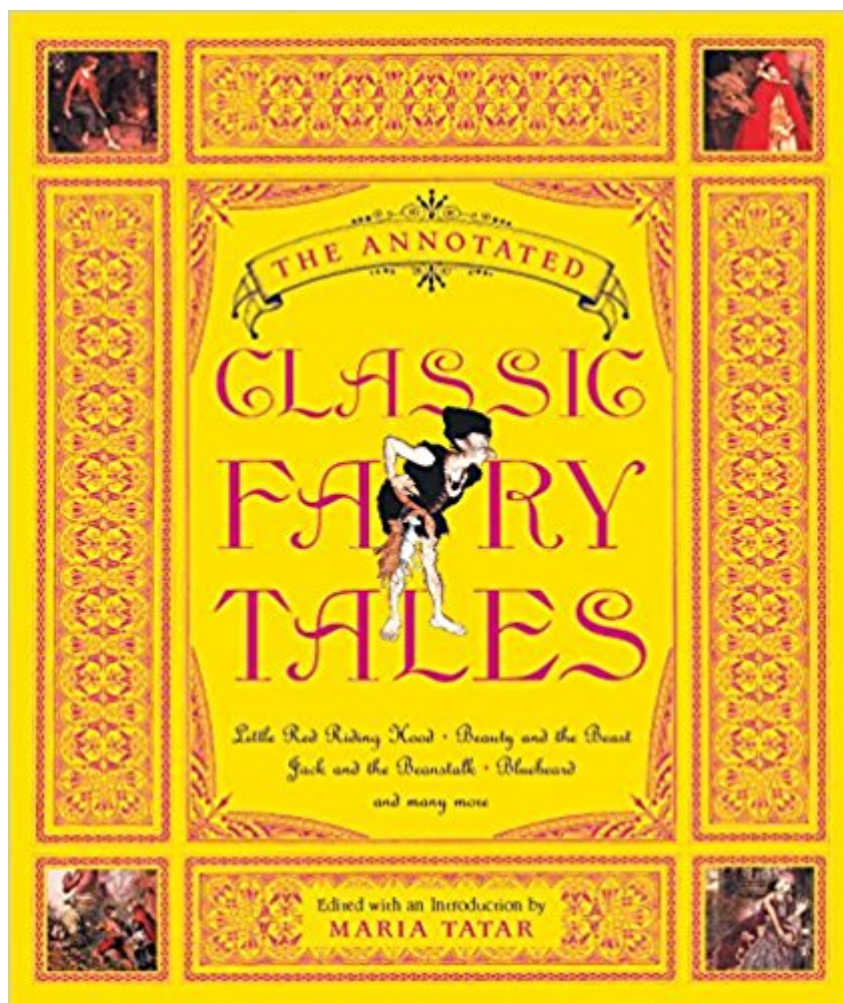


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# The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales



## Synopsis

Not since Bruno Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment* has there been such an illuminating contribution to the world of children's fairy tales. *The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales* is a remarkable treasure trove, a work that celebrates the best-loved tales of childhood and presents them through the vision of Maria Tatar, a leading authority in the field of folklore and children's literature. Into the woods with Little Red Riding Hood, up the beanstalk with Jack, and down through the depths of the ocean with the Little Mermaid, this volume takes us through many of the familiar paths of our folkloric heritage. Gathering together twenty-five of our most cherished fairy tales, including enduring classics like "Beauty and the Beast," "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Cinderella," and "Bluebeard," Tatar expertly guides readers through the stories, exploring their historical origins, their cultural complexities, and their psychological effects. Offering new translations of the non-English stories by the likes of Hans Christian Andersen, Brothers Grimm, or Charles Perrault, Tatar captures the rhythms of oral storytelling and, with an extraordinary collection of over 300 often rare, mostly four-color paintings and drawings by celebrated illustrators such as Gustave Doré, George Cruikshank, and Maxfield Parrish, she expands our literary and visual sensibilities. As Tatar shows, few of us are aware of how profoundly fairy tales have influenced our culture. Disseminated across a wide variety of historical and contemporary media ranging from opera and drama to cinema and advertising, they constitute a vital part of our storytelling capital. What has kept them alive over the centuries is exactly what keeps life pulsing with vitality and variety: anxieties, fears, desires, romance, passion, and love. Up close and personal, fairy tales tell us about the quest for romance and riches, for power and privilege, and, most importantly, they show us a way out of the woods back to the safety and security of home. Challenging the notion that fairy tales should be read for their moral values and used to make good citizens of little children, Tatar demonstrates throughout how fairy tales can be seen as models for navigating reality, helping children to develop the wit and courage needed to survive in a world ruled by adults. This volume seeks to reclaim this powerful cultural legacy, presenting the stories that we all think we know while at the same time providing the historical contexts that unlock the mysteries of the tales. *The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales* is a volume that will rank as one of the finest fairy tale collections in many decades, a provocative and original work to be treasured by students, parents, and children. Over 300 often rare, mostly four-color paintings and drawings by celebrated illustrators

