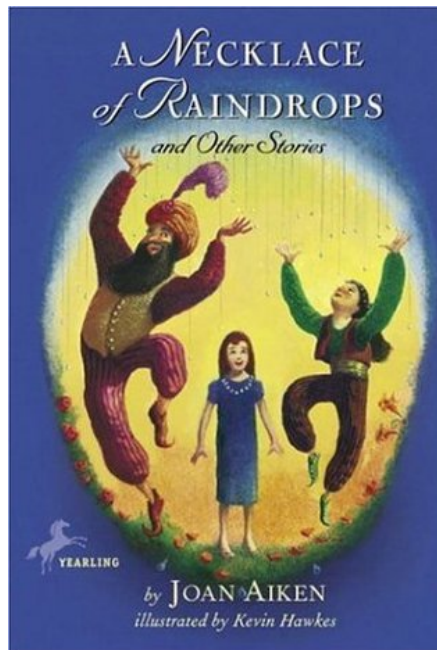




A Necklace of Raindrops and Other Stories

Joan Aiken , Kevin Hawkes (Illustrator)

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This magical collection of eight gloriously imaginative stories is ideal for bedtime reading. These stories contain a wealth of wonderful characters and ideas, all with the colorful, dreamlike quality of the very best fairy tales. Illustrations.

A Necklace of Raindrops and Other Stories Details

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Author : Joan Aiken , Kevin Hawkes (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review A Necklace of Raindrops and Other Stories for online ebook

Orinoco Womble (tidy bag and all) says

Joan Aiken is at her best with this collection of gentle fairytales and fantasy stories, beautifully illustrated by Kevin Hawkes. The pictures are like little jewels themselves, or tiny "raindrops" that reflect the people and events in the stories. An excellent, cosy, curl-up-in-your-favourite-quilt read. I started this book thinking I'd never read it before, but something about one of the stories rang a bell, so I must have done many years ago.

My "acid test" of a good children's book is: does it appeal to adults? If not, there's probably not much there at all. Witness the fact that many, many adults enjoy Beatrix Potter, Milne and other "children's books" all their lives long, while the "fad" books fade away to no one's regret. This is an enduring classic, and I actually think I got more out of it at fifty than at a younger age. That is not to say that it's "over the heads" of children, because it's not.

I enjoyed these short tales rather more than the proto-steampunk novels in the "Wolves of Willoughby Chase" series (after about vol. 3, anyway). They are much more in the line of the Armitage Family series. Read them with someone you love.

Lauren says

Ahhh, a trip down memory lane!

Review to come

Rebecca says

I used to pine for the eponymous necklace. Now I pine for my childhood copy. *sniffs*

Tippy Jackson says

This book almost made it! Almost! It was almost five stars, but the last story has a hook-nosed cruel Arab person that steals and is mean to animals and he steals from the poor hard working white family and his camels revolt and throw him from a magic carpet and he dies. This racist stereotype is hard for me personally to get over so... 3 stars. There's no reason he couldn't have stolen from a hard working Arab family or no reason he couldn't have been a cruel white thief. But as a child, if this is one of your only representations of Arab people, I worry what you come away with. #representationmatters

Abi Reynolds says

I recalled reading this book as a child and how much I enjoyed it - my favourite was A necklace of raindrops but the image from The Cat sat on the Mat of Emma hanging on the line to dry always made me laugh.

Ellie Labbett says

From floating pies to animals being brought to life from books, this is an excellent collection of magical stories which hold something for every child. Bordering more into the surreal than fantasy, Aiken's tales have a dream like quality that is almost not of this world, and yet still pulled on conventions and felt traditional in their telling. There was an odd familiarity whilst reading these stories, despite their eccentricity and having no recollection of ever having heard them. I cannot put my finger on it, but Aiken's words had a certain timelessness, the narrative really conjured a sense of being crafted by generations of retelling- regardless of it being new to me. Perhaps just a sign of rich writing and a testament to Aiken's voice.

Deb (Readerbuzz) Nance says

A 1001 CBYMRBYGU. When I picked up my copy of this book from the library, I was initially very disappointed to find that it was a collection of short stories. Then I started the book. Mercy. It was fantastic. Literally and metaphorically. Wonderfully written fantasies. There is one story about a man who saves the North Wind, who then rewards the man with a gift of a necklace of raindrops. Another is the tale of an old woman who accidentally baked a bit of sky in her pie. Yet another tells of three men who work in a train station where no trains ever stop. Fantastic.

