



Myth and Magic: Queer Fairy Tales

Radclyffe (Editor), Stacia Seaman (Editor)

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Myth, magic, and monsters—the stuff of childhood dreams (or nightmares) and adult fantasies.

Delve into these classic fairy tales retold with a queer twist and surrender to the world of seductive spells and dark temptations.

Myth and Magic: Queer Fairy Tales Details

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From Reader Review Myth and Magic: Queer Fairy Tales for online ebook

Is says

What if Prince Charming fell in love with Prince Eric? What if Alice was actually a boy? Red Riding Hood fell in love with the wolf?

Myth & Magic: Queer Fairy Tales is a dark and seductive read, that will leave you salivating for what comes after the Happily Ever After, if there is the Ever After. This book had the ingredients of a fairy tale magic, short and impressing, leaving you with this sense of what if the reader could jump within the pages. It also share words of wisdom as fairy tales are wont to do. Filled with twist to the stories we know and love, and a new age ascends on us, because in this world, as fairyland are fond on, there is love and acceptance, perseverance and hope. Myths and Magic had the old and modern settings, and with subtly it imparts some lessons and connects with the readers in a way that years ago couldn't have been grasped.

“They didn’t much care who loved whom, some women loved women, some loved men; it was all the same to them. Indeed, parents noted their children’s gender preferences in the same light as they might note their eye and hair color. Love was simply love and it was good.”

“It’s a risk, isn’t it, taking the first step. It doesn’t matter if it’s an offer to be lab partners in chemistry or a date, rejection sucks.”

I must confess something, though. I’m a fan of m/m and thus was interested in the stories, but I mustn’t forget the L in LGBT, and thus it had it’s lesbian retellings. I read to see the twists, but wasn’t keen on the romance part of them, and might have skirted and bulldozed to the next story. The twist to some of the stories I read were good, and I’m sure for fans of the genre they’ll enjoy it.

Which is why I’m listing the stories (in spoiler) to the genre they fall in:
(view spoiler)

One of my favourite quote:

“Your Russian was too much and your little bear wasn’t enough. What was I?

What do you figure?” I asked.

“Just right,” he said with a grin.

ARC kindly provided by Netgalley

Andrea Goodell says

16 total novella's overall total 3 1/2 rainbows

The Vain Prince by Andrew J. Peters (based on The Frog Prince) 5 rainbows

Prince Adalbert was born, and spoiled by his parents, mainly his father. Became a self centered child/adult. On his 21st birthday his father, fed up with his son's behavior decides to hold a competition to see who the Prince will choose. A hideous man comes and gives the Prince a Blue Bonnet flower. Prince is so disgusted by the man he has him taken away. A curse falls onto the castle and the Prince is thrown into the dungeon. Where is finds a very sick man, that man tells the Prince and an Imp and a curse.

I really liked this story; I've read this fairy tale so not sure how close to the real one it is. But the author did a fabulous job getting the emotions of the troll, and the Prince.

Beanstalk by Clifford Henderson (based of Jack and the Beanstalk) 3 rainbows

Jackie lives in Utonia everyone is happy but herself, very unhappy. One day an elderly lady named Marta gives Jackie a bean for payment for one of Jackie's paintings. Jackie just throws into the garden. And it grows. She decides to climb and finds a land of giants. She walks to the giant village and discovers that not everyone is big. She soon finds a girl that is very unhappy as well and is insta-love with her. She then must find a way to rescue the girl.

So I kept picturing the old Muppet cartoon, Fraggle Rock while reading this one. With little people running around and giants scaring the away or eat them. But I enjoyed the author's style of writing and will probably look up more work.

SWF seeks FGM by Allison Wonderland (based on Cinderella) 2 rainbows.

Lady Ptomaine, is the Step Mother and has placed an ad for a Fairy God Mother. But this is more for an X-rated companion then a night at the ball. This story was written in first person being told by lady P. She gives us a narrative of life after Cinderella leaves and how lonely she is. Until Bea show up, Bea is the FGM. (Yes taken from that show)

This one is full of one liners and TV show references. It was a cute sarcastic story.

A Hero in Hot Pink Boots by J. Leigh Bailey (based on Alice in Wonderland) 4 Rainbows

This is a YA story, starts out that Kevin is going to a rave with two boys but doesn't have the money to get in. He wonders off to find a phone to call is older brother to come pick him up. Runs into Cedric, dressed in a ridiculous outfit including pink boots. On the walk to find a phone, they encounter several people that want to do them harm. But manage to luck themselves out of it. While discovering young love or lust for the first time.

Ok, so I thought this was a cute story and made me smile through most of it, but I didn't get the Alice in Wonderland correlation? I would however, like to read more about Kevin and Cedric 15 yrs later, out of college years?

Red by Andi Marquette (based on Little Red Riding Hood) 3 rainbows

Rebeca is Red, and for the few months has been helping a sick friend instead of hunting the wolves like the rest of her villagers'. Isadora is Rebeca girlfriend and is currently very sick. They decide it's too dangerous for Isadora to stay in the village and head to Rebeca's grandmothers house in the middle of the woods. They call her a witch, but have left her alone until now.

