



The Gilded King

Josie Jaffrey

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In the Blue, the world's last city, all is not well.

Julia is stuck within its walls. She serves the nobility from a distance until she meets Lucas, a boy who believes in fairytales that Julia's world can't accommodate. The Blue is her prison, not her castle, and she'd escape into the trees if she didn't know that contamination and death awaited humanity outside.

But not everyone in the Blue is human, and not everyone can be contained.

Beyond the city's boundaries, in the wild forests of the Red, Cameron has precious little humanity left to lose. As he searches for a lost queen, he finds an enemy rising that he thought long dead. An enemy that the humans have forgotten how to fight.

One way or another, the walls of the Blue are coming down. The only question is what side you'll be on when they do.

The Gilded King Details

Date : Published June 25th 2018 by Josie Jaffrey

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Author : Josie Jaffrey

Format : Paperback 303 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Paranormal, Vampires, High Fantasy, Science Fiction, Dystopia, Romance

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From Reader Review The Gilded King for online ebook

Dianne says

And they thought it couldn't be done, but Josie Jaffrey proves the paranormal world wrong, again!

THE GILDED KING is a rock solid base for a new series and a simply amazing read from start to finish!

Anyone on the fence about wanting to try another "vampire" tale, I say, DO IT! Dystopian, paranormal, dark and unpredictable!

Ms. Jaffrey deftly melds two stories into one through threads of brilliance without sacrificing either as she tells of two "worlds," the Blue, filled with humans in what is the world's last city and the Red, a wasteland filled with unknown danger and presumably, certain death.

In a world where the Solis Invicti are the ruling nobility, offering their "protection" and taking human attendants for blood, Julia has remained in the background until the day she is called forward to serve Lucas. But Lucas is different, a gentle soul and an unlikely bond forms that goes against all Julia has ever known.

In the Red, Cameron desperately searches for a lost queen, a lost friend, but what he finds on his journey, is an abomination to be feared by all. As a Silver, he may be stronger than the monsters he finds, but the Weepers' numbers are growing and their thirst will only be quenched by human blood, the human blood of the Blue and there may be only one way to stop them, a way that is as deadly as the disease they carry and it may smell Green. But first Cam must survive the threat of a powerful traitor who wants him dead.

Follow the myths of servitude, the hopes of mere humans to gain favor with their masters and become immortal and the often raw and brutal realities of power and control. Is "living" in the Blue as captive slaves worse than escaping to the Red, freedom and certain death?

Told in the POVs of Julia and Cameron, two extremely strong and memorable characters, feel both of their emotions, their doubts and their insecurities, as well as their fears. Then feel the power of budding loves they both find, each with a being not of their kind.

Be part of their stories coming together in a high tension, razor-taut crescendo as the Red bleeds into the Blue, humanity has nowhere to turn, and the Silvers are ill-prepared to defend against the onslaught. Lies will be uncovered, a queen found, and an even greater battle is coming...In the heat of battle, a new age is coming...

Absolutely LOVED this fabulous read from Josie Jaffrey! LOVED. IT. Add this one to your MUST READ list!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Josie Jaffrey!

Series: Sovereign - Book 1

Publication Date: June 25, 2018

Publisher: Josie Jaffrey

Genre: Paranormal Dystopian

Available from: Amazon

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Sarah Black says

I was sent a copy of the Gilded King in exchange for an honest review.

This is the first book that I read by Josie Jaffrey and I was pleasantly surprised by how much I liked it!

This book kept me entertained the entire time I was reading it. It was definitely a whirlwind of adventure. Josie Jaffrey has a talent for writing and world-building! I do wish that I had read the Solis Invicti series first so that I could have been a little more filled in on the world (since both books are written in the same world).

I am definitely looking forward to reading the rest of the series. I can't wait to know what happens to the different characters.

I really enjoyed reading the chapters with Julie and Lucas. I loved the progression of their relationship.

This series definitely had an apocalyptic-dystopian feel to it, but I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading young adult fantasy. This book is adventurous, romantic, and has so much action. It is unique and a page-turner!

Thank you to the author, Josie Jaffrey, for sending me a copy of The Gilded King!

Kari Rhiannon (Moon Magister Reviews) says

I said I was going to stop picking up free books on Amazon because they inevitably disappoint me. This...THIS proved me wrong!

Fantasy mixed with paranormal mixed with post-apocalyptic. Societies ruled by vampires filled with ritual and decadence. Just...I picked this up on a whim and I'm going to be picking up book two today. For sure.

Nick says

Just got this.

