



The Too-Clever Fox

Leigh Bardugo

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In Ravka, just because you avoid one trap, it doesn't mean you'll escape the next. This story is a companion folk tale to Leigh Bardugo's upcoming novel, *Siege and Storm*, the second book in the Grisha Trilogy.

This story is also included in Some of the Best From Tor.com, 2013 Edition

The Too-Clever Fox Details

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Author : Leigh Bardugo

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From Reader Review The Too-Clever Fox for online ebook

♥????????? says

"I can bear ugliness," he said. "I find the one thing I cannot live with is death."

This was a very enjoyable novella. It was dark and beautiful and it made me really sad ?. This was all about having different perspectives :) It was about an ugly skinny fox name Koja who could talk his way out of every bad situation he found himself in. Whether it be being eaten as a kit to hounds to being eaten by a bear to a hunters trap, whatever the case he always had a trick up his sleeve (or rather paw lol), whatever it may be he could get them to do as he asks. He even became the bear, Ivan Gostov good friend. Koja had many friends in the forest despite his looks. I love his sarcasm! He was known to be the cleverest fox in all of Ravka. But for all his witty-ness and fast-talking, it doesn't mean he'll escape every trap set before him! Sometimes you need a trusted friend to save you. I just loved the way this one ended♥!

I really love folklore! And OMG is cover is beautiful♥

"The fox and the nightingale made a quiet life together. A lesser creature might have held Koja's mistakes against him, might have mocked him for his pride. But Lula was not only clever. She was wise."

Fables&Wren says

WrensReads Review:

*Mother is hungry after giving birth and about to eat **The Clever Fox**.*

"A lesser creature might have despaired at such cruelty, but the fox saw vanity in his mother's carefully tended coat and snowy paws.

'I will tell you,; he replied. 'When we walk in the wood, the animals will say, 'Look at that ugly kit with his handsome mother!' And even when you are old and gray, they will not talk of how you've aged, but of how such a beautiful mother gave birth to such an ugly, scrawny son.'

She thought on this and discovered she was not so hungry after all."

The too clever fox is not, in fact, about Nikolai Lantosov. I know, I know, it's kind of disappointing, but the story is actually really interesting.

There is this really ugly fox, and he uses his wits to get out of really difficult situations (kind of reminds me of Tyrion Lannister from A Song of Ice and Fire, aka Game of Thrones).

There is this legendary hunter that comes to the town near the forest and he keeps killing the last animals you would think he would be able to kill. Like a blood-thirsty bear.

The fox has an idea... it's a crazy idea... but an idea with possibilities.

Sana says

God damn I love her stories so much. Gotta admit, they are way better than the Grisha trilogy. These plot twists in her short stories always take me by surprise!

You can read it for FREE here! Highly recommended.

Beth says

Koja is such a clever little fox! I felt a bit sad reading this short story I can't say it was a "nice" read. It's so difficult to explain, but it was really well done. Slightly predictable, but none the less I really liked Koja. How does that happen after 30 odd pages?!

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

5 Stars for the brilliant cover

I'm iffy about the story because I despise hunters so I left it at a three because I loved the tales within the story =)

Koja's mom wanted to kill him at birth because he wasn't a pretty little fox at all and he was a runt.

↑ Unlike our sweet little fox picture above!

Koja seemed to always get out of sticky situations. He even befriended the great bear, Ivan Gostov, who had wanted to eat him at one time but became friends with Koja instead.

Koja was friends with many of the animals in the forest even though they thought he was ugly. His best friend seemed to be the nightingale, Lula.

One day Koja noticed his friends started missing. He sent Lula to investigate and found out there was a terrible hunter in town. Lev Jurek, the great hunter, was in town with his sister, Sofiya.

I must say I saw that ending coming a mile away and Koja thought he was too clever for his own good. But, the end game was lovely, oh so lovely. =)

THE FREE STORY: The Too-Clever Fox

MY BLOG: Melissa Martin's Reading List

~Poppy~ says

“Just because you escape one trap, doesn’t mean you will escape the next.”

“The fox and the nightingale made a quiet life together. A lesser creature might have held Koja’s mistakes against him, might have mocked him for his pride. But Lula was not only clever. She was wise.”

I liked her story but I saw that coming :)

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

Koja the fox was born ugly. His mother almost ate him right after birth to rid the world of him. The clever little fox talked his way out of it.

Beware of thinking you are the most clever..it really never works out that way.

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

This is a fable about a fox.

Not a cute fox, though: an ugly one.

But he's clever, and smart is more important than looks.

Revisiting "The Too-Clever Fox" by Leigh Bardugo, I was charmed by this animal fable, right up until the point it slapped Koja the fox - and me - upside the head for thinking we had everything all figured out.

Told in deceptively simple style, this tale follows Koja from his birth (when he's almost eaten by his mother for being so small and ugly, and is saved only by his quick thinking) through various adventures. Koja learns about patience, sacrifice, and the importance of friends. But mostly he learns that despite lacking good looks, his cleverness and creative thinking will get him ahead. When a hunter moves into the area and captures and kills several of Koja's animal friends and neighbors, Koja takes steps to save the day.

As with all fables, there's a moral to this story ... but it's not the one I thought was going to be served up to

me. Well played!

Sushi says

Color me impressed, Leigh Bardugo.

