



The Grey Fairy Book

Andrew Lang (Editor) , Leonora Blanche Alleyne Lang

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It is almost impossible to envision what childhood would be like without the enchanting world of fairyland. The goat-faced girl, Prunella, the three sons of Hali, giants and dwarfs, monsters and magicians, fairies and ogres—these are the companions who thrill boys and girls of all lands and all times, as Andrew Lang's phenomenally successful collections of stories have proved. From the day that they were first printed, Lang's fairy tale books of many colors have entertained thousands of youngsters, as they have also brought pleasure to the parents who have read these classics to their children.

The Grey Fairy Book includes many strange, exotic stories from Lithuania, Africa, Germany, Greece and France. But they are all told in the common language of the fairy tale, and their events will be familiar to children and grown-ups alike. The donkey who turns into a price, a spinning wheel that turns moss into silk, revengeful fairies, and ogre-like fathers of lovely daughters strike responsive chords in readers, even when they appear in new circumstances.

All in all, this collection contains 35 stories, all narrated in the lively, clear prose for which Lang was famous. Not only are Lang's generally conceded to be the best English versions of standard stories, his collections are the richest and widest in range. His position as one of England's foremost folklorists as well as his first-rate literary abilities make his collections unmatchable in the English language.

The Grey Fairy Book Details

Date : Published June 1st 1967 by Dover Publications (first published 1900)

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Author : Andrew Lang (Editor) , Leonora Blanche Alleyne Lang

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From Reader Review The Grey Fairy Book for online ebook

Michiyo 'jia' Fujiwara says

Once upon a time there lived a man whose right eye always smiled, and whose left eye always cried; and this man had three sons, two of them very clever, and the third very stupid. Now these three sons were very curious about the peculiarity of their father's eyes, and as they could not puzzle out the reason for themselves, they determined to ask their father why he did not have eyes like other people. So the eldest of the three went one day into his father's room and put the question straight out; but, instead of answering, the man flew into a fearful rage, and sprang at him with a knife. The young fellow ran away in a terrible fright, and took refuge with his brothers, who were awaiting anxiously the result of the interview.

Servian Story - Laughing Eye and Weeping Eye, or the Limping Fox

Abu-abu.. 1900

03/25/13

Erica says

This is an interesting set of stories. Some I liked more than others. Like another reviewer, I got bored with one of them in the middle. There were a few foreign words I didn't understand. Overall, I would have preferred less predictability, but it wasn't that bad. Also, some parts are a bit too scary, depending on the child's age and fearfulness.

Susan Molloy says

The thirty-five stories in this book are derived from Portuguese, Italian, French, and German fairy story traditions. Included are such favorites as "The Dog and the Sparrow," "What Came of Picking Flowers," "Prunella," "Mohammed with the Magic Finger," and "The Daughter of Buk Ettemsuch," including many more. My favorite is "The Goat-faced Girl," which lays out the perils of not being grateful for good things received.

These are the refreshingly original versions, in all their straightforward, brutal, glory. These tales are all real and delightful in their own ways.

"The Grey Fairy Book," published in 1900, is the sixth of twelve collected fairy story books that were researched, translated and compiled by Andrew Lang (1844-1912) and his wife, Leonora Blanche Alleyne Lang, Andrew Lang, a Scotsman, was a literary critic, novelist, poet, and a contributor to the field of anthropology,

All in all, I do recommend this book for literary and psychological research and analysis, and just for the fun of it, if you are so enthused.

Michael Fierce says

Would love to have the original Hardcover edition with this same cover used for the Kindle

But, this one's a real hoot, too!

Hank says

These volumes helped to shape my dreams that I had of being a knight-hero :D

Sara says

As a kid, I checked out all of the Andrew Lang Fairy Books from the library.

It was interesting learning new fairy tales that weren't the normal ones, but honestly, I think I just checked these books out because I had read almost every single book in the kid's section of the Westminster Public Library and these were left, so. . . .

Christine Roberts says

Did not like this one at all. Hopefully the next one is better.

Mary Catelli says

This one has a fair variety. A number of Arabic -- or arabesque -- ones, some of which I recognized from a more literal translation (this turns ghouls into witches and ogres). Some prolonged literary ones, which were not to my taste. I particularly liked "The Story of Bensurdatu", "The Magician's Horse," "the White Wolf," "The Bear," and "Laughing Eye and Weeping Eye." All which I think I have read before as variants earlier in the series. Interesting to see what twists are put on them. (It features "Donkey Skin." Bowdlerized, of course.)

Lucy says

Almost unreadable. Not recommended.

Richard says

Always fascinating discoveries -Ketke's storehouse gets raided in fine style this time around as does Cabinet des Fees. Always maddening omissions -where the Hell did The Sunchild come from? Always amazing that this series was aimed at AND LOVED BY children.

Jennifer Girard says

1.5

It's my least favorite so far... so much racism in this one!

Statikpulse says

not too bad. i wish that my kindle had the images, and i think that would have been a nice addition. Some of the stories were lacking creativity and were very generic.

Other ones were very cute and unique. It was my first Andrew Lang book, and I will read the others.

There was one story in the middle that was much too long and boring for me.

In general, it was great to be able to read some fairy tales from around the world. Its a nice break from reading americanized ones my whole life. Because of this there were a few things I didn't understand, but even with that I came to enjoy most of the book. I give it 3 stars because there were parts I really liked.. and parts I really could have done without.

If you want to broaden your fairy tale horizons, i suggest this book.

Amalie says

"Prunella"'s source unidentified. The source for this tale can be from oral traditions, and others from French, German or Italian collections.

spoiler

Seven years old girl used to pick ripe plums from a wild plum tree. Each morning the child would pick one, and put it into her pocket to eat at school. For this reason she was called Prunella.

