



Bedknobs & Beanstalks: Anthology of Gay Erotic Fairy Tales

E.M. Lynley (Editor), Clancy Nacht (Contributor), Lenore Black (Contributor), S.J. Frost (Contributor), Jason Rubis (Contributor), J.L. Merrow (Contributor), Mercy Loomis (Contributor), Kilt Kilpatrick (Contributor), more... Mina Kelly (Contributor), Jay Di Meo (Contributor) ...less

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An erotic collection of m/m fairy tales!

Once upon a time. As children, those four words told us we were about to enter a brand-new world: scarier, happier, more enchanted than our everyday life. No matter our own particular expectations and experience with fairy tales, we knew we were in for a wild ride. Handsome princes would save beautiful damsels in distress and the ogres never got the girl.

Perhaps in our own stories, or in our own lives, we aren't quite satisfied with those happily-ever-afters. What sound-minded prince would choose any of those airheaded bosomy blondes that populate familiar animated versions of the original, much darker, and more ominous tales made famous by the Brothers Grimm?

Not to mention, fairy tales were often used as bedtime stories.

Well, put all that behind you and prepare for a new type of fairy tale. Not only are they guaranteed to get you into bed, though not for sleep, you won't find a single of those old-fashioned stereotypical characters.

Instead enter a world where a magic cock ring can grow into a mighty peenstalk, or an unhappy shepherd can meet the sexiest wolf imaginable. A Japanese youth with the strength of a bear finds himself weak in the face of a beautiful samurai, and a young man in a ball gown can charm a prince to distraction. These are but a few of the adventures that await you, once upon a time!

Jack and the Peenstalk by Clancy Nacht
The Rebelliously Single Prince by Lenore Black
Cry Wolf by Mercy Loomis
Kintaro by S.J. Frost
Ashes and Crystal by Jason Rubis
Handsome and Grateful by Kilt Kilpatrick
Swan Made by Mina Kelly
King's Honor by JL Merrow
The Merman's Tail by Jay Di Meo

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From Reader Review Bedknobs & Beanstalks: Anthology of Gay Erotic Fairy Tales for online ebook

Carole says

It's always hard to rate an anthology because the writing skill and enjoyment potential is different for each story, but here the stories are of uniformly high quality. All of the stories are cleverly fleshed out, using the original tale as a skeleton and branching out into new and imaginative territory. My favorite story has to be Ashes and Crystal, because who would have thought of the poor prince with a really large slipper because the disappearing beauty is really a guy. I also loved Jack and the Peenstalk, because just the thought of the reaction of the neighborhood association to a giant penis growing in the backyard makes me laugh out loud. And of course, who can resist Handsome and Grateful (as in Hansel and Gretel), where the wicked parents really do get their comeuppance.

Charly says

Way too campy for my taste

These stories focus more on telling--that is, moving the plot along--than showing. So they're accurate reproductions of fairytales, sure, but not great stories in their own right, at least in my opinion.

Each one has a plot that closely follows a fairy tale and at least one sex scene, usually with very little emotional or character buildup. I think some people will love them, but they're not my cup of tea at all. I DNFed a few of them and skimmed most of the others.

Tam says

This is an anthology of reworked fairy tales which I generally enjoy. There are nine fairy tales by nine authors. Maybe I'll quickly go through them. Time killer here.

1) Jack and the Peenstalk by Clancy Nacht – Jack is a size queen who finally gets his wish. It was quite humorous and set in current times with reference to the US mortgage crisis, the crappy economy and Jack having a degree in Philosophy which entitled him to work at Starbucks.

2) The Rebelliously Single Prince by Leonore Black – I have no clue which fairy tale this is exactly. Prince Keiran refuses to marry someone he doesn't love and spends more time screwing the stable boys. After failed attempts to find a wife the king locks him in the tower at night until he agrees, but every morning he looks freshly fucked anyway. The king sends his minion to find out why, but the minion touched by true love refuses to give away Kieran's secret. A cute story.

3) Cry Wolf by Mercy Loomis – A take on the obvious here with a fae wolf shifter called a pookha. I am unfamiliar with pookhas so it was a good little story that taught me something. Kind of an unclear HFN ending.

