Peter Grey*

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**Hand of Silver, Hand of Gold** Christopher Peter Grey

A young man at odds with the world. The mystery of his dead father. A city in peril.

The year is 1493. Dark forces are at work in the city of Bologna. A Black Magician, dead for two centuries, threatens to be resurrected, and an alchemist (very much alive) roams the city, hell-bent on revenge.

Meanwhile, rebellion is being stirred up by faceless conspirators. Amid this growing turmoil, the mysterious death of his father compels a young man, Orlando Novi, to set aside his fears and put himself in the greatest danger of all to discover the truth.

Would you have the courage to find the answer to the question you fear the most?

A new fantasy thriller set in the Italian Renaissance by the award-winning author of Leonardo's Shadow, Christopher Grey.

## Hand of Silver, Hand of Gold Details

Date : Published April 21st 2018

ISBN :

Author : Christopher Peter Grey

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Hand of Silver, Hand of Gold for online ebook

### Annarella says

A good fantasy book set in Italian Renaissance. Entertaining and very enjoyable. I like the way the characters were developed and the plot was enthralling.

Recommended.

Many thanks to IndieReader In-Store and Edelweiss for the ARC

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### Kim K says

#### Storytelling at its Best!

This is a book meant to be savored. It's storytelling at its best, with a bit of magic, a bit of fantasy, and characters and historical setting that will linger long after you've finished. Well done!

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### Reviewer The Brown Bookloft says

Hand of Silver, Hand of Gold by Christopher Peter Grey

Publication Date: April 21, 2018 (Kindle Edition)

Summary: Set in Bologna, Italy at the end of the 15th century, this book is an historical-fantasy coming of age story. The protagonist, seventeen-year-old Orlando Novi, suspects his recently deceased father didn't commit suicide, but rather, was murdered. He vows to find out who murdered him and avenge his death.

While mourning at his father's grave, Orlando encounters a mysterious alchemist. The alchemist digs something out of a very old grave, leaving behind a sinister looking cross. Orlando picks this up and very quickly his life becomes entangled in intrigue, danger and political uprisings. Young and inexperienced in the evils of the world, Orlando struggles to find his path and the truth.

Comments: I received this book as a Goodreads Giveaway. It is only available on Kindle.

I enjoyed reading it. The book moves along and has excitement at every turn. Primarily, it is an historical mystery, but the alchemy adds a bit of a magical touch.

There are some historical inaccuracies—the book would have benefited from a bit more research (such as a tomato in a sandwich in 1492; tomatoes didn't appear in Europe until the 16th century (<http://www.tomato-cages.com/tomato-hi...>)). But these didn't detract from the sheer swashbuckling fun of the book.

Recommended for those who like to read historical fantasy and/or discover new authors.

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## **Brenda Hymes says**

First off, thank you to GoodReads for the free copy of this book. While it started out slow, it quickly picked up the pace. I read historical fiction occasionally and wasn't certain if I would enjoy this book set in ancient Italy. I wound up reading it every chance I got in order to get to the end and see what happened to Orlando, his family and friends.

I would recommend this book if you enjoy a good plot and mystery.

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## **Randy Grossman says**

### **Raise The Gauntlet!**

An excellent story....set in 1400s in Bologna, plenty of twists and surprises. Some I figured out prior to revelation, some I did not. The book will NOT disappoint the reader!

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## **Joyce says**

Orlando Novi is 17 years old and living in Bologna, Italy, with his mother and grandmother, during the Italian Renaissance. His brother died and now so has his father. Orlando was told that his father's death was an accident but he believes that it was murder. His mother and grandmother think he is so overwrought by his father's death that he doesn't know what he is talking about.

Orlando suspects his father's employer, Cassini, who owns an armor business. He too, thinks Orlando is not thinking straight. He tells Orlando of the special project that his father was working on.

Orlando finds an address in his father's cloak and decides to investigate his findings. This starts an amazing journey for him.

You become so involved in Orlando's adventures that it's hard to put the book down.

I thank Goodreads for the ARC copy.

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## **Norm Goldman says**

Award-winning novelist Christopher Grey sets his recent tale in 1493 when Bologna was under the tyrannical rule of an Italian nobleman, Giovanni Bentivoglio.

The opening scene of Hand of Silver, Hand of Gold finds our narrator and principal character, Orlando Novi at the graveyard of the Church of San Vitale in the middle of the night where his father, Giorgio has recently been buried. A grief stricken Orlando informs us that he has come to the cemetery to recite a poem—something more than the mere inscription on his father's tombstone which only mentions his date of birth and death as well as his occupation as armorer.

Orlando hopes to meet with his father's spirit who will disclose to him how his father died. Unfortunately,

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the spirit does not show itself and Orlando is left with the nagging mystery as to what exactly was the cause of his father's death.

Orlando informs us that on the night of his father's disappearance there was a knock late at night on the door of his home and he heard his father conversing with another man. His father, knowing that Orlando was awake, tells him that he must go to his workshop and if he is not home by morning, he will send a message. These are the last words Orlando ever spoke to his father who later was found floating in the Reno Canal. It seems that his father had slipped on the bank of the canal and fell into the water-something Orlando finds difficult to believe.

