



Fairy Tale

Alice Thomas Ellis

Download now

Read Online 

Fairy Tale

Alice Thomas Ellis

Fairy Tale Alice Thomas Ellis

Imagine Rumpelstiltskin, Snow White, and Morgan Le Fey folded into one story and you'll have some idea of Alice Thomas Ellis's quirky novel, *Fairy Tale*. Set in the wooded hills and remote valleys of Wales, Ellis's modern-day romance follows the fortunes of young Eloise and her paramour, Simon, as they leave promising careers in London behind and adopt, instead, a rural life. Simon, who had a future in advertising, becomes a woodworker, while Eloise makes her living sewing chic clothing out of old lace. Despite their idyllic surroundings, Eloise is beginning to feel bored by the quiet life--so much so that she wishes for a baby to give her life purpose. Be careful what you wish for, Eloise--the magic begins when four mysterious men appear in Eloise's garden just as she pricks her finger with a needle, dripping a drop of blood onto her white lace. Before you can say "Magic Mirror on the Wall," all kinds of fey events begin to happen: Eloise disappears on long walks in the woods, one time emerging bone dry from a stroll in a rainstorm, another time returning home with a mysterious green-eyed, silver-haired baby.

Readers will understand that the characters in this novel are not what they seem far sooner than Eloise and Simon do; nevertheless, half the fun in this moonstruck novel is Ellis's juxtaposition of her oblivious human characters with her all-too-aware--and slightly scary--fairy ones. Light, slightly satirical, impeccably written, this is one *Fairy Tale* meant for adults.

Fairy Tale Details

Date : Published July 1st 2001 by Akadine Press (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9781888173406

Author : Alice Thomas Ellis

Format : Paperback 217 pages

Genre : Fiction, Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Literary Fiction

 [Download Fairy Tale ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Fairy Tale ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Fairy Tale Alice Thomas Ellis

From Reader Review Fairy Tale for online ebook

Poofygoo says

I hate Jane Austen, so I loved how this book subtly parodied all of Austen's simpering womenfolk.

Georgina says

Mysterious and compelling and funny(ha ha)

Pamela Toler says

Ellis' books always combine elegant prose and a world tilted one variation away from the fields we know. Fairy Tale is no exception.

T. Frohock says

A witty and enchanting novel with subtle undertones of darkness. I just loved it.

Donna says

Incredibly fun book, and just slightly creepy. *smile* A young couple moves to the Welsh countryside, and very strange occurrences ensue. Well written, clever, funny, and.... yeah.... just a little creepy. A quick and enjoyable read. Highly recommended.

* * * * *

There is no way to review this book without giving away bits of the plot, so I will say no more about the story itself. Just trust me. Read it. You'll love it.

Now....as to the reason I read it: My landlady handed it to me when she heard about my plan to head off to Wales for seven days at the seaside (four weeks from today....the countdown has begun). I've booked a "room with a view" in a quaint bed & breakfast, just steps from the beach. I am so looking forward to celebrating the completion of exams and the end of my school year at the LSE. I plan on doing plenty of reading, lots of writing, and having no decisions more difficult than whether to walk north or south on the beach this morning, and what wine to have with dinner. And oh yes....sleep. I'll be doing LOTS of sleeping.

I do hope I don't run into any strange men. 'Nuff said. (Eeek!)

Fairy Tale is full of wonderful strings of words. This is one of my favourites: "The days went by like carelessly turned pages, so that she seemed to have missed whole passages, and sometimes felt that she must have turned two pages without noticing." [p. 103]

Anne says

This book is terrific--funny, spooky, deeper than it seems at first. These are not tame fairies, but fairies from an older, darker time, from a time before humans counted time. My only regret is that this was Ellis's last novel, and I have no more to read.

Storyheart says

3.5 stars.