4) Kintaro: The Golden Boy by S.J. Frost – This is based on a Japanese tale but I have no clue about what. Kintaro's mother escapes with him into the forest to protect him from the men who killed her husband. When he's grown he's discovered by a samurai that takes him back to his lord to train him where he is partnered with another samurai who's mate was killed. I really liked the story, but again, was lost on the fairy tale part.

5) Ashes and Crystal by Jason Rubis – This is the Cinderella tale retold with a cross-dressing Ashes hoping to get the chance to try on the glass slipper. A cute little story with more about Ashes familial relationship than his relationship with the prince.

6) Handsome and Grateful as told to Kilt Kirkpatric – This was done as if someone was telling the story and was quite humourously done. Some pop culture references thrown in, lots of German words for food and Hansel and Gretel are much older. This also includes f/f but I didn't mind. It was an interesting style which perhaps caught my attention.

7) The King's Honor by JL Merrow – This is the fairy tale of the princesses who danced their slippers into holes or something like that. I had an OLD fairy tale book as a kid and it was the only place I'd ever seen this story so it really made me sit up and take note. Every night the king's 12 daughters disappear and dance their slippers into holes. Any young man who can solve the mystery gets a wife and kingship or gets their head chopped off. A young man on his way to try runs into a woodcutter in the forest and they hit it off. *wink* *wink* With the help of the woodcutter's grandmother he is able to solve the mystery, but will he become king? Hmmm. I quite enjoyed and it was a rarely told story that took me back.

8) Swan Made by Mina Kelly – I'm not sure the exact tale but a man finds a cloak of swan feathers and hides it in his house. Suddenly a naked guy breaks in looking for "something" and they have sex and start living together. One day the man disappears and with it the hidden cloak which he had been searching for. Joseph goes looking for him and finds him and offers to let him live with him for as long as he wants. Good writing but I think the Joseph was kind of dense.

9) Merman's Tale by Jay Di Meo – Karan is a fisherman on a lake known for it's mermen and other creatures but he needs the fish which are plentiful there to help his sick mother. He is attacked by the mermen but saved by Tir who makes him promise to keep him in his hut for 3 days. While Karan is attracted he's a bit freaked by the tail but he falls in love thus breaking the evil spell. It was okay and interesting that the merman had no parts, if you know what I mean.

So on the whole I quite enjoy Jack, Kintaro and the King's Honor although I have to say they were all good stories and none that made me go "ewww". The only thing I can see is that people who really want to avoid f/f might find the Hansel and Gretel one off-putting but as I said, the manner in which it's written made it a non-issue and truth be told it was kind of hot.

Isa K. says

Some of these tales are wicked and laugh at loud funny. To be honest though, I was expecting something darker and edgier from the description, but really most of these tales are more of Disney-style sweet fairytales with sex scenes thrown in. There's a lot of true love (always instantaneous) and a lot of rejecting the princess you're supposed to marry for the handsome woodcutter ... not really my thing.

But it was worth it for the Hansel and Gretel parody (and Jack and the Beanstalk was brilliant as well): incredibly clever, hot, no true love melodrama

Christy Stewart says

The first story is titled "Peenstalk"

5 stars.

Jenre says

I'm a big fantasy fan and I love inverted fairy stories so this anthology of short stories all of which take an established fairy story or ideas from fairy stories and turns it around into a m/m story seemed just the thing for me. Surprisingly for an anthology, all the stories were well written with clever plots and interesting characters. In fact, it's been quite difficult for me to single out one or two stories to highlight as my favourites.

Swan Made by Mina Kelly caught my interest because its themes were slightly darker than the other stories. It tells of lonely older man Joseph who discovers a cloak made from swan feathers in a local lake. He takes it home, puts it in a cupboard and forgets about it. Later that night a strange naked man turns up at his house and the two men have sex. The nameless man stays with Joseph, easing his loneliness, but whenever Joseph leaves the house he returns to find that the house is being systematically searched.

The story is written from Joseph's point of views and we follow him as he is at first bemused and then reliant on the strange man who enters his life. It isn't difficult to know who the man is and there were a number of sly, amusing comments about the difficulties the two men have to overcome in order to live in harmony. Their relationship is tinged with sadness though as Joseph faces the inevitability that at some point the man will find what he is looking for and leave, leading to a poignant scene which left me feeling quite heartbroken on Joseph's behalf. Don't worry though, like all good fairy stories, he gets his happy ending.

