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Fairy Tale Comics: Classic Tales Told By Extraordinary Cartoonists



Synopsis

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER From favorites like "Puss in Boots" and "Goldilocks" to obscure gems like "The Boy Who Drew Cats," Fairy Tale Comics has something to offer every reader. Seventeen fairy tales are wonderfully adapted and illustrated in comics format by seventeen different cartoonists, including Raina Telgemeier, Brett Helquist, Cherise Harper, and more. Edited by Nursery Rhyme Comics' Chris Duffy, this jacketed hardcover is a beautiful gift and an instant classic. A New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice

Book Information

Lexile Measure: GN480L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 128 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 3 Up—Nineteen cartoonists re-envision the world of "once upon a time" in this collection of 17 fairy tales. Stories are chiefly from Grimm and other European sources, but a few represent Middle Eastern, Asian, and American lore. The rich potpourri of interpretations presented in various mediums, styles, and settings makes the anthology unique. Some stories remain true to conventional retellings, while other adaptations have a decidedly fanciful aspect. Readers will note marked differences in the approaches to the Grimm tales. For example, Emily Carroll dresses her "12 Dancing Princesses" in elegant renaissance gowns while the wicked stepmother in Jaime Hernandez's "Snow White" has a futuristically styled gown and headdress. Graham Annable's wordless "Goldilocks and the Three

Bears

illustrates the effectiveness of images in nuanced storytelling. “The Prince and the Tortoise” echoes the classic realistic scenes of Prince Valiant, while subdued monochromatic colors and simple drawings of the Japanese “The Boy Who Drew Cats” complement the tale’s Asian origins. Several artists inject playful humor: Puss in Boots motors around on a Vespa scooter while the King and Queen travel in a pickup truck bed. The “Bremen Town” setting is the Wild West with outlaws stating, “We ain’t goin’ near no haunted house.” While many traditional stories feature young maidens as beautiful brides, Raina Telgemeier’s contemporary “Rapunzel” finds her own version of happily-ever-after when she realizes that “I’ve got the whole world to explore.”

These adaptations are sure to enchant devotees of comics and those who like a fresh and distinctive approach to fairy tales.

Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

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Starred Review To follow up the winning Nursery Rhyme Comics (2011), First Second offers this similarly spectacular idea. Once again gathering a coterie of grand artistic talent from kids’ and indie comics (many returning from NRC), this collection features 17 stories longer than those in the previous project, which gives each work more room to delight. Many classics appear, from “Snow White” to “Goldilocks” to “Hansel and Gretel,” but an effort has been made to turn up a few more obscure fables, and the balance between familiarity and novelty proves just right. The artists all bring their A-game to produce standouts like Emily Carroll’s wondrously textured “12 Dancing Princesses,” Luke Pearson’s mystical and eerie “The Boy Who Drew Cats,” Joseph Lambert’s rousing and hilarious “Rabbit Will Not Help,” and David Mazzucchelli’s stark-lined and graceful “Give Me the Shudders” (his first comics work since Asterios Polyp, 2009). But every artist here knows how to turn in an elegant, flowing story, and every tale is pitch-perfect for young readers and intimate read-alouds. Overall, the book is an ideal choice for a child’s first comics experience and a new way to enjoy old favorites. **Preschool-Grade 2.** --Jesse Karp

There is a plethora of fairy tales in this book. None too long and written in the comic style where you get some of the meaning from the pictures. Graphic art has come into its own and there are many wonderful full length novels and even non-fiction research these days written by graphic artists. This

is a wonderful introduction for children to that genre. Many of these stories are ones that I have been telling children for many years without a book and this adds the pictures. The illustrations are not all done in the same style so that adds to the interesting nature of the book as well.

Perfect for kids who can read, like the comic strip format, and have fond memories of fairy tales. I gave a copy to two little girls I've mentored since grade one who are going into middle school this fall. Never forget these great old stories, I urged them.

I think this book is beautifully done and the fairy tales have a great humor to them to accompany the bright and youthful art. I'd recommend this as reading for kids aged 10 and up. MAYBE 8 or 9 with mom and/or dad's permission. There is nothing vulgar or expletive, but some of the content might not be necessarily suitable for younger children. I originally bought this book at a comic store and gave it to my tech savvy, not inclined towards reading, nephew (aged 10) this past Christmas. He thought it was funny and not the usual "boring" book. Only lacking a star because I wish there more stories for what you're paying - but that is my personal issue. Five stars for quality of art, storytelling, and engaging format for readers of all ages (above 10).ps. I did end up buying a copy for myself. Had to. :-)

I have a 4 year old daughter and she's been obsessed with First Second's version of nursery rhymes (Nursery Rhyme Comics) for well over a year. She routinely picks it out over the more traditional mother goose illustrated book we have. So, I ordered Fairy Tale Comics for her fourth birthday. Just like the Nursery Rhyme Comics the illustrations add a nice twist on to the familiar tales (and to the less familiar tales as well). It's a fantastic and fresh new perspective on stories we've all heard too many times, and often seen too many Disney movies of. However, I will say, given that these are fairly, well, graphic, there are some stories that are currently too scary for our little 4 year old. Unfortunately we never know which one will get her, so this has become an afternoon book, rather than a bedtime book. As she gets older I anticipate this will change and the book will have a long life as her understanding grows. She loves it and requests it often.

I would recommend this book for kids old enough to know the traditional stories so that the humor of the re-interpretations will come across more fully. A collection like this, where each tale is presented by a different author/artist, is bound to be a bit uneven--however, the overall quality here is quite good. With that having been said, I have to add that trying to read it on a Kindle was an abysmal

experience. With the display blown up to a size that allowed me to see each cartoon panel, transitioning from panel to panel (where normally one would flip from page to page of a book) actually jumped from dialogue bubble to bubble and eliminated the graphics. In other words, the context of the dialogue was completely lost, and with no illustrations, there is no point to this being a book of cartoons.

I bought this book for my 8 year old niece. I glanced at the book when it arrived, but then I couldn't put it down! The stories and illustrations are delightful. Some tales are familiar, but I read some stories that I had never read before. This book is great for children who are independent readers, but adults will enjoy the book too. Excellent book!

My 4 year old daughter loves this book. Some of the stories are just a bit scary for her, but she really likes nearly all of them. We looked up an online comic (Cucumber Quest) because one of these artists draws it, and she's gone completely bananas for it. So it's not only a good book but a way to find talented artists as well. All of the stories are interesting, and it seems like it will also appeal to my son once he's old enough to read along with us.

This was a Christmas gift for my 7 year old daughter. She absolutely loves it. She finds a lot of the stories funny. Some of the stories are a bit dark (aren't all fairy tales a little dark, though?). We give this book a big thumbs up!

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