Lisa says

Staple diet: Fairy tales. I grew up in the forests of Sweden and I have devoured fairy tales, ever since my parents found me inside the hollow of an ancient oak in a glade in the wood (ok, that last part about the oak isn't true, but the rest is). Fairy tales, in my view, should be dark, eerie, full of magic and over-brimming with nature. Going by the blurb of this book, it ought to tick all the boxes. And even when reading it I was nearly brought to tears, because I felt it was such a wasted opportunity. The book is massively over-written and I had to read whole paragraphs twice to try to work out some finer point or other being made. I was continually being told how various characters felt and what their character traits were and none of them were consistent with themselves and often did not fit with what was going on at the time. But please. Go back, clean it up, rewrite it. It has the potential to be beautiful.

Jenny Lyon says

I hadn't read any reviews about this book before I read it. In fact, I picked it up by chance on the bookshelf of my apartment (my landlady left a lot of her books behind). So now, when i see all the fantastic reviews, I wonder if we were reading the same book.

In short, I really didn't like it. I found parts of the narrative too drawn out, while others, that deserved more attention, given a passing glance. I love fairy tales as a rule, send the idea from the blurb sounded great. It just didn't do it for me. The story centres on Eloise, an 18 year old who grows stranger by the day thanks to the influence of the haunted house she lives in and the not so friendly fairies living around her.

It's not very clear when the book is set, though you feel a modernity to it. I wanted to ask questions, know more about the history of the house, the Queens and the fairies generally. But it's not very detailed in that respect. Maybe for some this might be intriguing, but for me, was too open ended and unclear.

I also thought the ending was strange, unclear and the final few lines annoyingly cliched.

Deodand says

Ellis manages the subject of fairies in a modern way. It's easy to fall into previous writers' steps here, since much territory has been covered. This book is not twee or cute - it's actually a suspense story. It's a short book and no words are wasted. I got the sense that every chapter was trimmed to its essentials, which is something I like to see. The characters are very fleshed-out for such a short read.

Patricia says

This novelist's gift is to unsettle and disorient readers. She writes about ordinary happenstances (the novella *Summerhouse*, which became a highly entertaining movie of the same name, tells of young woman's engagement, culminating on the morning of the nuptials); the milieu of *Fairy Tale* is a the back-to-Mother-Earth country setting, where a young couple tries to piece together a self-sustaining life. A novel, in Alice Thomas Ellis's hands, is not a benign force. Don't pick up her book if you are uncomfortable with the idea of fiction, like a gumshoe skulking dark alleys, packing heat. True aim and capable of scaring Hell out of you.

Sally says

I loved this book. It takes place in rural Wales in modern times. I can't say much more without spoiling it. You'll have to take my word for it. The writing is brilliant, not a word is wasted.

Nina says

WHAT A FUNNY LITTLE BOOK.

GoldGato says

"This place is too far from the shops."

'This place' is an isolated spot in Wales, where the Watchers wait. The speaker is Clare, a wonderful play on upper-middle-class women who believe a man and money (the money would come with the man) make a life. Clare is my favorite character in this novel, as her self-centered remarks bring a bite of humor to the book's structure, which revolves around three disparate women, one clueless male, and one why-are-we-here feline.

The Kings' women had been lost, taken, long ago before time or words could tell, before the forests fell or the mists lifted.

I loved Miriam and Clare and the Gamekeeper and the Cat...and the Welsh-i-ness of it all. If anything the book ended too quickly, as I yearned for a bit more of the lore of Wales and the Kings of the Heights. The dialogue is believable, especially when the two older women are trying to figure out the countryside and what it lacks versus Fortnum and Mason.

She was a rare spirit who was generous in her life, inspirational in her writing, and whose death is a reminder of what has been lost in publishing today.

The Guardian's obituary for the author certainly got it right. Based on the loveliness of this novel, I will be adding A Welsh Childhood to my wish list.

Book Season = Autumn (the season for sacrifices)

Tammy V says

Ellis's latest work, this read is a page turner weaving myth, character development through interior dialogue and the dark wood ever encroaching on the light. Masterfully done in true fairytale fashion (and I don't mean Disney's confectionar sugarized versions). It ended too soon. I had to buy this one - my local library only has 2 of her books.