Another unusual story was Japanese set, **Kintaro** by S.J. Frost which told the story of a man, Kintaro, with extraordinary strength who lives in the forest with his mother. One day a Samurai finds him and after losing to Kintaro in a wrestling match takes him to the feudal Lord to train as a Samurai. The lord is impressed by Kintaro's strength and wishes him to fill the gap in his personal guard left when one of his men was killed. What Kintaro doesn't realise is that the guardsmen are always paired and that lone Samurai Suetake is still grieving over the death of the previous guardsman and his lover.

What attracted me to this story was that it had a different setting to the other stories in the anthology. Instead of kings and soldiers we have lords and Samurai. Kintaro had a lovely innocence about him that contrasted nicely with the weariness of Suetake and I liked that despite their opposite natures they worked as a couple. I also liked the relationship that the feudal lord had with his guardsmen and how the young and inexperienced Kintaro seemed to breathe a new spirit into the the men. Overall a well written and engrossing story about how innocence can overcome grief.

There were a couple of stories with similar themes about young men who refused to conform and marry the princesses. **The Rebelliously Single Prince** by Lenore Black was one such story where the king is so despairing of his son who sneaks out each night to cavort with the stable boys that he locks him in his room with a guard outside. Every morning the prince is still debauched, so the king makes a hidey hole for his most trusted advisor to watch over the prince at night. What followed was a delicious mix of a beautiful,

tender sex scene and voyeurism which I found both amusing and romantic. The second story was **Kings Honor** by JL Merrow where a young soldier arrives in a strange land to solve the riddle of the twelve dancing princesses. Before arriving at the castle he meets a young woodsman who, along with his grandmother, offers to help the soldier solve the riddle. The writing in this story was a mix of cheeky humour and seriousness which blended together to create an interesting tale of the pitfalls of too much power and how the simple things in life are often the best. Great stuff.

Honourable mentions also need to go to **A Merman's Tale** by Jay Di Meo which was a sort of cross between *The Little Mermaid* and *The Frog prince* but still managed to pack a strong emotional punch and **Cry Wolf** by Mercy Loomis which crossed magic and shifter romance to tell the story of a shepherd who falls for the big bad wolf.

One thing I feel I ought to mention is that the story **Handsome and Grateful** by Kilt Kilpatrick had both m/m and f/f sex scenes in its irreverent pastiche of the *Hansel and Gretel* fairy tale. This is not a criticism, just a warning for those who aren't interested in f/f stories.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed this set of stories. Recently, my main complaint about anthologies has been that many of the stories have been too similar in theme. I was pleased to find that this anthology had a set of diverse stories whilst also sticking to the theme of the book. I highly recommend *Bedknobs and Beanstalks* to those readers who like fantasy and inverted fairy stories and also who are looking for a set of well written, amusing tales which nevertheless give us the emotion and happy endings that all good romance should contain.

Jeff Erno says

I really enjoyed every story in this anthology, but my favorites were the Merman story, the Cinderella story, and Hansel & Gretel. Overall, this collection was fantastic. Some of the stories were humorous, some very sexy, and all had wonderful happy endings. I've read a lot of anthologies, and usually there are at least a couple stories within that are not so great, but I can honestly say that I loved all of these.

KV Taylor says

I actually read part of this when it came out, since long-time writing pal (what's the right word for that, anyhow?) Mina Kelly is in it. I loved what I read, so I don't know why I stopped--I actually went back and read it all over again this weekend so I could see how it all worked together and was very pleased. It's got something for everyone--funny, sad, intense, absurd, and all the places in between, and has some of the most imaginative tellings of these particular tales I think you're likely to find anywhere. Which is putting it lightly.

It's great fun, definitely worth picking up. If you don't grin the whole way through, you're just not paying attention. I'll pick favorites because it's what we do, but I'm leaving Mina Kelly out of it, because of course I love hers because I love everything she writes, and it wouldn't be fair:

Jack and the Peenstalk. I laughed so hard I had tears in my eyes and had to retell the premise to everyone I saw that day. (All of whom thought it was awesome. Even the ones who were appalled.)

Cry Wolf. I just love Pooka, what can I say? I do sort of object to the meddling woman plot device on principle, but it was a cute story, man.

