



## Beauty and the Beast - All Four Versions

*Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont , Gabrielle de Villeneuve , Andrew Lang , Jacob Grimm , Wilhelm Grimm , Margaret Hunt (Translator) , James Robinson Planché (Translator)*

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*Beauty and the Beast – All Four Versions* includes the original, adult-oriented edition of the story by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve (translated from the French by James Robinson Planché), the simplified and shortened version by Jeanne-Marie Leprince De Beaumont which appeared sixteen years later - the basis for all future versions, the Brothers Grimm adaptation and a somewhat forgotten version by Victorian folklorist and anthropologist Andrew Lang. There is also an image gallery showcasing over thirty classic *Beauty and the Beast* illustrations by Walter Crane and others.

*Beauty and the Beast – All Four Versions*

*Beauty and the Beast* by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve.

*Beauty and the Beast* by Jeanne-Marie LePrince de Beaumont.

*The Singing, Springing Lark* by the Brothers Grimm.

*Beauty and the Beast* by Andrew Lang.

Image Gallery.

### Beauty and the Beast - All Four Versions Details

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## From Reader Review Beauty and the Beast - All Four Versions for online ebook

### Paul says

Very interesting. Quite a bit different than the Disney version. No Gaston! No singing candlesticks! And there are wicked sisters!

The four versions were written by different authors, including the Brothers Grimm. Three of the versions date from 1783 through 1889. One is very long, and the other two are shortened versions of the first.

The long version is 3/4 of the book - and it doesn't need to be. Sometimes it reads like the "One Thousand and One Nights", and you almost expect Aladdin to drop in. Other times it reads like Dumas. The problem is at the end, after the Beast has been transformed, where one of the Fairies goes off into a long-winded explanation of what was happening in the background, that takes up almost a quarter of the book. The second and third versions are basically the same story, without the speech at the end.

The fourth is a Brothers Grimm story that is similar, but not quite the same, with a lion instead of the Beast, and there is a dragon and other things.

All in all, it was interesting.

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### Cherry says

#### Amazing as expected

Ive been in love with the story of Belle and Adam since I was a child and saw the Disney animated movie. Ive always wanted to red the original stories and was so happy to find them in a bundle. The story is defintley different than the movie but is beautiful. Truly a tale as old as time!

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### Marquise says

Another very lovely book I got that collects the four most popular and known *Beauty and the Beast* versions in existence, namely the original by Villeneuve (my personal favourite despite its flaws by the end), the later shortened version by Beaumont, the German equivalent by Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm (which I see has little resemblance to the French ones, but does fit in the category nonetheless), and finally the version by Lang, who seems to have shared my dissatisfaction and "solved" it by taking the good bits from Villeneuve and splattering them all over Beaumont. Heh, clever chap!

This edition also has gorgeous reproductions of classic illustrations for all these four versions, by greats such as Crane, Mayer, Dulac, etc., which should appeal to collectors as well as delight fans of this tale that want to compare and contrast each interpretation. If you like tales, do yourself a favour and grab this edition for your collection!

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### Steve Cran says

Definitely one of the most popular faery tales, it has been made into a movie or tv series countless times.

Disney made a cartoon movie out of it, later on the French made a movie out of it and now there is a new version out. The TV series makes further twists on the plot. When it comes to faery versions there are basically four major ones. The first one is just a regular faery tale, the second is a condensed version of the first, The Grimm Brother version is much different while the fourth is written by Andrew Lang. The first version is the most complete of all. In fact it is so complete that the ending part which explains everything in great detail becomes rather long and painful. Sometimes I got lost while reading the ending part because in reality it goes into the backstory rather in depth, something which the other three don't. Most versions of the story start out with a wealthy business man who loses everything after a fire burns his house and his fleet of boats get drowned in a storm. With very little money left the merchant takes his sons and daughters to a country villa where they have to do their own chores now. Further in the tale the father gets word that one of his ships made it. Expecting great fortune the kids all want expensive gifts, everyone except beauty who wants just a rose. Well his partners thought he was dead and split everything up. On the way home with almost nothing to show for his endeavors, the merchant gets caught in the snow it is during a snow storm that he finds relief in a castle. He is well fed and well rested and spying on a rose, he takes one that is when he is confronted by a beast. The beast threatens to kill him in retaliation for taking his rose after receiving such great hospitality. In return for letting the merchant live his daughter must take his place. She must stay there forever and she is expecting to die. The beast, however, kills her with kindness. He tries to woo her and get her to fall in love. When she wants to go home for a week or month or two months depending on the version the beast lets her and he gives her magic so she can get back quickly. When she takes too long he starves himself almost until the point of death. At this point she realizes her love for him and agrees to marry him. The Beast turns into a prince and a handsome one at that. The second version pretty much ends there while the fourth version, written by, Andrew Lang, explains that then a wicked faery turned him into the beast for spurning her. He would have to have a virgin fall in love with him. The first version goes into even more detail. It notes that the prince's mother wants him to marry royalty. Good thing that Beauty was an adopted child by her merchant father. Her real father is a king. There is also a good faery who teaches them how to counter the wicked faery's spell. The wicked faery helped the prince's mother capture land and maintain her kingdom. It goes a bit into faery politics. The Grimm version is much much different. In this version the beast is a lion and instead of a rose the man takes a bird. There is a sojourn back home and the revived lion gets well and marries her. When she wants to go home with him for a celebration he warns her that if he is touched by candle light he will turn into a dove for seven years. Well he gets touched by candle light and she has to pursue the dove for seven years. She asks the winds for help as well as the sun and the moon. They each give her gifts which she will need. It ends up that the lion has resumed his form and is fighting a dragon who happens to be a queen. Magic makes them resume human form and away he goes with the queen leaving his beloved behind. She follows him to the kingdom but he has forgotten her. Twice she tricks the evil queen into letting her sleep in the same room as her husband. Eventually she wins him back. Fun read and very informative to see how different versions of a story play out.

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## Erica says

I didn't so much enjoy the Grimm fairy tale part of the original stories, but the rest of them were very enchanting.

I enjoyed the original story up until after he had changed and then the story seemed to drag on a bit too much, dwelling on the fairy and what she did to the Prince, dwelling on why he did what he did and what was behind it all I just feel like that was more than enough information. Other than this I greatly enjoyed it.

The second story I believe was my favorite. Aside from the Beast asking Beauty to marry him every night

the story gave a more clear picture of how their love for each other developed into a real experience.

The third was the Grimm fairy tale about the Beast as a lion and I couldn't seem to grasp where they were going with it. It wasn't my cup of tea.

The fourth story was very much similar to the second only shorter, even less detail. I loved it still more as a quick story I could read through when I want to read.

All in all these books were good and if you're a fan of the story of Beauty and the Beast at all, I would highly recommend trying out the original stories it's made a fan like me very glad to have read them.

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