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Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales (Puffin Classics)



Synopsis

This enchanting collection, retold by writer and critic Naomi Lewis, contains twelve of Hans Christian Andersen's magnificent stories. It includes Thumbelina, a little girl no more than a thumb-joint high, The Emperor's New Clothes, the tale of a man who cares only for his appearance and The Little Mermaid, who longs to one day marry a human prince. With a wonderful cover illustration and new introduction by award-winning picture-book creator Jan Pienkowski.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gilded illustrations by Isabelle Brent add sparkle to Viking's Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen. Old favorites such as "The Ugly Duckling" and "The Snow Queen" are the mainstay of this 12-story collection, but older readers already familiar with Andersen may welcome the inclusion of such lesser known tales as "The Snowman" and "Father's Always Right" (\$19.99, 144p, all ages ISBN 0-670-85930-3 Sept.). Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Kindergarten-Grade 6?Most of the 12 fairy tales collected in this handsome, appealing volume are popular stories such as "The Ugly Duckling," "The Snow Queen," and "Thumbelina," while some are less familiar: "Grief," "The Shadow," and "It's Perfectly True." Philip has done an exemplary job in selection and translation; apart from an occasional jarring colloquialism, the narratives are done with

care and respect for the language and tone of Andersen's tales. They retain the old-fashioned style of the original stories, and while the pace is measured, it does not lag. Brent's jewel-toned illustrations highlighted with gold leaf are eye-catching and lavish. They are set in abstract borders, and the pattern is repeated on the margins of the text pages. Each page is edged with gold leaf on the vertical sides, and the result is inviting and attractive. There is little overlap with Eric Blegvad's fine collection, *Twelve Tales* (McElderry, 1994). A lovely collaboration. Donna L. Scanlon, Lancaster County Library, PA Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

I purchased this mid-1950s tribute to the stories of Hans Christian Andersen mainly so I could study the inspired illustrations of Libico Maraja, whose work I grew up viewing in many children's books of the 1960s and '70s. In one of his early collaborations with Shirley Goulden, who aptly retells four classic tales in this book, his illustrations reflect contemporary styles. Here, we view illustrations with a slightly Rockwellian touch to them--complete with wide-eyed puckered-lipped youngsters in moments of surprise that could have been viewed in many ads of the time. The four stories featured are *The Tin Soldier*, *The Dancing Flowers*, *The Wild Swans*, and *the Ugly Duckling*, the first of which feature youngsters in contemporary dress, although the stories themselves were written a century earlier. The illustrations for *The Wild Swans* depict the medieval period. But even there, the banged and crimped hairdo of the heroine reflects a contemporary flair. Maraja would later do different illustrations for some of the same stories featured here for other volumes of books, and his style would become more dramatically brilliant over time. This tribute to the Great Dane's stories is a highly recommendable one. Goulden and Maraja's early marriage of words and illustrations remain a winning combination, indeed!

Grimm's *Fairy Tales* is a classic that so many are familiar with that I don't feel the need to put my normal book description. Many people have heard some if not all of the stories from the book. If they haven't, they've at least heard of the retellings. I am ashamed that I haven't read these before now I've heard of them many times over during my life, but I'd heard they were full of blood, gore, and death. I wound up sticking to the Disney versions because of that reason. I'm only just now getting a stomach for stories like that. I'm not sure how I can say things I don't like about a classic set of stories. Other than some stories being repetitive, I've found no issues whatsoever. I really enjoyed them all. I may have to go back and reread them one day. How can I decide whether or not to recommend a classic? I mean shouldn't we all read the classics anyways? Am I right? I do

recommend people read it if they haven't though. It's definitely worth it.

A classic. It's about as gory as what our kids see today. I read some *The Woman Without Any Hands*. They were terrified-ly engrossed and grossed-out!! I gather these stories were written as precautionary tales for youth as were many of their genre. Now-a-days one may feel the horror-tales available to youth are excessive due to the added sensations of watching these type of stories visually! And there isn't much moralistic inclusion other than kill the bad people/creatures by any means gorily. I fear the younger ones are having difficulty sifting the real from the unreal; especially because of photo manipulation (*A Picture is Worth a Thousand Tales* - a book I am planning to write - and computer generated imagery aka CGI. I mean - when I was a kid *Night Gallery*, *The Outer Limits*, and *The Twilight Zone* were scary! I remember running into a theater lobby when it was inferred a hand had been cut off in *Hush*, *Hush Sweet Charlotte*. I didn't even have to see it happen! But the allure of horror did encourage me to return to my seat. You might want to have many a deconstruction conversation with your kids regarding the media used to impart the same fear and entertainment today. I don't think it would do anything but help them process the stuff without ruining its entertainment for them.

Surprisingly there weren't as many fairy tales as I had expected that I knew, there was however my favorite, *REPUNZEL*! I was also familiar with the valiant little tailor. I really enjoyed the stories that I have read so far in this series, but admittedly haven't finished the book. This collection has several tales in it and they are all about the perfect length for bedtime stories for my 18mo old son and I. the total story count I believe is about sixty-five, and about 4 pages long for each fairy tale. As I read into the book I discovered that many of the tales resemble a form of Aesop's fables, where they all have a bit of a hidden lesson. I look forward to keeping this book as a first reader once my son is able to learn words. It does have the built in word help on my android tablet. I got this book at a discount.

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