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adult/High School-The level of content, commentary, and art in this beautifully designed volume will confound anyone who contends that fairy tales are "just for kids." Tatar presents fresh and appealing translations of 26 traditional stories (primarily European), accompanied by engrossing annotations placed attractively in the wide margins of the large-sized pages. In clear, accessible prose, she links the tales to their original oral traditions and cultural contexts, and discusses the varied interpretations imposed by critics over time and across philosophical and psychological perspectives. Hundreds of high-quality, color reproductions of period illustrations illuminate and enhance Tatar's cogent remarks about the power of illustrators to influence and comment on a story through visual interpretation. The supplemental sections are as fascinating as the main material: biographies of authors, collectors, and illustrators; variant texts of "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Bears

The publisher, which has had great success with its series of annotated children's books (e.g., *Alice in Wonderland*, *Huckleberry Finn*), takes on all the great fairy tales. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Having purchased and read [The Annotated Brothers Grimm \(The Annotated Books\)](#) by Maria Tatar, a well-known scholar in the field of folklore and children's literature, I decided to get some of the other annotated fairy tales. I was impressed by the insights afforded by the annotations

in *The Annotated Brothers Grimm*, and this book too was impressive in that aspect. Here, Tatar provides new translations of familiar and beloved classic fairy tales which are enhanced not only by the thought-provoking and insightful annotations but also the presence of more than 300 illustrations both in color and B&W by renowned artists such as Gustave Dore, George Cruikshank, Arthur Rackham, Walter Crane, and Maxfield Parrish. The fairy tales contained within this book are: Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Hansel and Gretel, Beauty and the Beast, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, The Frog King, Rumpelstiltskin, Jack and the Beanstalk, Bluebeard, The Juniper Tree, Vasilisa the Fair, East of the Sun and West of the Moon, Molly Whuppie, The Story of the Three Little Pigs, Donkeyskin, Kate Crackernuts, Puss in Boots, The Story of the Three Bears, Tom Thumb, The Emperor's New Clothes, The Little Match Girl, The Princess and the Pea, The Ugly Duckling, The Little Mermaid. The author's annotations are interesting and thought-provoking. For example, in the story of Little Red Riding Hood, the act of cutting open the sleeping wolf's belly is annotated. The author writes, "Freud and others read this scene as an allusion to the birth process. The wolf, as the poet Anne Sexton wryly notes, undergoes "a kind of caesarian section." (p. 26). In the story of Cinderella by Perrault, Tatar provides some thoughts on the emphasis on virtue in the story, i.e. that acts of kindness are rewarded, as Cinderella is rewarded with a "happy ever after" life. Tatar attributes this to Perrault's implied audience for the story, i.e. children, and why this emphasis on kind acts is thus important. In my opinion, it is insights such as these that make this work a must-read. Tatar also provides brief biographies of authors and collectors as well as biographies of illustrators whose works are portrayed in the book. There is also an extensive bibliography on fairy tales (which merit checking out!), a bibliography of illustrations, and suggested journals for further reading such as *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* and *Folklore and Mythology Studies*. I would recommend this to anyone who has a keen interest in exploring the underlying themes and cultures of fairy tales.

This is a beautiful book on the magical, scary, enchanting and wonderful world of the fairy tale! Marie Tatar a Harvard German professor has done a superb job in putting this book together! The stories range from the classics of the Brothers Grimm, Perrault and Hans Christian Anderson. Fairy tales from several cultures are included from Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and Denmark. The volume is beautifully illustrated with the illustrations from such giants as Cruikshank, Rackham, Parrish and several others. This work is a beautiful way to share story time with one's children or grandchildren. If you are going to buy one book of fairy tales appealing to both children and adults then this is the lavish lifetime volume for you! Excellent!

lovely textbook required for a class of mine, but i still am very happy to own the book it is so pretty, so well puts together and beautiful book all the way around.

Had to get this book for a class and I enjoyed all of the stories in it. These tales are always a classic, but they're the original versions and not very child friendly. Some of the stories describe extreme acts of violence and have sexual connotations.

Love fairy tales---the historic facts are great before reading.

I am always fascinated by annotations of classic works because of the insights I gain from them. The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales is especially interesting because the works Maria Tatar includes are familiar (at least most of them are) but, her notes reveal, have a much deeper and sometimes darker history than we thought. The book includes some universal favorites like The Emperor's New Clothes and Cinderella and some less known but interesting stories like Molly Whuppie and The Juniper Tree. Each story has a great variety of classic illustrations from masters like Cruikshank and Dore. Another nice touch are the biographies of some of the authors and illustrators included at the end. Whether you are a child, have a child, or are a child at heart, you will love this collection.

Great condition

This text was perfect for my needs. I have a class exploring the connections between the fairy tales we know and love and the fairy tales of other cultures Our topic was "Does Every Culture have a Cinderella and what are the common connections?" This text explored the depth and purpose of fairy tales in a way my students could understand

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