The tree belonged to A witch, one day she caught her and she dragged Prunella into her house.

Prunella grew up into a very beautiful girl and the witch became jealous. The witch gives her tasks she cannot finish and is helped by young Bensiabel, the son of the witch.

Bensiabel is in love with Prunella and saves her life several times and finally by accident kills the witch (his mother) trying to save Prunella.

Prunella became Bensiabel's wife, and they lived happily ever after.

Erik says

I got this a year ago along with The Olive Fairy Book. Unfortunately for me, my copy doesn't include illustrations and on some of the pages the quotation marks are messed-up. (It probably came from a cheapo publishing house.) Despite that, I still enjoyed the book quite a bit. There's a wide variety of sources included, which I like too.

My favorite stories:

- An Impossible Enchantment (the best one in the collection IMO)
- Fortunatus and his Purse
- The Goat-Faced Girl
- The Story of the Queen of the Flowery Isles
- Udea and her Seven Brothers
- The Sunchild
- The Daughter of Buk Ettemsuch (also really love this one)
- Cannetella
- A Fairy's Blunder

There were a few stories that were a too confusing (like The Three Sons of Hali and The Story of the Fair Circassians - which are actually two parts of one story) or that I flat-out disliked (like Mohammed with the Magic Finger). But all in all, a good collection.

Rain Blackmoore says

This was my "waiting-room" book, so I read it over the course of a few months. Although I can't remember all the tales, I know I enjoyed most of them.

Some are a bit light on plot. Three obstacles and a wedding is the most common structure; the predictability is comforting.

The emphasis on beauty=good person=instant love really struck me as... I wouldn't say odd, because I sort of expected it... as naive? Although this was turned on its head quite spectacularly in one of the tales (view spoiler).

Long, Broad and Quickeye stands out as being a story about superheroes (think The Fantastic Four), which was really cool.

The last story, Prunella, is also quite sweet.

Overall, it was interesting to read mostly-forgotten fairy tales, even if some of the tales were a bit clumsy.

Jason Bunnell says

The Grey Fairy Book is part of a 12 book series that was a big part of my childhood and pivotal to my joy of reading. Very similar to Grimm's Fairy Tales. Or Harry Potter or The Chronicles of Narnia, but maybe for a slightly younger age. The series starts with the Blue Fairy Book which has some of the more recognizable stories like Beauty and the Beast, Little Red Riding-Hood, The Little Glass Slipper, and Rumpelstiltskin. The Grey has less known but still great stories. They are the perfect bedtime story when your kids outgrow Where The Wild Things Are but maybe still too young for a whole novel. The length of each story varies but most can be read in less than 10 minutes.

saeedeh says

??? ??? ?????????? ????

Patrice says

Donkey Skin :/

The Goblin Pony :/

An Impossible Enchantment :/

The Story of Dschemil and Dschemila :/

Janni and the Draken :(

The Partnership of the Thief and the Liar :/

Fortunatus and his Purse :/

The Goat-faced Girl :/

What Came of Picking Flowers :)

The Story of Bensurdatu :)

The Magician's Horse :)

The Little Grey Man :(

Herr Lazarus and the Draken :(

The Story of the Queen of the Flowery Isles :/

Udea and Her Seven Brothers :(

The White Wolf :)

Mohammed with the Magic Finger :(

Bobino :/

The Dog and the Sparrow :/

The Story of the Three Sons of Hali :(

The Story of the Fair Circassians :(

The Jackal and the Spring :)
The Bear :/
The Sunchild :)
The Daughter of Buk Ettemsuch :/
Laughing Eye and Weeping Eye, or the The Limping Fox :)
The Unlooked-for Prince :/
The Simpleton :/
The Street Musicians :)
The Twin Brothers :(
Cannetella :(
The Ogre :/
A Fairy's Blunder :/
Long, Broad and Quickeye :)
Prunella :/

Elinor Loredan says

Favorites:

Donkey Skin (though I wouldn't let a donkey be slain for me)
The Goblin Pony
An Impossible Enchantment
Dschemil and Dschemila
The Goat-Faced Girl
What Came of Picking Flowers
The Story of the Queen of the Flowery Isles
The White Wolf
Bobino
The Jackal and the Spring
The Bear (though the prince really did not deserve her)
The Sunchild
The Unlooked for Prince
Cannetella
A Fairy's Blunder
Long, Broad, and QuickEye
Prunella

I literally loathed Mohammed With the Magic Finger for all the unjustified killing, and some other stories were too violent or brutal for me, like the dervish drowning the pigs in the Fair Circassians.

Sol González says

Este es uno de los libros que nunca me he arrepentido de comprar, ya que en cualquier temporada del año y en cualquier momento puedo sacar del librero y simplemente disfrutar.

El libro gris contiene 35 cuentos, el más conocido de todos es el de "Los músicos de Bremen" y "El ogro", aunque así por los títulos es posible que no sean reconocidos fácilmente.

Este es el primer libro de este tipo que contiene un cuento complejo que ocupa más de unas cuantas hojas y que se compone de dos cuentos. Es el de "El encantamiento imposible / La historia de Dschemil y Dschemila"

Algunos otros son bastante cortitos y como en todos los libros de cuentos recopilados por Andrew Lang hay muchas princesas, príncipes, encantamientos, sultanes, castillos y aventuras. Todos ellos se me hacen una hermosa compilación que no debería de faltar en ningún lado. Lamentablemente ya Gandhi los retiró de su catálogo.

Lo bueno es que todos ellos aún estan disponibles en Amazon en su versión en español. Yo esperaré otro poco mas y compraré los que me hacen falta.