Handsome and Grateful. Again, I laughed so hard I can't NOT pick this one. Great stuff--and it had the f/f bonus in it, which is extra yay. (I know, I know, it's supposed to be an m/m book. What can I say, I like it both ways.)

That said, they're all four star stories at the least, in my opinion.

Julesmarie says

As soon as I discovered there was an anthology of m/m fairy tale stories I knew I would love it. And I did! Some of the stories seemed more successful than others, which is to be expected with anthologies, but overall they came together to make a wonderfully cohesive book.

Lots of fun, and I'm sure I'll re-read several of the stories in the future. I loved, LOVED Ashes and Crystal and The Merman's Tail. Jack and the Peenstalk cracked me up. The rest were okay. The swan one was just weird.

Sue says

Won't go into a great deal of detail about this, except to say that for a fairy-tale anthology it didn't *quite* live up to my hopes.

The stories and my ratings:

Jack and the Peenstalk by Clancy Nacht - 1 star
The Rebelliously Single Prince by Lenore Black - 3 stars
Cry Wolf by Mercy Loomis - 4 stars
Kintaro by S.J. Frost - 3 stars
Ashes and Crystal by Jason Rubis - 2 stars
Handsome and Grateful by Kilt Kilpatrick - 1 star
Swan Made by Mina Kelly - 2 stars
King's Honor by JL Merrow - 4 stars
The Merman's Tail by Jay Di Meo - 3 stars.

So I've rounded the book up to 3 stars, but I wish I could give it 2.5 which is nearer the mark.

For me the two stand-outs were Mercy Loomis' *Cry Wolf*, a good rendition of 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf', which was a nice escapist piece that really felt other-worldly and took me away from reality, and JL Merrow's *King's Honor*, which not only retold a fairy tale I've not seen done before, 'The Twelve Dancing Princesses', but had deeper, underlying meaning about power and corruption, and the lack of honor of many princes/governments/corporations. JL is one of my favourite authors and handled it very well, as I could have trusted her to. I hadn't encountered Mercy Loomis before, but would happily read a longer book of hers. The anthology as an edition was well crafted and edited on the whole, but most of the stories just didn't live with me or compare with some other fairy tale m/m romances I've read - I'm thinking of Megan Derr here particularly, and Amy Lane.

Maybe this collection just couldn't stand comparison with these favourite authors of mine, but I usually expect more from anthologies and this one didn't live up to the type.

So if you fancy a fairytale fix, try Amy's *Truth in the Dark* or Megan's *Fairytales Slashed*.

Lucy says

I would have to give this at least a four just for the first story, Jack and the Peenstalk, which made me laugh out loud. It was ridiculous, sarcastic and so funny, and I drove people (sorry, MM) crazy repeating it. The rest of the anthology was hit or miss. I did love the story of Ashes, a Cinderella tale, but others really didn't like. The Handsome and Grateful (Hansel and Gretel) left me cold, as did the Japanese samuri. Others, such as the Merman, were okay, but slow. Cry Wolf, a shifter tale, was probably my second favorite. I love fairy tales with a twist.

Elizabeth says

3.5 stars

Nine short stories, most of them a retelling of a classic fairy tale, all written by new-to-me authors. I enjoyed them all, some more than the others.

My favorite was **Swan made** by Mina Kelly, which was a bit darker than the rest.

Kintaro by S.J. Frost was also different, I don't know whether is based in some specific tale since I'm not familiar with Japanese culture but it had Samurais.

Jack and the peenstalk by Clancy Nacht was really funny and **Handsome and Grateful** was very sexy and had both m/m and f/f sex scenes.

Cry wolf by Mercy Loomis was a shifter story and my second favorite.

Jay Meo says

This is a fantastic book in every sense of the word, edited by the renowned author E.M. Lynley. Clancy Nacht tells of a giant peenstalk which leads into the sky and the land of a lonely giant. Will Jack give up everything to return to him? Lenore Black talks of a prince in love with a swan who comes as a handsome man into his room at night. Mercy Loomis weaves the tale of a pukha, a werewolf who seduces a shepherd boy. S. J. Frost tells of a young Japanese warrior who bows to beauty. Jason Rubis gives us the tale of a male cinderella whose slipper doesn't fit any girl's foot. Kilt Kilpatrick creates a new, naughty version of Hansel and Gretel. Mina Kelly creates an unearthly tale of the love between a man and a swan who is an enchanted mortal. JL Merrow tells of a young man who solves the riddle of the disappearing princesses at night, and is in love with his beautiful male servant. Jay Di Meo talks of a fisherman who struggles with his attraction for a merman.

