



Fairy Tales Every Child Should Know

Hamilton Wright Mabie

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The fairy tale is a poetic recording of the facts of life, an interpretation by the imagination of its hard conditions, an effort to reconcile the spirit which loves freedom and goodness and beauty with its harsh, bare and disappointing conditions. It is, in its earliest form, a spontaneous and instinctive endeavor to shape the facts of the world to meet the needs of the imagination, the cravings of the heart.

Classics included in this volume include:

One Eye, Two Eyes, Three Eyes,
The Magic Mirror,
The Enchanted Stag,
Hansel and Grethel,
The Story of Aladdin,
This Story of Ali Baba,
The Second Voyage of Sinbad the Sailor,
The White Cat,
The Golden Goose,
The Twelve Brothers,
The Fair One With the Golden Locks,
Tom Thumb,
Blue Beard,
Cinderella,
Puss In Boots,
The Sleeping Beauty In the Wood,
Jack and The Bean-Stalk

Fairy Tales Every Child Should Know Details

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From Reader Review Fairy Tales Every Child Should Know for online ebook

Jeremy Herrera says

Not having really ever hearing the true fairy tales other than Disney or other modern children's story taling, now I know the really tales. While the Disney spins of these tales are good and great moral values are taught to children, the actual fairy tales are much better and give a better lesson of moral values. They are more dark and in some cases violent than what we currently tell our children. Another great thing about this book is that it is more than just a few Grimm Fairy Tales but a few that I never heard of before. I would highly recommend everyone to read this book.

Mars says

A bunch of old fairy tales, pulled from various sources.

I'll do them by author, since they're hard to classify all in one chunk.

Grimm's Fairy Tales

"The Magic Mirror", "Hansel and Grethel", etc

No plot, no character development, a few are hideously abridged (although I can't tell if this is just a particularly bad edition), they're written in a rather dull language, and quite honestly not enjoyable in the least.

1001 Nights

"Aladdin", "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves", etc

These are actually not bad, but a more complete edition would make more sense than a few stories scattered here and there amid other styles of telling. I've read an edition of these (Burton was it?) a while back, I'd recommend just going with that.

Comtesse d'Aulnoy

"The White Cat" and "The Fair One with the Golden Locks"

Just... ugh. In headline form:

"Man falls in love with a cat!"

"Parents hate child enough to give her a ridiculous name!"

"It's ok to murder members of various endangered species!"

Charles Perrault

"Blue Beard", "Cinderella", "Little Red Riding Hood", etc

I can't figure out if the originals were quite this full of entendres, or if it's a side effect of a particularly atrocious translation, but Perrault sounds like one dirty old bastard either way. (the other fairy tales have a healthy share of this sort of stuff too, but he goes all out)

The wolf, before LRRH starts querying him about the size of his various appendages, tells her to get undressed and get into bed with him, which request she readily complies with, for instance.

Hans Christian Andersen

"The Princess on the Pea", "The Ugly Duckling"

Heh, heh.

In the morning she was asked how she had slept.

"Oh, miserably!" said the princess. "I scarcely closed my eyes all night long. Goodness knows what was in my bed. I lay upon something hard, so that I am black and blue all over. It is quite dreadful!"

...

So the prince took her for his wife.

You can probably guess where I'm going with this.

But other than that, had I not read these I would not have missed out.

(there are others, but nothing really worthy of note)

Admittedly though, a few of these are filled with tidbits of truth, such as:

A handsome, rich, young prince, whose territories joined to hers, was deeply in love with the reports he heard of her, and sent to demand her in marriage.

But in general, don't bother.

Caroline says

I probably wouldn't have read this had it not been free for kindle. There're some favorites in here, but while I enjoy fairytails in general, I much prefer the unfiltered Grimm's. I mean, Cinderella's just not the same without some good ole toe carnage.

Cecilia Ryan says

In terms of retellings of fairytales that were perfectly fine before they were re-told, this is a book full of bad ones. I suspect some of them are just bad translations, but the prose is pretty awful in more than one place, and the stories are told awkwardly. Which is an unforgivable sin for a collection of fairytales, because the only thing that makes one different from another is the way they're written down.

I am disappointed by this book.

Ulol Kimil says

It's funny how the stories you "knew" via cinema/TV are quite so different from their real versions. Some are crud, some others more deep, some just have no happy ending, and nevertheless, almost everybody only knows the Disneyised happy versions. What a pity.

J.R. Barker says

I think this should be called fairy tales every child should know once they've grown up. Some of the stories may want vetting for younger children.

Although I thoroughly enjoyed this book I would stick to the modernised fairy tale versions. It is fascinating to see where some of the stories stemmed from and how they have been altered.

