



# The Goose Girl

by Shannon Hale

Published 2003  
300 pages  
Hale's first novel

## Plot Summary

First line: "She was born Anidori-Kiladra Talianna Isilee, Crown Princess of Kildenree, and she did not open her eyes for three days."

## Characters/Setting

Kildenree – home kingdom

Anidori-Kiladra Talianna Isilee (Ani / Isi)

King, queen, prince, and princesses

Selia, Ungolad, Yulan, Ishta

Talone

Falada

Bayern – foreign kingdom

Geric, king, young prince

Enna, Conrad, Tatto

Gilsa, Finn

Jok

## Point of View

Third person

## Author Info

Shannon Hale is the author of five award-winning young adult novels, including the bestselling Newbery Honor book *Princess Academy*, and a romantic comedy for adults, *Austenland*. She has a BA from the University of Utah and an MFA from the University of Montana. She and her husband are co-writing a series of graphic novels and live with their two small children in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## Websites

Shannon Hale [www.squeetus.com](http://www.squeetus.com)

The Goose Girl [www.squeetus.com/books\\_goose.html](http://www.squeetus.com/books_goose.html)

The Brothers Grimm's "The Goose Girl"

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm089.html>

Ani was the crown princess, until her mother the queen announced that her younger brother was to be king and that Ani was to be married to a prince in the neighboring kingdom of Bayern. On the way to Bayern, her lady-in-waiting stages a coup and goes to Bayern pretending to be the princess. Ani, who has the gift of speaking to birds, is assigned to be the keeper of the king's geese. Ani makes friends, falls in love with a mysterious man, discovers her own voice, and stages a coup of her own.

## Discussion Questions

- Discuss Ani's relationship with her mother. Do you think the queen truly loves her daughter? Do you believe her mother's actions are a betrayal?
- Although Ani has the gift of animal-speaking, she is forced to hide it from others. How would her life have been different had this been a valued gift in her own kingdom?
- Read the original Grimm's fairy tale, "The Goose Girl." Compare with Hale's version.