Very diverse stories, some funny and some sad, but all spellbinding. I highly recommend this anthology to all lovers of fairy tales, handsome men and happy endings.

Angel Martinez says

I realize to my chagrin that I never reviewed this collection. Bad, bad reader. So here goes - Anthologies are tricky to review since it's impossible to like all of the stories equally. There are a couple of stories here I would have given 3'2 and a couple would receive 5's if they were standalone, so I've taken the average for the whole.

EM doesn't have an entry herself in this set but she does a fabulous job as editor, a harder prospect than one might imagine. Themed anthologies can be deadly boring, with too many of the stories sounding the same. EM has managed to find a perfect balance of mood, style and theme. Each story is a reworking of a different folk/fairytale (with one for which I couldn't come up with a predecessor at all.)

There are a couple that didn't quite measure up but perhaps that's not fair, since the writing in many of them is exceptional. Sort of like breaking the curve on the Physics exam.

Two are hilarious - Jack and the Peenstalk, a retelling of, well, you know, with some biting social commentary and a magic cock ring. Come on now, how can you not read a story with a magic cock ring? Then there's Kilt Kilpatrick's retelling of Hansel and Gretel, Handsome and Grateful. As usual, Kilt has his fingers all in the pie of pop culture, with references to John Waters and Andy Warhol. Please, before anyone gets huffy, Kilt's characters are young but definitely adult. And before anyone can jump to the other ugly conclusion - incest would be difficult since both brother and sister are gay. (A warning to my staunch M/M reader friends - there are girlie bits in this one - easily skimmed if you can't stand the thought so you don't miss the rest of this uproarious story.)

Couple of my other favorites - the hauntingly beautiful *Swan Made*, the lovely reworking of folklore in feudal Japan in *Kintaro*, and the well-crafted, heart wrenching last story *The Mermaid's Tale*.

All in all, a fun collection for any fan of M/M fantasy or any aficionado of folk and fairytales.

Kathy says

I love anthologies, but I've learned to expect that not all the stories in it are going to appeal to me. Well, this anthology threw that assumption out the window!

There are nine very different stories and each one of them, in my opinion, is a winner.

Who knew that one minute I'd be reading a retelling ~ and a very naughty one at that ~ of Jack and the Beanstalk and then the next I was in ancient Japan's era of the Samurai ~ and sexy? ooh ya. What's really amazing is that they actually go together very well.

All throughout the book I was taken all over the place and yet the common thread of M/M fairy tales comes through and ties the whole together.

1. *Jack and the Peenstalk* by **Clancy Nacht**: A silly & naughty fairy tale that takes liberty with Jack and the Beanstalk... and I laughed and enjoyed the heck out of it.

2. *The Rebelliously Single Prince* by **Lenore Black**:

Prince Kieran was not a fool and knew to look beneath the surface... smart man. And it's amazing what can be achieved with a little patience!

3. *Cry Wolf* by **Mercy Loomis**: A Welsh fairy tale perhaps? Different and very enjoyable... and I do love a sexy wolf!

4. *Kintaro* by **S.J. Frost**: This is taken from the legends of the Samurai... sexy, beautiful and heartwarming... gotta go Japanese! S.J. Frost is already a favourite author... this just cements that.

5. *Ashes and Crystal* by **Jason Rubis**

Ashes shares a similar background with legendary Cinderella... but he's all man. Will the Prince be able to accept the mysterious lady's secret? Another author whose writing I want to investigate further.

6. *Handsome and Grateful* by **Kilt Kirkpatrick**: This was just so unexpected... but very enjoyable... and very sexy.

7. *Swan Made* by **Mina Kelly**: There was a good measure of heartbreak, but being a fairy tale all worked out very nicely.

8. *King's Honor* by **JL Merrow**: Oh I enjoyed this one... it's always nice when the good guys triumph over the not-so-good one. Reuben and Corin were very, very good!

9. *The Merman's Tail* by **Jay Di Meo**: Loved Karan and Tir's story... and who doesn't love a sexy... uh fish-man?