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Princess says

Zombies, Vampires, oh my! This is a fitting book for this time of the year.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review.

Cam is searching the world over for the lost partner he can't give up on. He gets a new tip and is off on a journey where he will find many things, including maybe love?

Julia gets to become an attendant. A job she never wanted. But will she fall in love in spite of herself?

Is the Red really what they want them to believe. Is the Empress as innocent as she seems? Where is Emmy and why is she special? Can the Primus wake up?

Skirmish says

Book Reaction:<http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagged>...

Rating: 3.5 Stars - that place between like and love

Esmée says

★★★★★

I was offered this book by Josie Jaffrey in exchange of an honest review.

I have to start with how much I loved this book. The story flowed on so nicely, it felt really natural to read about Cam and Julia. Everytime the POV changed to the other, I was swept in a whole other story for a chapter. Absolutely incredible.

I kept imagining how this story would make one hell of a TV series or a movie trilogy. The worldbuilding was incredible and I was continuously imagining a world somewhere in between The 100 and The Vampire Diaries/The Originals. That made the journey even more epic. My love for dystopian stories grew very recently and I enjoy every bit of good vampire stories and this book caught the best of both worlds.

I am not going to write a summary, because I enjoyed going in this story blindly and I think doing so gives you the best experience. Knowing the Blue is the city where the uncontaminated humans and a group of Silver live, and the Red is everything outside the borders of the last city on Earth. Just read and be surprised, it felt really good for me. Going in pretty much blind is something new for me, as I am usually too curious for the course of the story that I read very detailed blurbs, but for this one I thought not knowing was the best.

The only downside I felt about this book is that this trilogy is in the same world as the 4-part series of Solis Invicti and it felt like there was some detailed introduction missing to truly connect with some aspects of the story or backgrounds of characters and races. To compare it, it felt a bit like Six of Crows compared to Shadow and Bone. It perfectly fine as a stand-alone series and you get most of the things, but I feel like I will understand the world better if I read the Solis Invicti series sometime, just like what I had after finally reading Shadow and Bone nearly a year after finishing the Six of Crows duology. Nonetheless, still very well done.

I really recommend this book as it is a very well written story and I believe every fan of fantasy, vampires and dystopian worlds will enjoy this book with all their hearts! When I finished this book, and damn that cliffhanger, it was that the sequel wasn't out yet or I would have bought it the next day right away. I am also very excited to read the Solis Invicti series sometime soon, as I am in love with this world. Once again, I really recommend this book and can't wait for the sequel!

The Silver Queen is out on October 17th!
Pre-order on Amazon or buy The Gilded King on Amazon or Bookdepository!

An excerpt of the story, I really loved this scene:

At the very furthest point of the temple, at the end of the double row of pillars that processed towards it, there was a pedestal mounted on a stepped dais. A figure was laid out on top of it. For a moment, Julia froze, thinking it was a real person lying there, slumbering in the temple, but something didn't fit.

The figure wasn't breathing. It wasn't moving at all.

'Come on,' Lucas said, leading her down the aisle towards it.

'Is it a statue?' she asked.

'A tomb, really.'

As they walked, he snuffed out the lamps that lined the walls, until finally the only illumination came from the rounded alcove into which the dais rose. It was a bright island in the centre of the darkness, and in the middle of it the statue shone: a man, wearing fine clothing in an unfamiliar style, with a blanket of stone covering his body. His exposed skin was tinged with a sheen of gold that glowed like the walls of the temple.

'He looks so real,' she said, reaching out to touch the golden curls that crowned his head. They were slick under her fingers, so intricate they might have been moulded from a real person.

'They say he was.'

'You mean this is his coffin?' The pedestal certainly looked like a tomb. It was wide and deep enough to accommodate a body.

'No,' Lucas said, 'I mean that this is him, that this statue was once alive.'

Julia's hand had been tracing the lines of the face, but now she snatched it away. 'You're not serious.'

'I am.'

'This is why you brought me here,' she said.

‘Of course. You want to hear the fairytale, don’t you?’