The author as a great way with words, and I know there is not much you can do with this story, but so far this has been the most predictably.

The Beanstalk Revisited by Rob Rosen (based on Jack and the Beanstalk) 4 rainbows

A modern twist to an old tale, this YA story has Jake buying a present for his Stepmother's birthday. His dad hands Jake some money and Jake heads to a local pawn shop for rare comic books. Almost as an afterthought, Jake buys her an old harp that the shop keeper tells Jake is magical if you can get it to sing. He gets home polishes it up and gives it to her. That night the harp sings and the next day a stalk appears.

I really enjoyed that this author took this story and gave it a modern, next generation twist to it. Also that it wasn't all about the bean. Nicely done.

Heartless by Veronica Wilde (based on The Snow Queen) 3/12 rainbows

Wow, talk about a modern twist, this one has our MC set as a dominatrix club owner. Still supernatural, though trying to pass as a normal woman, but because she is the Snow Queen there are no feelings, no emotions and no heart. Kai and her girlfriend have a fight and Kai is lead into the Snow Queen's club. Kai never been into a BDSM club before is uncomfortable and turns running into the Snow Queen. She takes one look at Kai and decides to keep her.

This one is the most sexually graphic of the stories so far. Not having read The Snow Queen, not sure how true it stayed to the story line.

The Ivy and The Rose by Juliann Rich (based on Little Briar Rose) 4 Rainbows

Ivy has been working for Lord Ainsworth for two yrs, one day stranger shows up and tells Ivy she is the key to unlocking Princess Ambrosia sleep. They start on a journey to the castle but once in the castle Ivy soon realizes things are as simple as they first appear.

Nice, sweet story about having to make hard decisions. I liked that the author didn't have to involve sex or sexual innuendo to get the point across.

Goldie and the Three Bears by Sasha Payne (based on Goldilocks and the Three Bears) 4 rainbows

Goldie is a private dick and walks into a bar hiding from some bad guys. As Goldie walks up to the bar and orders he finds that someone has already paid for his drink. Going over to say Thank you, they decide to get friendly in one of the rooms available for the hour. Mischa, a bear of a man on so many levels doesn't play around and doesn't satisfy poor Goldie. As Goldie ducks the goons that come into the bar he jumps in a privacy booth and finds a young thing to play with. And finally he heads to the basements as the cop's raids the place and finds Javid, who happens to be just right.

Ok, so pretty predictably, but yet funny and quirky. The one liner had me picture a Film Noir style MC and setting. Nice.

Final Escape by Stacia Seaman (based on The Little Match Girl) 2 rainbows

Set in modern day a druggy on the street, giving up.

Ok, I have to say I didn't like this story at all! How can anyone glorify overdosing and dying? The only reason I gave it a two and not a one because putting my personal predigest aside. The author did a good job painting the scenes in my mind. Also, I've never read the original fairy tale so maybe this is true to it?

Sneewittchen by E.J Gahagan (based on Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs) 3 rainbows

Upon Snow Whites coming of age, she learns two things, one her father is making her marry a strange man and two her long dead mother was a witch. With the help of a trusted servant Snow White runs away. After four days Snow White is lead to Druantia, once Dru explains that Snow White is a power witch and that she will teach her everything she needs to know. She decides to stay until Prince Charming finds them and tries to take Snow back.

Sweet story although kinds of predictably and boring. I enjoyed once again the author choose not to include

sex to make the point.

The Red Shoes by Alex Stitt (based on The Red Shoes) 3/12 rainbows

Set in 1936, James a young man trying to get out of his dead fathers shadow and into a red velvet dress.

James has to buy a new pair of shoes to wear to a cotillion being held by the Mayor for his daughter. Instead he buys a perfect pair of red shoes to match his dress. He's mother worries about the path James is on and asks a local woman for guidance. Next thing James knows he's dancing the night away.

So I've never read or heard of this story, so no idea how it's supposed to go. However, as far as a novella, I found it cute if not completely unrealistic. But I got my HEA so that makes it all right.

The Princess and the Frog by Barbara Davies (based on The Princess and the Frog) 3 rainbows

Princess Margery has scared another suitor away. But also seems to have missed placed her girlfriend, Bruna. While looking for her she comes across a most unique frog and decides to keep it. Even though everyone says it's poisonous. Several days of having the frog the place staff fined a note confirming that Tokju, has indeed turned Bruna into the frog and a kiss is the only way to turn her back. But who ever does this will die from the poison.

Sweet story of love conquering over power, position, life and what happens when you want something and enough.

The Snow King by Rhidian Brenig Jones (based on The Snow Queen) 4 rainbows

Dara and Remi grew up together and now at age 20 know they would only love each other. One day as they are off cutting trees down they decide to play with each other. While they are playing Dara feels like they are being watched but counties on. Afterwards Remi gets something in his eye. Over the next several days Remi becomes distant, cold. