



The Birthday of the Infanta (Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde)

Oscar Wilde , P. Craig Russell (Illustrator)

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"The Birthday of the Infanta" is a historical fiction for children by the Irish author Oscar Wilde. The action of "The Birthday of the Infanta" takes place in Spain at an unspecified point in the past. It is the twelfth birthday of the Infanta, the only daughter, and only child, of the King of Spain. For her entertainment, an ugly young dwarf dancer is brought to the court. The Dwarf is completely unaware of how hideous he looks and does not realize that the reason that others laugh in his presence is because they are mocking his appearance. When the Dwarf sees his own reflection for the first time in his life, the consequences are severe.

The Birthday of the Infanta (Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde) Details

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Author : Oscar Wilde , P. Craig Russell (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Birthday of the Infanta (Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde) for online ebook

Basma Khaled says

It's so sad ..don't you think ? the way they saw him , they were the true monsters. I saw he was so kind ,pure creature and it wasn't his fault that they couldn't see how beautiful his heart was . the way he imagined how he could take care of the princess against how she saw him makes you realize how unfair the life can be .

He died when he found the truth " it was he who was misshapen and hunchbacked, foul to look at and grotesque. He himself was the monster, and it was at him that all the children had been laughing, and the little Princess who he had thought loved him -- she too had been merely mocking at his ugliness, and making merry over his twisted limbs. Why had they not left him in the forest, where there was no mirror to tell him how loathsome he was? Why had his father not killed him, rather than sell him to his shame? The hot tears poured down his cheeks, and he tore the white rose to pieces. The sprawling monster did the same, and scattered the faint petals in the air. It grovelled on the ground, and, when he looked at it, it watched him with a face drawn with pain. He crept away, lest he should see it, and covered his eyes with his hands. He crawled, like some wounded thing, into the shadow, and lay there moaning. "

this story literally broke my heart .

Salam Almahi says

2.5 to be precise.

A more realistic take on The Hunchback of Norte dam- if I dare say- while being completely different. The writing was very descriptive, *too* descriptive for my taste, but that is how my boy Oscar rolls, and I know *I know* after having read a considerable amount of his works that that is just his writing style, and I accepted it in his novel, and tolerate it in his poetry, but this is a **short** story, so I could not look past that in here. It was simply daunting.

What made up for that, though, was some of the quirky clever lines, and the heart-breaking touching ending.

Marthese Formosa says

My first introduction to Oscar Wilde's fairy tales which I have been meaning to read for a while. This is a short comic adapted from his story 'The Birthday of the Infanta'. It's probably not something I would read to small children unless I had a discussion with them about torture and bullying. It's not a nice 'happily-ever-after' story but it's creative. I enjoyed it and heard Wilde's voice in it.

James says

Wonderful, sweet, very sad ending

Melissa Veras says

The kind of humor that I expected.

3.5*

SARA_URIBE16 says

Review in English and Spanish

This story is about the birthday of the Infanta of Spain, a poorly raised and young princess who does not have a mother. For this reason he lives a somewhat lonely life except on the day of his birthday, but this one is so different... In this story, it is possible to see that this was one of the author's first writings because he platted many ideas that ultimately end to not be concreted. There were characters and flat plots that should not have developed, it is also full of stereotypes about the country where the story originates, which really bothered me when reading it, and the description of a 14-year-old boy slaughtering a bull did not fascinate me. However, the end was what rescued this story definitively, is one of the best finals, its' really quite good. The truth is that for me is one of the lessons that I'll keep in mind form now on.

Este cuento trata de el cumpleaños de la infanta de España, una princesita mal criada y joven la cual no cuenta con una madre. Por esta razón vive una vida algo solitaria excepto en el día de su cumpleaños, pero este es diferente... En este relato, es posible evidenciar que este fue uno de los primeros escritos del autor debido a que plateaba muchas ideas que al final pero al final no concreto muchas de ellas. Hubo personajes y tramas planas que no debieron desarrollarse, también esta llena de estereotipos sobre todo del país en donde se origina la historia lo que realmente me incomodó a la hora de leerlo, y la descripción de un niño de 14 años degollando un toro tampoco me fascinó. Sin embargo el final fue lo que rescató este relato definitivamente de los mejores finales y es bastante bueno. La verdad es una de las enseñanzas que mas rescató y con la que mas me quedó de Oscar Wilde.

Rick says

A beautiful and moving adaptation of a powerful and poignant story. One of those fairy tales that just might break your heart. Another P. Craig Russell masterpiece in his series adapting the Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde.

Suzanne says

I am not totally sure whether I read this as a child or not .. some parts seemed quite familiar, but others not so .. I suppose many Fairytales have similar messages .. As my first foray into the writings of Oscar Wilde, I loved how descriptive everything was, without being labourious. The whole tale was very light and swept you from pure delight to such sorrow in a way that could be understood by a child .. A lovely little tale that would be great read aloud.

Elle says

Oh wow. This is really heartbreaking. I'm a little bit in shock but I think I'm going to give this a reread and then probably a 5* rating. Firstly, the descriptions of everything was so vivid; for such a short story I really felt sucked within this world. Secondly, I accidentally called my mum as I grabbed my phone to write this review because I couldn't see through the tears.

Trillian says

short story. this review is for me. I liked the end with the reveal. it was very flowery and I wanted to skim descriptions. the description of the little person made me cringe. overall, the ideas and moral dilemmas were well done.

