

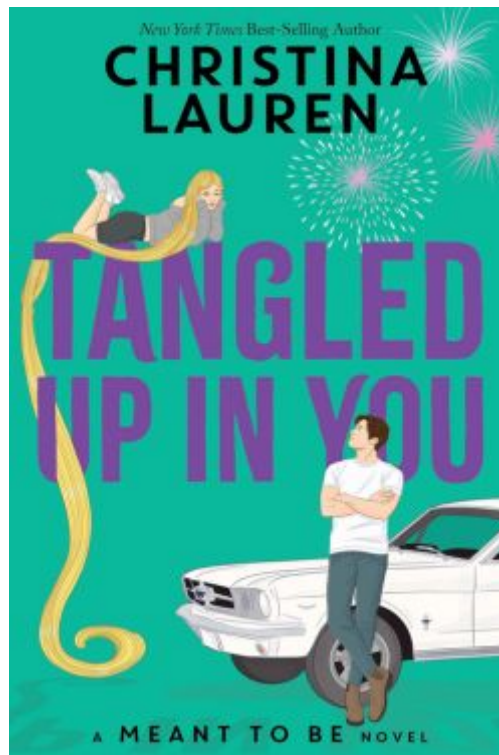


Christina Lauren's *Tangled Up in You* is a delightful and whimsical retelling of the classic Rapunzel fairy tale, infused with modern sensibilities and charm. This novel is the fourth installment in the *Meant to Be* series, known for its contemporary adaptations of beloved fairy tales. Here, the story revolves around Ren Gylden and Fitz, two characters from vastly different worlds whose paths cross in the most unexpected ways.

Plot Overview

Ren Gylden has spent the first 22 years of her life isolated on a homestead in rural Idaho, homeschooled by her prepper parents. Her upbringing, devoid of modern technology and societal norms, leaves her ill-prepared for the world beyond her secluded life. However, when she wins a scholarship to Corona College, Ren embarks on an adventure that promises to change her life forever. At college, she meets Fitz, a fellow student with his own complicated past and a meticulously planned future.

Fitz, adopted by a wealthy benefactor as a PR move, is determined to graduate at the top of his class, get his criminal record expunged, and secure a successful future. His plans, however, are disrupted when he meets Ren. The two are paired for a class assignment, and this simple task sets off a series of events that lead them on a spontaneous road trip filled with self-discovery, challenges, and a burgeoning romance.



Tangled Up in You: By Christina Lauren

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Character Development

Ren's character is a breath of fresh air. Her innocence, ingenuity, and adaptability make her a compelling protagonist. Despite her lack of exposure to the modern world, she approaches new experiences with curiosity and a positive attitude. Fitz, on the other hand, presents a more complex character arc. His initial portrayal as a wealthy, well-planned student gradually reveals deeper layers, including his struggles with his past and his genuine emotions.

The chemistry between Ren and Fitz is palpable, creating a dynamic that is both heartwarming and humorous. Their interactions are filled with witty banter and tender moments, making their relationship feel authentic and engaging. As they navigate their journey together, both characters undergo significant personal growth, learning valuable



lessons about themselves and each other.

Themes and Symbolism

Tangled Up in You cleverly reimagines the Rapunzel story, using the road trip as a metaphor for the characters' personal journeys. Each mile traveled symbolizes a step towards self-discovery and emotional growth. The novel touches on themes of freedom, self-reliance, and the importance of stepping out of one's comfort zone.

The supporting characters add depth to the story, each playing a role in Ren and Fitz's journey. From humorous encounters to heartfelt moments, these characters help to flesh out the world Christina Lauren has created.

Writing Style

Christina Lauren's storytelling is both captivating and heartfelt. The narrative is well-paced, balancing moments of tension with lighter, more humorous scenes. The authors' skillful blending of contemporary romance with fairy tale elements creates a unique and enjoyable reading experience. Their ability to craft relatable characters and engaging dialogue makes the novel a standout in the genre.

Critique about "Tangled Up in You"

While *Tangled Up in You* is an enchanting read, some readers might find the resolution of certain plot points too convenient. For instance, Ren's case, which had been a mystery for 20 years, is solved rather quickly once she and Fitz start investigating. Additionally, some secondary characters, particularly the antagonists, could have been given more depth and resolution.

Conclusion

Tangled Up in You is a delightful addition to the *Meant to Be* series, offering a fresh and modern take on a classic fairy tale. Christina Lauren's adept storytelling and charming characters make this book a must-read for fans of romance and fairy tales alike. Ren and



Tangled Up in You: By Christina Lauren (Book Review) | 4

Fitz's journey of self-discovery, love, and adventure will leave readers smiling long after they've turned the final page.

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