



Into the Woods

Hudson Talbott (Adapted by) , James Lapine , Stephen Sondheim

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The Tony Award-winning musical, now adapted into a lavishly illustrated book *Into the Woods* is the imaginative account of what happens when the lives of new and old fairy-tale characters dramatically and humorously come together. Cinderella, Jack (of bean-stalk fame), Little Red Ridinghood, and the Baker and his Wife set out for the forest on a quest to find "happily ever after." Along the way they meet Rapunzel, a Wicked Witch, a lascivious Wolf, vengeful Giants, a couple of charming Princes, and their own destiny. With wit and wisdom, the authors have given us a parable about the loss of innocence, the joys and sorrows of adulthood, and the price paid for getting the things you really want.

Into the Woods Details

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From Reader Review Into the Woods for online ebook

Lizzie says

This is a secret kickass present for the Sondheim fan in your life. It's a really pretty picture book version of the story in the musical -- and so becomes a fairy-tale bedtime story, with the originality and twists of the theater.

Stuart says

A clever idea that I'm glad someone made happen. As a kid, I'd always wanted the Sondheim/Lapine musical to be redone as a novel or storybook, and Talbotte has done just that, adapting the stage play into a children's book format completely with classic style fairy tale book illustrations and simple narrative. A nice companion piece for parents taking their children to see a production of this classic show and a good library addition for any adult fan of Sondheim's work.

Anthony Faber says

A picturebook-ization of the Broadway musical, soon to be made into a major motion picture. It's not really a kids' book, because the body count is a bit high for today's sensibilities, although it does kind of fit in with a lot of the original fairy tales, which could get rather grim (sorry, couldn't resist). Short but enjoyable.

Kaethe says

Pretty, pretty, pretty adaptation of the show, and a fun twist on fairy tales.

Seestars says

I have not read this book in about 15 years, but since that time I have seen the musical on stage and loved that too. I was sooooo in love with this book as a 8 to 12 year old. My mom would even read it to me on long car rides to visit family (I'd get car sick). I need to re-read the book as an adult. I'm sure the humor will come across even stronger. This is the first memory I have of twisted fairy tales and it has lead me to read many other books in that genera.

Sarah says

A picture-book adaptation of *Into the Woods*. An...interesting choice for this kind of treatment, considering

the body count and the sophisticated nature of the source material. I like the illustrations--the landscapes more than the portraits. I enjoyed it, but I'd also say it's only for fans of the musical.

Rachelccameron says

Can't wait to see the show!

Jeremy says

Some of the illustrations are a little risqué, and some of the themes are disturbing—discontented marriage (the Baker's wife wishes that a prince would pursue her), lots of lying, etc. But by the end, there's some recognition that not everything is permitted (e.g., the wife's episode with the prince in the woods). Even so, the morality is suspect, with multiple characters saying that one has to decide for oneself what is right or wrong. I wanted to give the book a higher rating, especially because the wordplay and rhyming are fun, the story is a creative blend of fairy tales, and the illustrations are good. But the moral relativity and the momentary unfaithfulness between a married prince and a married baker's wife (even though it's acknowledged by the end that they shouldn't have done what they did and there are consequences for their actions) keep the book from being great for children.

Danine says

Before I see the movie, I wanted to read the book adaptation. I love mash-up stories of fairy tales. I wasn't too terribly impressed with the story, but I love the message that even though we make decisions individually and we act alone, we are not alone as others will be impacted by those decisions, wise or poor. Life moves forward either way.

Megan says

We had a copy of this which I think I read more often than I rewatched the Great Performances VHS tape of the original Broadway Cast. I don't know that it would make much sense to anyone who hadn't seen the show, but I used it as a way to 'jump' to my favorite part of the show. As an adult, I appreciate that the illustrations riff on but are not exact reproductions of the original set, costume design, or even the appearance of the cast.
