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Grimm's Fairy Stories



Synopsis

A collection of classic Brothers Grimm fairy tales, culled from Margaret Hunt's 1884 translation. The complete list of tales recounted here is: "The Goose-Girl", "The Little Brother and Little Sister", "Hansel and Gretel", "Oh, If I Could but Shiver!", "Dumpling and the Three Feathers", "Little Snow-White", "Frederick and Catherine", "The Valiant Little Tailor", "Little Red-Cap", "The Golden Goose", "Bearskin", "Cinderella", "Faithful John", "The Water of Life", "Thumbling", "Briar Rose", "The Six Swans", "Rapunzel", "Mother Holle", "The Frog Prince", "The Travels of Tom Thumb", "Snow White and Rose Red", "The Three Little Men in the Wood", "Rumpelstiltskin", and "Little One-Eye, Two-Eyes, and Three-Eyes".

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in the late 1700s in Hanau, Germany, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were noted scholars celebrated for the documentation of German folklore--and most particularly for the documentation of folk tales that had been previously passed from generation to generation by oral tradition. The Brothers Grimm began to publish these tales 1812 under the title Children's and Household Tales, a collection which went through six editions during their lifetimes and a posthumous edition shortly after their deaths. In its final form, the collection contained two hundred folk tales and ten "Children's Legends," and they would have a tremendous impact on both European and American popular culture. It is here that we find such figures as Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel, Tom Thumb, Rapunzel, and the Bremen Town Musicians--to name but

a few. But be forewarned: these are not the tales as presented in such venues as The Little Golden Book series or on the big screen by Walt Disney. True enough, there is magic, wonder, and a world in which good triumphs... but there is also savage retribution, revenge, brutality, torture, and the occasional flourish of anti-semitism as well. "Cinderella" offers a good example of the violence one often finds in these stories. Modern versions typically punish the wicked step-sisters with comic humiliation, but in the original tale their eyes are picked out by birds--and this is actually one of the less extreme retributions offered. The evil queen in the classic "Snow White" is forced to dance at Snow White's wedding... in red-hot iron shoes until she dies.

I'm a collector of beautifully-bound books and have been collecting the titles from Calla Editions over the last couple of years. I already have several copies of Grimm's Fairy Tales in different editions, and I could not resist Taschen's edition when I saw it here. Taschen's art books are really beautiful and of good quality, and when I received my copy of The Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm, I was mesmerized by the beauty of this edition. Some reviewers have complained about the quality of binding. I have no such complaints as the edition I received was well-bound with no loosening of the binding. The book itself is bound in a purple cloth cover, contains two ribbon markers (one in pink and one in green), and the title of the book is embossed in gold-letters with a beautiful embossed illustration of Sleeping Beauty (on the front) and the castle (on the back). This edition contains all-new translations of 27 fairy tales with reproduced artwork by the original illustrators of the various tales, dating from the 1820s to the 1950s. The book also contains an introduction by editor Noel Daniel titled "More Than Words Can Say: The Grimms' Enduring Legacy and the Art It Inspired." In his introduction, Daniel discusses several aspects of fairy tales, and there's lots of illustrations from older editions of fairy tales, as well as a gorgeous full-page illustration depicting Kay Nielsen's watercolor of "The Goose Girl".

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