A 30-page delight presenting a little fox that usually gets itself out of trouble using nothing but its' wits. It turns out that maybe it might be too clever for it's own good.

This has got nothing to do with the Grisha series and is way too entertaining to miss out on.

4.5 stars

Nat says

“Just because you escape one trap, doesn’t mean you will escape the next.”

With Leigh Bardugo announcing the upcoming release of her new short story collection, The Language of Thorns, I decided to take my shot with this swift tale in the meanwhile.

The Too-Clever Fox is told through the eyes of Koja, a clever and quick-witted fox. We follow his journey of outsmarting his enemies, until his trust and cunningness is bestowed upon the wrong person.

“It is always the same trap,” she said gently. “You longed for conversation. The bear craved jokes. The gray wolf missed music. The boar just wanted someone to tell her troubles to. The trap is loneliness, and none of us escapes it. Not even me.”

I loved the writing in this tale and how it put us in the mindset of the bright fox. And it helped a lot that I adored the voice of Koja with the subtle humor thrown in.

“What would he want with me? I’m too scrawny to eat and too ugly to wear.”

Softiya smiled slightly. “Your coat is a bit patchy, but you’re not so bad as all that.”

“No?” said the fox. “Shall I travel to Os Alta to have my portrait painted?”

But I had a few issues with the ending and how the tale rapidly wrapped up. The conclusion was something I'd been thinking would happen, but since the motives weren't that well explained, I was left a bit bewildered. I mean, I still loved the aspects of introducing a female antihero, but because of the length of the tale we didn't have the time to fully explore the concept.

But since it's Bardugo, I still immensely adored the writing, ideas and characters. And I can't wait to pick up more of her stories.

3.5/5 stars

*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **The Too-Clever Fox**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!*

This review and more can be found on my blog.

Emily May says

Read this even if you don't like or haven't read Bardugo's Grisha trilogy. It can be read here for free: <http://www.tor.com/stories/2013/06/th...>

Quick review:

- 1) This story is wonderful.
- 2) It has nothing to do with the Grisha trilogy.
- 3) I don't particularly like the Grisha trilogy - first one was okay but the second was disappointing, IMO. Haven't read the third.
- 4) This is a little folk tale about a fox who survives by outsmarting others - but has he finally met his match?
- 5) It's just the right amount of dark.
- 6) Just read it. You don't even have to spend anything :)

Azbaqiyah says

Why Ravka fairy tales were sooo dark? But I enjoy this one. The fox keep remind me about Nikolai ngeee...

Deborah Obida says

A lesser creature might have held Koja's mistakes against him, might have mocked him for his pride. But Lula was not only clever.

She was wise.

I'm yet to see any of Miss Leigh's book that I didn't like, Hope that day never comes. This is a good folklore with animals and humans. The world building and depiction is great. Just as always the writing is great. I prefer the *Witch of Duva* to this but I still love this.

The story follows a clever fox who got outsmarted but survived because he asked for help. The Fox is sarcastic and I like that.

"Have a fine time of it, friends," he said. "I hope you will forgive me if I do not ask you to visit again.

karen says

holy shit, was this good.

this is an author whose novels i have been meaning to read for a while now, on the basis of all the glowing reviews here on the gr and on those gorgeous covers,

but i just haven't gotten around to them yet, and now don't i feel foolish...

because this is fantastic. i was apprehensive about reading this, having been burned by that elizabeth hand one that scoffs at you for not having read the larger work it is referencing, but i was assured by karly that these can stand alone quite nicely, even though they are "of that world."

this one starts out like a fable - a little br'er rabbit folktale that gets slowly consumed by a dark fairytale cloud. eventually it passes over, you pass through, and the story concludes with a snappy little moral à la your traditional fable. but you have had to pass through such a horrible, transformative darkness to get there, it leaves a lasting mark. it is a wearying journey.

and it is beyond wow.

if you are going to read just ONE of these free tor shorts, or if you want to join this bandwagon of reading MANY of them, and are looking for an entrance point, this is the one.

"you're welcome," i say in anticipation.

read it for yourself here:

<http://www.tor.com/stories/2013/06/th...>

Katerina Kondrenko says

8 out of 10

????? ? ??? ?????/This review on my blog

Living A Thousand Lives (please use Chrome/Yandex browser or Android/IOS to see the page; otherwise, spoiler-tags I use to make my post compact may not work)

This is a tale (which was mentioned by Alina in *Siege and Storm*) about a fox which was born such ugly that even his mother wanted to eat him. But he managed to talk her with flattery not to do this. This is the start of life of a very clever fox. The ending is epic)

The Grishaverse (????????? ?????):

***The Grisha* (?????):**

- The Demon in the Wood (????? ? ????) #0.1/3
- The Witch of Duva (????? ????) #0.5/3
- Shadow and Bone (????? ? ?????) #1/3
- The Tailor (????????) #1.5/3
- Siege and Storm (????? ? ?????) #2/3
- The Too-Clever Fox (?? ?????? ????? ???) #2.5/3
- Little Knife (????????) #2.6/3
- Ruin and Rising (????? ? ??????) #3/3

***Six of Crows* (????????? ???????):**

- Six of Crows (????????? ???????) #1/2
- Crooked Kingdom (????????? ???????) #2/2