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<https://ezziesbookshelf.wordpress.com>

Erin Cataldi says

LOVED this! I've been looking for a new fantasy series to start and this is even better than I anticipated. My only complaint is that I'll now have to wait for the rest of the series to be published! And I have questions! And I'm impatient! The Gilded King is the first book in the high fantasy series, Sovereign. In this dystopian Europe (think Shannara) Blue is the last existing city in the world. At the top are the Nobles, aka the immortals, and below them are the human servants that they rely on. Julia is a lowly kitchen servant, but all that changes when she is assigned to be an attendant to a Noble. Her perspective on her very small world is about to be drastically changed. Outside the Blue is the Red, a place where contagion reigns supreme and the remnants of civilization lay buried. Mere humans can never survive in such a wasteland... or so they're told. In the Red, a noble is out searching; Cameron has been on the hunt for Emma for centuries, but nothing will stop him from combing the wild forests of the Red. Alternating chapters show Julia's mortal life in the Blue and Cameron's immortal life out in the Red; little do they know that both their worlds are to be forever altered by forces outside their control. They are living in the calm before the storm. A fantastic fantasy read and I can't wait to continue the series!

Shay says

Wow. For those of you who were fans of Josie's first series, Solis Invicti, you are sure in for a treat with this one! This book takes place in the same universe as the other series. Everything that you loved about Solis is doublefold in Sovereign!!! Josie intertwines two worlds beautifully as she introduces you to the Reds and the Blues!

The Blue is the last standing city struggling to survive! Julia, a human, battles with herself for wanting to escape this life of servitude and take her chances in the Red while slowly bonding with her assigned noble Lucas.

Meanwhile Cam, a Silver, is seeking the whereabouts of the long lost Queen and in the process realizing a true threat to all.

Gilded King is both impactful and unpredictable! I was rooting for both Julia and Cam the entire way through their journeys. The way Josie weaves her tales is astounding I left this book hoping for a quick release of the second. I loved the real feeling of the characters, the tension peaking through the pages, and the rush of being drawn into such a powerful world!

I received an ARC from Josie and have voluntarily left this review.

Anthony ➡ KeepReadingForward ➡ says

3/5

Date Reviewed: 22 June 2018

This Review was first posted on Keep Reading Forward. If you want to see more, check out our other locations as well as here.

Check the blog for an excerpt of the book!

ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

In the Gilded King, the Blue is the last city in the world and it doesn't look like it is doing well. Julia serves the nobility of the city, even when she meets Lucas, some boy who believes in the fairytales they heard. Julia knows that there is no time for these stories in the Blue. However, in the Blue, not everyone is Human. While there's the Blue, the Red exists just outside the Blue's boundaries. In the Red, Cameron searches for a lost queen and ends up fighting a long-thought dead enemy on the rise. Either way, the Blue is in for an awakening.

I was approached by the author to review this book. When the book was first mentioned, I was told that this series is a stand-alone trilogy that takes place in the same world as her Solis Invicti series, a paranormal romance. My first thought there was no way I was going to read this. Paranormal romance is sort of not my thing. However, it was explained that this isn't really a paranormal romance book after all, even though there is a few bits of romance in the book.

Although I have read a few paranormal books before, what really took my attention and made me want to read this book was the cover and the story of this lost queen. I wanted to know more about it and what was the significance of this lost queen. I was not really drawn to the Blue and the Red and what else was going on between the two areas, I was just drawn to this lost queen. This is was plot I was willing to follow.

Due to my deep focus on the topic of the lost queen, I wasn't really aware of what else was going on, or I will didn't commit everything to remember later on. However, what I saw was good, drawn out characters that made an interesting story between the two POV's that were interesting. It definitely allowed some suspense to grow from switching to the other POV when something dramatic happened and left us waiting throughout the next chapter to know what happened next. I thought this was a good move.

It was interesting to see something I thought was a good book, even when it was not in my normal range for books I usually read. I did think this book was good to read, and I know bigger paranormal/fantasy fans will love this book as well. The Gilded King may be a short book, but this was an impressive book, overall.

While I am on the line of deciding whether or not I wish to continue the series for myself, I urge others to give this book a chance and discover the world it has to offer. It is really interesting, suspenseful, and dramatic, a good combination a book should have to keep it good enough throughout the entire story.

Darque Dreamer says

The Gilded King is a story shrouded in mystery and lore. Touched with darkness, and thriving with excitement, it will draw you in and grip you until the end. For those looking for a vampire story with unique attributes, look no further.

This one was definitely a unique, interesting read. I really enjoyed the take on vampires, and the addition of a new virus that not only affected vampires, but humans. It was all very intriguing and really kept me reading.

There were several moments in the story that left me confused, though. I would have liked a touch more explanation to the world, and its happenings. Despite this, there was something magnetic about the story, and its characters, that kept pulling me back in.

I liked the interaction between Julia and Lucas. It reminded me a little of Beauty and the Beast. I also really loved Cam and his strength and drive.

