



The Last Slice of Rainbow and Other Stories

Joan Aiken , Alix Berenzy (Illustrator)

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A collection of nine fairy tales including: The Last Slice of Rainbow / Clem's Dream / A Leaf in the Shape of a Key / The Queen with Screaming Hair / The Tree that Loved a Girl / Lost - One Pair of Legs / The Voice in the Shell / The Spider in the Bath / Think of a Word.

The Last Slice of Rainbow and Other Stories Details

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Author : Joan Aiken , Alix Berenzy (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Last Slice of Rainbow and Other Stories for online ebook

Stephanie says

I received this book when I was in 2nd grade and have reread it dozens of times since then. Hauntingly beautiful stories with a bit of a dark side, I think this book of short stories shaped what would interest me as a reader today. The illustrations sprinkled throughout are equally magical!

Jan Yip says

One of my childhood favorites!

Natasha says

my favorite book from childhood. i suppose i could consider it the first work of fantastical fiction that really struck a chord.

Anna Solow says

great

Lonelylily says

My mother used to read this boom to me when I was a small child and it always used to me me so happy. To this day I still love this book with all my heart and I know that if I ever have children that I will read it to them someday because it is such an amazing book. If you have children then this is the book for them.

Judy says

My edition of this book (found with a pile of other Aiken books at the op shop - whoopee!) is illustrated by Margaret Walty, who has a very different style from Jan Pie?kowski whose work often adorns Aiken's short stories. The cover is not that great; mainly, I think because the illustrations are better suited to black and white reproduction. It looks at first as though the stories are intended for a slightly younger audience, and the opening story seems to confirm this. But then we travel on... We have Michael the artist who is tricked by a kelpie (not the dog kind) and is ultimately thwarted in his artistic career by it. We have a princess who acts in a thoughtless way as a young child and is so severely punished by this slight error (cutting off her cat's whiskers) that she is tormented for nine years. (I won't tell you how.) We have another princess who is so neglected by her father that she develops a bad character, and without giving you too many details, there is

an abundance of giant hairy spiders that must be dealt with... with bare hands...

So I adjusted my thinking. These stories are a mixed lot, not for a specific age group. But what is great about Aiken (as usual I suppose) is that she uses the fairy tale format without using a fairy tale formula. You can never tell what will happen next, and Aiken is not squeamish.

The internal illustrations are really quite lovely. Especially when Walty is illustrating adults and animals instead of children. Her children are a wee bit too sugary looking for my taste. Her animals and foliage are beautifully observed and drawn.

If the cover were better, it would be a 5 star book for me. It's very nearly so.

Alethea Bothwell says

I can't say that Aiken lacks imagination, but she does lack the courage of her imagination. She thinks of an interesting idea, and then lets it go all silly. Too bad.

tinkle Wickle says

I love It

Amanda Leavitt says

When I was little I used to check this book out from the library at least once a month. It has the cutest stories in it that I have always remembered.

Sarah Sammis says

I read this collection in high school for fun and loved it.

Seth says

I've never much been into short stories, but for me, Joan Aiken's writing is one of the exceptions. I could never remember the moral or theme of a story after reading it, but I eventually figured out that that wasn't the point. Joan Aiken's writing is escapist, exploratory, a beautiful adventure. Though I might not remember the point behind the story, I do remember the adventures, and they were well worth remembering.

Rachel says

A brilliant little book of fairy tales.

Becky says

I loved this book so much as a child. I particularly remember the story about the princess who finds she has screaming hair, and the story about the boy who is tricked by a stone goblin and has to be rescued from a cave by some kindly snails who like eating orange jelly. A very imaginative collection of short stories with a series of mysterious and fantastical (and sometimes slightly macabre) characters and plots.

Stacy says

A bizarre childhood favorite ♥

Nikki Jo Lucero says

I have not yet finished, It is a collection of imaginative short stories. Leave behind your adult real world for a moment and take a lovely walk in forests with rainbows and trees. Have tea with a fairy or listen to a gnome!