Megan says

I was looking for an audiblebook that would provide a lot of bang for the buck (11 hours 5 minutes for 1 credit). We've been reading several novelizations of fairy tales lately,(like "Half Upon A Time") and they make reference to fairy tales that my kids aren't familiar with (like Rose Red, or the man who slew 7 with one blow). So, we've been checking out physical fairy tale books as well as audio books about fairy tales to fill in the holes in our fairy tale education.

This compilation uses older language, which I really like. My kids seem to be able to understand it just fine. The narrator is good. There are some familiar stories, as well as some I'd never heard. The book starts off with "One Eye, Two Eye, Three Eye." Add a magic goat and you've got a slightly creepy, but really fun fairy tale. Others I wasn't as familiar with included the Enchanted Stag, The White Cat, The Twelve Brothers, The Fair One With the Golden Locks, Blue Beard.

Stories with plenty of familiarity, but may have some surprises from the way they were portrayed by Disney or other modern tellings include: Snow White (or in this version, the Magic Mirror), Hansel and Gretel, Aladdin, Ali Baba, Cinderella, Puss in Boots, The Golden Goose, the Three Bears,etc.

There are 24 separate stories in this book.

We all really enjoyed this book. Remember, though, that original fairy tales can be a bit more savage than you might remember. This isn't necessarily bedtime reading for every child.

sparkypink says

Wow. These are not your Disney sugar coated fairy tales, although everyone does end up living happily ever after. Well, almost everyone. It was interesting to read them in their original forms, though.

Steven says

There are 24 separate stories in this book. Here's where I am so far...

Chapter 1. ONE EYE, TWO EYES, THREE EYES: I like magic goats. Add some mutants, and I'm in heaven. Excellent.

Chapter 2. THE MAGIC MIRROR: This is better known as "Snow White." The key difference from the film? The protagonist is 7 years old. To me this makes the story so much better.

Chapter 3. THE ENCHANTED STAG: I liked it.

Chapter 4. HANSEL AND GRETHEL: The father is so much less likable than I remember from my youth. It appears abandoning your first children at the second wife's whim is not only ancient but forgivable.

Chapter 5. THE STORY OF ALADDIN: Aladdin is a shiftless good-for-nothing who stumbles on the lamp due to being a gullible mark.

Chapter 6. THE HISTORY OF ALI BABA...: Ali Baba is really just a nice guy. He marries a woman as poor as him and though he is poor, he doesn't want a lot of money. He isn't particularly sly, and this would result in his doom were it not for his brother's slave.

Chapter 7. THE SECOND VOYAGE OF SINDBAD THE SAILOR: Kind of ho-hum.

Chapter 8. THE WHITE CAT: Full-blown awesome. A talking cat, and an ugly fairy named Violent who rides a dragon and eats the prince in front of the princess. I like this one better than the Andrew Lang version.

Chapter 9. THE GOLDEN GOOSE: What did I get out of it? It is okay to be lazy if you treat others with kindness and respect. -- I like that kind of moral.

Chapter 10. THE TWELVE BROTHERS: This is another tale of a crazy father wanting to kill his children for some no-good reason. Not one of my favorites.

Chapter 11. THE FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS: I liked it.

Chapter 12. TOM THUMB: This reminded me of some sort of early stream-of-consciousness or some drug-induced tale. Trippy, but not really my thing.

Chapter 13. BLUE BEARD: This story has a number of interesting aspects to it. Blue Beard isn't any sort of monster, just a bit of a freak with a frightfully blue beard. There is a key that is also a fairy that is his friend.

Chapter 14. CINDERELLA; OR, THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER: Cinderella is impossibly good-natured from the start to the finish of the story.

Chapter 15. PUSS IN BOOTS: Who doesn't love a talking cat that out-smarts an ogre?

Chapter 16. THE SLEEPING BEAUTY IN THE WOOD: The key difference? The fatal spindle was owned by a little old woman who just never got the memo that spinning was illegal. Also of note, when the spell fades, the castle itself disappears.

Chapter 17. JACK AND THE BEAN-STALK: "I became your father's guardian at his birth; but fairies have laws to which they are subject as well as mortals." -- That reminded me of The Fairly Oddparents and the laws and regulations the fairies have in that show.

Chapter 18. JACK THE GIANT KILLER: Jack sure does like to kill giants. It is nice, as the giants appear to like to gobble people up.

Chapter 19. LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD: Short, simple, with a decent ending.

Chapter 20. THE THREE BEARS: This is different than the one I was familiar with involving Goldilocks and a family of bears. The main character is named "Silver-hair" and the bears are Big, Middle-sized, and Small and not father, mother and child.