There were a lot of predictable moments, but there was plenty of action and unpredictability that kept the story going. The fairytale-esque style history of the world really grabbed my attention, and the thrill of the story kept its pace until the very end. Even though I wasn't always clear about what was going on in the world, the excitement of the plot, and the strong characters really kept me drawn in. I'd rate it 3.5 stars and would definitely say it was worth a read!

Thank you to the author for providing me with this free e-copy in exchange for my honest review.

Siobhan says

The Gilded King is the first book in Josie Jaffrey's Sovereign series, and it sets the standard for the rest of this series extremely high. Honestly, I was addicted from the very first page and I cannot wait to dive into the future books in this series. In fact, the Sovereign series is a spin-off of Josie Jaffrey's Solis Invicti series, and I'm rather desperate to go and grab those books now, too.

Being a spin-off series, I was somewhat tentative about going into the Sovereign series. Although it was advertised as working alone, I'm always nervous that I will miss links. There have been many occasions where I have picked up spin-off series and have missed many details as it wasn't quite the standalone it was advertised as. The Gilded King does work fine as a standalone introduction to a new series, but I do feel as though readers of the Solis Invicti series will understand certain things better. There were many times when events were spoken of, and explained, which I thought were obvious references to the Solis Invicti series. As someone who is now desperate to grab A Bargain in Silver, The Price of Silver, Bound in Silver, and The Silver Bullet, I feel as though I know what to expect with some of the details. Therefore, I would suggest, if you're someone who likes to know everything, read the Solis Invicti series first. If you're happy events explained rather than reading the way the events unfold, then dive straight into The Gilded King – it really is a great read.

I'm a big fan of dystopian worlds when they are mixed with the paranormal we know so well from urban fantasy, and in this case it was vampires. Not our usual kind, though. With The Gilded King we come to understand a different vampire world to what we are accustomed to, we get to see a new way of vampirism.

As a lover of vampire novels and dystopian novels, this book was exactly what I could hope for from a combination of the two.

We follow two stories throughout, that come to overlap towards the end of the book. Both were very different kinds of stories, but both were wonderful. Sometimes when there are multiple stories being told within a single book, I find myself wishing we were given the stories individually, but not with *The Gilded King*. I really enjoyed the back and forth, I enjoyed watching the way it slowly brought the different aspects of the world to life for me. I cannot pick which of the two stories were my favourite, as I enjoyed the characters and the events in both so much. I'm so excited to see where both stories take us next, and I'm really hoping the two will cross over some more in the future.

Honestly, this book had so much. There was action, there was drama, there was romance, there were twists and turns, and so many other things. Once I started this book I could not put it down, I found myself turning the pages at a rapid pace, desperate to see how everything came together. Upon reaching the end, with the information given to us and the way we're left lingering with questions, I found myself desperate for book two in the series. Without a doubt, I'll be grabbing it as soon as I can.

Overall, this was a wonderful read. In fact, this was one of those cases where my inability to hand out five-star ratings like the rest of the population resulted in a four-point-five-star read being rounded down. I honestly believe, though, after just one book, that Josie Jaffrey is more than capable of pulling a five-star rating from me, and I'll certainly be reading more of her work in the hope I find another of those hidden gems of a five-star read.

Fanna says

The Gilded King is a paranormal set in a fantasy world which Blue and Red are two parts of. The Red denotes the danger, the end, where toxins and creatures reside while the Blue denotes the safe place where people can survive--but not for long.

Julia is a servant to the Nobles--vampires made of silver and who suck on human blood to remain alive--and can't wait to cross the line and jump into the Red. But the Red isn't safe or that's what everyone keeps saying. Absolutely despising the Nobles, Julia never intended to become a personal servant to any of the "heartless" beings. But fate decides to assign her to a young boy, Lucas, who has ideologies different (yet same) from her. Parallel to this is the story of Cameron who is a part of the Solis Invicti that have pledged to protect Blue, and sets out to find Emma--a part of this group who had gone missing.

The story is said from dual POVs and that makes it all the more interesting and in momentum by giving the readers bits from each of their journeys and leaving them hanging at appropriate times too. There are twists and turns that make it an all the more pleasurable read. The romance is one that develops gradually and doesn't make you cringe or roll your eyes--you'll only smile and gush about the new OTPs you would make. **Also, there are gay characters and not only is their relationship portrayed in a 'normal' way but even the first-ever mention, in the book, of them being gay is so subtly done that it impresses me.**

"You don't believe in magic, then?"

"Of course," she said, "but just because I believe in one kind of magic, it doesn't mean I

have to believe in them all."