Sneh Pradhan says

Armed with a sharp sword of irony, this story by Wilde will probably slice into even the most insensitive of hearts. The end brought to mind not a similar, but somehow stirring a verisimilitude of emotion , another story "The Postmaster" by Rabindranath Tagore. Though " The Postmaster" does not share the theme or the sudden end of the above story, the irony, the unfairness and the tragic brutality of emotion rend the heart alike. Though I do concede that Wilde was more intellectual and much more witty than Tagore(having gone past the bias I usually find myself according Tagore, since being an Indian, I identify more with his dreamscapes).

Coming back to the story, the Infanta is a pampered, vain little princess who on her birthday, is presented a show of dance and assorted acts by a boy, so ugly, misshapen and grotesque , that he is sold by his poor father for good riddance. Not realizing that the princess and her mates are mocking and laughing at him for his outward monstrosity of appearance, he strives to confess his love to the princess herself. But he catches his reflection in the palace mirrors, and the rest of the story just left me with the proverbial lump in my throat. Wilde explores themes of childhood cruelty, the lure of physical beauty, the insufferable pain of self-loathing and the bitter,sordid irony that is unfortunately, but very accurately a core part of life.

Giuliana Gramani says

Oscar Wilde consegue enfiar o dedo na ferida até quando escreve para crianças, impressionante! Para mim foi uma ótima surpresa descobrir que ele tinha escrito esse tipo de texto.

D.M. says

This is the only volume of the series that is entirely occupied with just one tale (the others are two apiece), and frankly I don't think it's justified. A great deal of time is spent on the festivities of the infanta's birthday

party, as well as the dwarf's lounging and being mocked by wildlife, but of course this is merely a fault of the original material...and who am I to criticise Wilde? The story otherwise is slightly less cynical than, say, Nightingale... or Devoted Friend, but still a VERY harsh ending. Am I ruining my toddler by letting her enjoy these stories?

The art, as ever, is stunning, and ranges from utterly cartoony to his classic-baroque masterpiece style. All of it is wonderful to look at, and helps me ignore the too-frequent typos.

Right now, this is one of two of the kid's favourites from the series. We've read it twice today, and two or three times yesterday. She seems to really enjoy that there's a princess, and that the dwarf looks like the Disney hunchback. Were it up to me, she would not be reading these before she was, say, ten. But since she asks, I can scarcely justify saying 'no.' I mean, it's not Clockwork Orange, after all.

Berenice says

It touched my heart and soul too deep. Beautiful, bittersweet and sadly, real. My only complain is that I want it to be longer.

Rao Javed says

Not the best of Wilde but indeed a kind of Wilde's thing

The writing was fine, the concept was normal, the story was acceptable, the characters were nicely done, but the ending was really touching.

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Julia Loporace says

"- Mi bella princesa, vuestro divertido enanillo no volverá a bailar nunca. Es una lástima, porque era tan feo que hubiera hecho sonreír al rey.

- Pero ¿por qué no bailará nunca?- preguntó la infanta riendo.

- Porque su corazón se ha roto - contestó el chambelán.

Y la infanta frunció el ceño y sus bellos labios de rosa se curvaron en una mueca de desdén.

- Para el futuro, aquellos que vengan a jugar conmigo, que no tengan corazón - exclamó; y se marchó corriendo al jardín."

Nancy says

It was
interesting
Not what I expected from
Oscar Wilde

Vatroslav Herceg says

Sveu?ilišna naklada Liber

Zagreb, 1986.

S engleskoga preveo Iso Velikanovi?

Ilustrirao Ljubo Babi? (i to dobro)

Radi se o novokompanovoj bajci , novkompanovana u vidu furke rane moderne. U našoj književnosti Fran Galovi? je kompanovao tu usmenu formu.

Jezi?na situacija je duboko povezana sa žanrovskom klasifikacijom s time da mogu ustvrditi da je, iako se radi o žanrovskom djelu (istina-bajka je žanr visoke književnosti), jezik izrazito siromašan. Možda je u pitanju loš prijevod? Eh, ako je tako, moj Iso okreni se sad u grobu. No, ipak ne bih rekao da je u vezi siromaštva i neaktualizacije jezika problem prijevod. Fran Galovi? je pisao bajke baš poput Wildea, no s daleko raskošnijim jezikom, esteticizam fin de sieclea je kod Galovi?a daleko više esencijalniji. Matoš je pisao dosta sli?no poput Galovi?a ili Wildea (nisu bajke, ali to je ta gotovo istovjetna furka rane moderne u vezi kratke proze) te je ostvario jezik koji je bolji od hrane. Bez imalo ironije ili hiperboliziranja kada ?itam Matoševe novele (ove larppurlartisti?ko-esteticisti?ke provenijencije) meni se javlja slina u ustima. Matoš je jednako dobar kao breskvica (onaj božanski kola?i?) ili Raffaelo. Oscar Wilde piše jadno i provincijalno u usporedbi s Matošem ili Galovi?em. Opet ?u spomenuti mogu?u problematiku prijevoda, odnos baroknosti jezika i potencijalnog materinjstva u samom jeziku.

Sadržajno ova bajka ostaje na razini nekog srednjostručkog dje?jeg Disney filma.

Hasta luego!