“You may think it odd that there were three men to look after one tiny station, but the people who ran the railway knew that if you left two men together in a lonely place they would quarrel, but if you left three men, two of them could always grumble to each other about the third, and then they would be quite happy.”

Kiwi Begs2Differ \ says

3.5 stars

Narmeen Hyder says

Whimsical set of stories that will win your heart with their rhythmic charm! These are the kind of stories that satisfy those craving tales of magical realism.

A fellow Robin Hobb lover gave me this book after we shared our mutual awe for *The Realm of the Elderlings* series, in a conversation that soon turned into discussions about magical realism books. Even though, Robin Hobb books are not particularly written in the magical realism genre there is something whimsical about them and this is why this book came up.

Will definitely be checking Joan Aiken's other work out!

Mimi says

Beautiful, funny, entertaining fairy tales. And i really liked the illustrations by Pienkowski.

Mathew says

Read it in one night, I loved it that much. Some very clever stuff going on beneath the words but, ultimately, a gorgeous collection of short stories that beg to be told rather than read. My personal favourite was *The Elves on the Shelves* but it has made me want to explore more of Aiken's short stories. A perfect class read for KS1 or even lower KS2. The rich language and clever repetition throughout make these sound more like fairy tales than some fairy tales do.

Nikki says

I loved this when I was a child, but more or less forgot about it until I came across it in my university library. Then I remembered the magic of it, and all the illustrations were familiar... I didn't remember all the stories, but the first and second in particular made an impression on me, and the one that basically included Baba Yaga. They're almost fairytales, and that's how I'll shelve them here.

Reading them now, I suppose they're smaller than imagination made them, and more saccharine. But there's fun, quirky moments, too, like hanging a girl and her dress out to dry on the line, and living in a bus...

Megan says

A collection of short stories for children.

A Necklace of Raindrops - 5 stars. Actually this was the only short story in the book I remember reading as a little girl. Laura's godfather, the North Wind, gives Laura a necklace and each year on her birthday gives her a raindrop to put on that gives her certain powers (i.e. doesn't get wet when it rains, etc). However, the necklace keeps getting stolen and Laura has to find it.

The other short stories are:

The Cat Sat on the Mat

There's Some Sky in this Pie

The Elves in the Shelves

The Three Travelers

The Baker's Cat

A Bed for the Night

The Patchwork Quilt

Monica says

"El gato Mog" es un libro infantil de RELATOS IMAGINATIVOS CON ELEMENTOS FANTÁSTICOS A LA PAR QUE REALIDADES crudas DE LA VIDA (Y DE LAS PERSONAS). A lo largo de sus ocho historias, NOS ENCONTRAREMOS CON DIVERSOS MENSAJES ACERCA DE LOS VALORES Y BENEFICIOS DE LAS BUENAS PERSONAS Y ANIMALES: la amistad, la bondad, el valor, la aceptación de los demás, sin prejuicios, sino por su manera de obrar, ADEMÁS DE, LO POSITIVO QUE APORTA LA CULTURA y LOS VIAJES.

1/ El Gato Mog:

Una anciana panadera vive con su revoltoso gato, semi atrigrado claro (pues parte de su cuerpo está completamente blanco, debido a el jugueteo que se lleva con el agua y la harina de los bollos y otros pastelitos y panes). Un día su dueña lo echa fuera mientras trabaja, para que no lo revuelva todo...por un conjunto de acontecimientos y acciones, Mog crecerá, lo que le deparará un problema a la anciana dueña y al simpático gato.

ENCANTADOR, TIERNO E IMAGINATIVO RELATO ACERCA DE LA ACEPTACIÓN DE LOS DEMÁS, SIN PRE JUZGARLOS, Y DE LAS BUENAS ACCIONES.
ME HA GUSTADO MUCHO.

2/ Un collar de gotas de lluvia:

El señor Jones ayuda a el viento del norte (que es un ser y se ocupa que la tormenta vaya desplazándose) a desenredarse de las ramas de uno de los árboles enfrente de su casa. En agradecimiento, éste se hace padrino de su hijita, y le regala un collar muy especial y con poderes que irán aumentando cada año, con la llegada de su cumpleaños..