Speaking of the fantasy world, you'll find vampires and zombies that have been renamed to better suit the fantasy this book was aimed for, along with stories/fairytales about this world that immensely helped in the world building. **In addition to the romance, there are other other relationships being well endorsed especially that of friendships.** Whether it's Cameron running to find Emmy or Julia sticking by Claudia (her best friend) through thick and thin, the friendships are to die for.

They clasped each other's wrists, and the bargain was sealed.

The action in the book is amazingly incorporated to not let the other aspects dull in favor of this but still make the readers appreciate it. After all, zombies can easily take a central frame but it's nice how all the bits of the story were walking together in the center lane. The last scene (like many others during the entirety of the book) brought an adrenaline rush and it's a cliffhanger that I would die on because it's so good! Needless to say, I can't wait to read the next book in the Sovereign series.

I received a physical copy of this book via the author herself but that doesn't, in any way, influence the rating and/or my thoughts on it. Thank you so much, Josie Jaffrey!

LISTS OR POSTS I'VE MENTIONED THIS BOOK IN:

The Christmas Stocking Tag - 10 Book Recommendations

Five Books I Read in 2018 That I Didn't Expect To Love But They Now Hold My Heart

Blog/Website / Twitter / Tumblr / Instagram / Pinterest

Initial Reaction: Loved it so much! It's the book that got me out of a reading slump so yes, it's amazing. Review to come.

Shirley Cuypers says

Original review

This book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you Josie Jaffrey!

The Gilded King tells the story of Julia and Cameron. Julia is stuck in the Blue and needs to work as a server until she meets Lucas. Lucas believes in fairytales and Julia wants to believe in them but she can't. Cameron is looking behind the walls of the Blue, the Red, for their lost queen and discovers so many things, including a rising enemy...

The Gilded King is the first book in the *Sovereign* series, a spin-off series for the *Solis Invicti* series, and is yet another amazing book written by Josie Jaffrey. I loved reading the *Solis Invicti* series and I was so excited and happy when Josie asked me if I wanted to read *The Gilded King*!

I really love that Julia and Cameron don't really have something in common, but you can still read in both perspectives. You get to know how people live in the Blue and how people live in the Red and how everything changed. I love the relationship between Julia and Lucas, but I don't really know what to think about Cameron and Felix. I loved them so much but then the last few chapters kind of changed my mind...

I loved *The Gilded King* and I cannot wait to read the other books in the *Sovereign* series. I love Josie Jaffrey's writing, so I know that I'm going to love all the other books!

*The Sovereign series is a spin-off series and you don't have to read the *Solis Invicti* series, but I do recommend reading it because 1. it's amazing and 2. you know a lot more about the world Josie Jaffrey has created so it's easier to read the *Sovereign* series. The *Sovereign* series also contains some spoilers for the *Solis Invicti* series, so I recommend reading the *Solis Invicti* series first and then the *Sovereign* series.*

Larissa (Book Bosomed Blonde) says

Review on my blog

Well, that was a whirlwind of an adventure, if I've ever been on one! This book took me by complete surprise. I thought it was going to be a book about peasants and royalty but it was so much more than that. Way better than I ever expected it to be. Blood, bonds, centuries-old traditions with mysteries and secrets, this is a book that packs a punch.

Jaffrey has a very direct writing style. Told in the third person from the perspective of both Julia and Cameron, we get a take on two separate parts of the same world. Although we only see it from their eyes, we get a greater understanding of the situation our characters reside in, as mysteries slowly start to unravel. The transition between the chapters is extremely effective and somehow always relating to one another (even in completely different situations). It really is a very intriguing story and it keeps your attention all the way through.

The characters themselves are not only different "species" but different people in their morals and behaviour. I like that we get these two very different people as the text never confuses you as to who you are reading from. I do have to say that I enjoyed reading from Julia's perspective the best. She is a very relatable, flawed character. While Cameron is true to his person, i just found him to be a bit boring at times, but that could be due to his years spent on the earth... You'll know what i mean when you read the book.

The world itself is vast and ever-changing. I believe its set in the far future of our earth, where our species have diverged into two (at times three) separate breeds. It's fascinating because you only learn about the world slowly and things only start to come together at the end when you nearly have all the information. I

just kept reading to find out more about this intriguing world and I wasn't disappointed!!

I haven't read a book like this in a while and it is one I am extremely happy with. The story is a fast-paced political, mind-field with a vagueness that actually keeps you intrigued. With so many twists and turns, I didn't know where we would end up, but it was one hell of a ride.

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