Chapter 21. THE PRINCESS ON THE PEA: Very short, and nothing of note.

Chapter 22. THE UGLY DUCKLING: Everyone hates the ugly duckling. I hadn't realized just how much the poor creature was abused. Though this isn't really a fairy tale by any means. More of a farm-tale, like Charlotte's Web or Babe.

Chapter 23. THE LIGHT PRINCESS: This is nice, a witch that curses her niece with a lack of gravity when she isn't invited to the girl's christening.

Chapter 24. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: [coming soon:]

Jocelyn says

Extended versions (full version?) of all the familiar childhood fairy tales like Aladdin & Alibaba, Hansel & Gretel etc, refreshing to read these again as an adult and realise how dark these tales actually are.

Mary E. Daily says

Remembered stories of my youth.

Yes, so many stories just as I remembered them, some I had never heard, and some different than I remembered. This is a great collection of fairy tales, saving the best for last!

Katherine Myong says

For my independent reading, I chose the book "Fairy Tales Every Child Should Know" by Hamilton Wright Mabie, and enjoyed it immensely. It is a book of fantasy stories, and I would recommend it not only to a child - like the title suggests - but to adults that want to indulge in their childhood again.

We're familiar with Disney - that big, iconic company that produces stunningly animated feature films, racking in millions of dollars from viewers around the world.

We're familiar with Disney's fairytale adaptations, kid-friendly versions of the whimsical tales we think we know so much about, the ones about magic and talking animals and pretty girls in dresses.

Yes, we think we know them. But do we really?

Dive deeper than ever before into the world of stories, taking place all around the world, woven into existence by storytellers of different origins - for this book is a book filled to the brim with the recorded follies of characters in another world, vivid images ready to be imprinted into the minds of youth. It expands on the lives of all those characters so well-known today: Aladdin, Cinderella, and more - as well as characters you've never heard of, such as the One-Eyed, Two-Eyed and Three-Eyed sisters and the Deer with the Golden Leash. Each chapter is a new story, a new legend.

I learnt so much more about these iconic characters and their stories. I've realized that Disney glosses over the plot a lot, altering this - and that to their liking and whatever they deem appropriate (Which is a good thing sometimes, though, to make it all more child-friendly). It's a new breath of air, and a great experience. I've watched the movies, but never read the book - and it was truly fascinating.

Dialma says

I had a similar book in Spanish growing up. I grew up knowing that fairy tales are dark and not always have a happy ending. But I love them! I love the morals they teach, and the fact that they teach us not to see life through pink colored glasses. And I love that my 9 year old twins can read them too, and that we can have discussions of the moral of the stories.

John says

Next time I hear anyone talk about how violent movies and video games are and how they are so bad for the kids, I am going to point them in the direction of this book. If I were to pick any book to have someone read in the hope that they would suffer from nightmares, it would be this one and this collection of stories. American Psycho didn't frighten or disturb me as much as this book did. Now, a reason for that could be because I've dabbled in the soliciting and subsequent murdering of prostitutes. I also am extremely proud of my business card. Neither one of those things are true, but if I had a business card you can bet it would be the damn finest business card there ever was.

Typically, fairy tales are supposed to teach a lesson of sorts, so I would like to share with you the lessons I learned from reading these tales of the fairy.

- Disobedient children indirectly kill their fathers. The phrase "you'll be the death of me" has never been so aptly applied to some of these stories.
- Stepmothers are evil and usually possess some sort of magic ability/witchery.
- Sisters are always jealous of the younger, prettier sister. The younger, prettier sister is always respectful to everyone and goes out of her way to appease the elder sisters.
- Most women are vain.
- The building of a palace unmatched by all other palaces in the known world over the course of one night is not the least bit suspicious.
- Wives will give away your shit without asking.
- Evil house guests do not consume salt.
- Shortly after marrying a princess/prince the king and/or queen will die and you inherit the kingdom and live happily ever after.
- The ending of a story and vengeance are always swift and very, very clean.

- If you disobey your husband, he will try to kill you, but will end up dying first and you will inherit all of his stuff.

There are plenty of other lessons I learned, but these were the most prevalent. Do with them as you may, but beware of stepmothers, wicked fairies, and jealous sisters. And it is okay to kill giants without provocation as long as you send their heads to the king.

Lindsay says

It was weird, some of these stories seemed sanitised (Cinderella for example), while others revelled in the tradition of gory fairy tales for children. Of course, we did have the perfect princesses and brave princes, but I did detect a note of sarcasm on occasion. Still, a nice read which took me back to my childhood.