ALECCIONADOR E IMAGINATIVO CUENTO ACERCA DE LOS VALORES DE LAS BUENAS PERSONAS y LAS CONSECUENCIAS DE LAS ACCIONES DE LAS MALAS.
ME HA GUSTADO MUCHO.

3/ El gato echado en la esterilla:

Emma y su tía, Lou son muy pobres y viven en un viejo autobús, al lado de un campo de manzanas en el que la mujer recolecta los frutos para su avaro y mezquino dueño, que tan sólo le deja quedarse con las podridas para hacer comida. Un día una gentil hada, en agradecimiento a la hospitalidad de la chiquilla, le regala tres vestidos nuevos, el más oscuros lo hará servir de esterilla para su gato, que siempre anda sucio de las

patitas...descubrirá que dicha combinación les ayudará a las desdichadas habitantes del autobús...y al fin podrán ser felices, lejos del tirano jefe de Lou.

OTRO CUENTO IMAGINATIVO, CON SU MORALEJA INCLUIDA, QUE NO DEJA DE SER UNA HISTORIA DURA.

ME HA GUSTADO MUCHO.

4/ Hay un poco de cielo en ésta tarta:

Un matrimonio anciano, que vive en un frío lugar, hace una tarta de manzana...qué dará sus frutos y resultará ser un auténtico ‘ placer divino’, ¡que les reconfortará del frío!

CURIOSA, ORIGINAL Y METAFÓRICA.

ME HA GUSTADO MUCHO.

5/ Los duendes en la estantería:

Una niña, de padre muy ocupados, verá en sus libros de cumpleaños ‘una gran compañía’ a las prolongadas ausencias de sus progenitores....

BONITO Y METAFÓRICO RELATO ACERCA DE LOS PLACERES Y RECOMPENSAS DE LA LECTURA.

“ - Leemos para saber que no estamos solos”..Como bien dicen en el magnífico film: ‘ Tierra de penumbras’.

ME HA GUSTADO.

6/ Los tres viajeros:

Tres empleados de una estación de tren en pleno desierto y sin actividad alguna, deciden emprender alternativamente y con sus ahorros, un viaje más allá de lo que hasta ahora conocen...el último de ellos descubrirá la solución a sus deseos de vivir en plenitud.

BONITO RELATO ACERCA DE LOS PLACERES DEL VIAJE, Y SOBRETUDO, DE ADENTRARSE EN LA AVENTURA Y LO DESCONOCIDO, QUE PUEDEN PROPORCIONARNOS GRATOS E INESPERADOS RESULTADOS.

ESTÁ BIEN.

7/ Una cama para pasar la noche:

Cuatro músicos amigos, que viajan por el mundo y alegran a las personas con su arte, ven como su coche se hunde en un río. Desesperados, buscarán refugio en varios hogares. Tras varias negativas, encontrarán en un insólito hogar un curiosa petición a cambio de cobijo...

RELATO MUY FANTÁSTICO Y SURREALISTA, ACERCA DE LOS PODERES DE LA MÚSICA.

ME HA GUSTADO.

8/ La colcha de retales:

Una anciana de un país nórdico le está tejiendo a su nieto una colcha con mucho amor..dicha colcha, pues, resulta ser mágica. Mientras tanto, en un desierto muy lejano, un tirado y avaro mago ve como sus pobres y hambrientos camellos se comen su alfombra mágica. Entonces decide robar la colcha de retales...

TIERNO RELATO ACERCA DE LAS BUENAS Y MALAS PERSONAS, Y LAS CONSECUENCIA DE SUS ACCIONES.

ME HA GUSTADO.

RECOMENDADO TANTO A MAYORES COMO A PEQUEÑOS, QUE DISFRUTARÁN DE UNA SENCILLA, PERO MUY IMAGINATIVA NARRACIÓN LLENA DE VALORES.

Josephine says

What an amazing read-a-loud! I highly recommend this book to anyone with children. It was a book of 8 short stories that were very creative and fun. Our favorite was the first story in the book, Necklace of Raindrops. It was about a lucky little girl who got to have the North Wind as her godfather. That was the only story my girls wanted me to read over again. The story about the men in the desert was pretty boring but the rest were fun.
