



English Fairy Tales

Joseph Jacobs

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English Fairy Tales Details

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Mawada Sweis says

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susmithj+01 says

Really nice collection of Folk Tales (Fairy Tales or Scary Tales). Every culture has stories that pass down through the generations and this was an interesting read.

Cindy says

Loved the extra information at the end of the stories.

Irma says

90% of these fairy tales are extremely disturbing, the other 10% are incomprehensible. Some of both categories are fun, though. :D

Rae Coleman says

I actually couldn't finish this book, as much as I wanted to! I probably only read a quarter of it before I gave up. There's nothing wrong with the book in & of itself, but the antiquated writing style and phrases really were hard to get through. Classic stories though, so I'm not bashing the book at all!

Jim Erekson says

This is one of the best collections. Jacobs combed the folklore collections for this set of tales. Strong and memorable tellings of old favorites, in ways you won't remember hearing as from the picturebooks. Three Pigs, Three Bears, Johnny Cake (aka Gingerbread Boy), Tom Tit Tot (Rumpelstiltskin). Then a lot more not in the popular set, but still riveting: Three Heads of the Well, Childe Rowland, Laidly Worm of Spindleston Heugh. My favorite in the bunch for telling is Molly Whuppie! A strong girl protagonist out defeating giants!

Diana Long says

Really nice collection of Folk Tales (Fairy Tales or Scary Tales). Every culture has stories that pass down through the generations and this was an interesting read. Some of them only slightly different in the animated versions and story books I grew up with. Some have a moral to the story and many are really frightful and violent. The name of the character most often used appears to be Jack. Several have the beginning Once upon a time....and the phrase "Fe, fi, fo, fum" is used by several giants and evil peoples. So if you want to scare your little ones into behaving or giving them nightmares this is the book for you. But if your like me sugar coat everything, they will be spending more years as a grown up than as a child.

Valentina Markasovi? says

Gave up on this
I don't want to torture myself any more

Mary Catelli says

Joseph Jacobs complained in the 19th century, "What Perrault began, the Grimms completed." All the fairy tales the children knew were French or German in origin. He tried to amend it, and so we have this and More English Fairy Tales.

You will indeed recognize a few, most likely. "The Three Bears" is the first written version, with a nasty old woman instead of Goldilocks, and "Scrapefoot" is recognizably the same tale, with a fox. "Jack and the Beanstalk" is, in fact, the best known variant nowadays.

Not all of them are fairy tales. Some, like "My Own Self" and "Yallery Brown," are anecdotes about fairies. Others are progressive tales, or tales of cunning characters or fools.

Others are unusual fairy tales. My own two favorites -- not just here but among all fairy tales -- are "Kate Crackernuts" and "Tattercoats." It also has "Black Bull of Norroway," "The King of England and His Three Sons," "The Fish and the Ring," and "Catskin," among other tales where you can recognize the type if you've read widely, but these are specific variants. Also, some truly strange ones. It includes "The Buried Moon," for instance.

rathi.us28 says

This is one of the best collections. Jacobs combed the folklore collections for this set of tales. Strong and memorable tellings of old favorites, in ways you won't remember hearing as from the picturebooks.

Kyrie says

It's a good collection of fairy tales (and other forms - which the author rather goes on about in the preface and the end notes).

Some I've read before, some not. If you like fairy tales, you'll probably like this one.

Latasha says

Most of these you've heard or at least some variation of them. all good stories. now I must get a chicken and name her Henny Penny!

Sarita says

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Andrew Ives says

(1911 edition) Joseph Jacobs writes very well indeed and has made a laudable effort to bring together old English folk tales and fairy stories before they are lost in the mists of time, in a similar way to what the Brothers Grimm and Perrault did around this time. The introduction and the notes at the end are very academic and wonderfully well written. However, the 43 stories he has gathered and presented range between absolutely useless, primitive and irritating to rather enjoyable and halfway decent. My favourite is his version of Dick Whittington from 1397 and is one of very few here that is truly English and could stand alone as a separate story. The Three Bears and Three Little Pigs (seem to be of Italian origin with the 'hair on their chinny chin chins' implying that they were originally Three Little Goats!), Tom Thumb (French) and Jack & The Beanstalk (Russian) are the only others of any note. Those that derive from folk tales around the Anglia and Suffolk/Ipswich area are quite worryingly stupid and the omnipresent, violent giants and wicked, ugly stepmothers make for rather unpleasant reading after a while. 3.25/5

Hal Brodsky says

The price is certainly right for this free download. A collection of Fairy tales primarily from England and Scotland and published in 1890, these simply written stories offer an insight into the mores and values of people of that time, to wit: marrying into wealth is the most important thing you can do in life, and killing people (Giants, Monsters, Freaks) who are different than you is not only OK, but hero-worthy. And Step Mothers are evil, evil, evil !

No, these should not be read aloud to your children, but they each take no more than a few minutes to read and are a part of our Western Culture worth thinking about.