While Orlando is roaming about the graveyard, he encounters a mysterious disfigured intruder who is digging up an ancient grave containing the remains of a Black Magician. Orlando observes that the hooded man escapes with a casket. Who is this strange man and why did he rob the grave? Before exiting the graveyard, Orlando discovers near the robbed grave, a black cross, heavy and smooth, with two bars, instead of one. Orlando bundles the cross into the folds of his cloak.

A few days later while Orlando sits in the Basilica of San Domenico, he once again comes in contact with the mysterious hooded man who tells him that he knows he has the black cross and that he is to bring it at midnight to the graveyard the next evening. The hooded man warns Orlando that failing to bring the cross will mean certain death of his mother, grandmother and himself.

As the yarn advances, readers are introduced to Leon Cassini, Orlando's father's employer who has taken a liking to his mother. Cassini feels terrible about Giorgio's death and commits himself to support Orlando's family. He even offers Orlando an apprentice job in his workshop.

Orlando is not exactly ecstatic with Cassini's proposal and suspects that he may know something more about his father's untimely death. Cassini eventually divulges to Orlando that his father took his own life, which astonishes Orlando. Cassini follows up his revelation recounting to Orlando that one year prior to his father's death, Leonardo da Vinci, artist, inventor and engineer, who no longer trusted his employer, the Duke of Milan, approached Bentivoglio, ruler of Bologna with something to sell for gold.

As it turns out, da Vinci had a drawing of a gauntlet unlike any that has ever been seen. It was one that protects the hand and moreover, it can be used as a weapon of remarkable and incredible potency. Orlando's father was ordered by Bentivoglio to reproduce the gauntlet, but unfortunately, according to Cassini, he never succeeded and was so distraught that he took his own life. Orlando is not convinced and strongly believes his father was murdered and this sets him on a path to track down the murderer.

Grey structures the ensuing events with intriguing subplots involving historical facts, black magic, an all-powerful super weapon, murder, violence, deception, villains, romance and conflict that unfolds in impressionistic bits and pieces that snags his readers. The prose is both eloquent and at times poetic with writing that is spectacular in its precise, accomplished nature.

Another satisfying element are the characters that are intriguing as well as unpredictable that keeps readers guessing as to their true intentions. In addition, Grey is a master in building story and creating memorable moments particularly regarding Orlando that engender conflicting and unexpected emotions. If you have never heard of Christopher Grey I highly recommend you get to know him and pick up a copy of Hand of Silver, Hand of Gold. You will not be disappointed.

FOLLOW HERE <https://waa.ai/aoeB> TO READ NORM'S INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTOPHER GREY

## **Cheri Roan says**

Powerful, Fantasy Thriller That Readers Will Not Soon Forget!

“I am wearing his cloak, all that is left of him, the only part I can touch. Wool, three layers, dark green on the outside, lined with black silk. A thick cloak. A man’s cloak. But I am no man. I am lost.”

It’s 1493, in the city of Bologna. Seventeen-year-old Orlando Novi has already lost his brother, and now his father is gone. He was found dead in the canal. Everyone, including the guardhouse captain, his mother and grandmother believe his death was an accident. The young boy is sure it was murder and is determined to prove it – but where does he start? As he prays for answers, his first suspicions lie on his father’s boss, Cassini, but where is the proof...

Black magic, suspicious death, strange happenings in the night, a mysterious note in the pocket of a cloak all add to the imaginative mind of a young boy. Orlando has a poetic heart and writes verse; however, he knows like his father before him, he is destined to be an armourer.

What a captivating and powerful story! Christopher is a masterful storyteller, as he weaves his tale, readers can’t help but become lost within it’s pages. There is history, suspense, coming of age, all the makings of an amazing story, but the writing style is one I totally fell in love with. I felt Orlando was telling his story directly to me, in his own poetic verse, as the world fell away and I was lost in his. I felt his passion, his anguish, all of his emotions as the descriptive detail expresses the essence of this amazing novel. It is definitely a book for readers to just allow the words to engulf them and overtake them. Powerful, exciting, suspenseful, fantasy thriller that readers will not soon forget!

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## **Shir says**

What a fascinating premise! A fantasy book set in 15th-century Bologna, where a teenage Orlando Novi thinks that his recently-deceased father has been murdered, despite everyone else thinking the contrary. The book follows his trials and tribulations as he tracks down his father's purported murderer. This is an easy read and can sometimes read like a young adult book, but despite that, it's engaging.

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## **Kent Dallmeyer says**

Great

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## **Terrie L Winkates says**

### **Light and enjoyable**

1400’s Bologna Italy. Young Orlando must decide where his future will lead after the death of his father. First he is convinced his father has been murdered. Many twists and turns abound in his quest to learn the truth, including an astounding legacy that just might be the key to saving Bologna.

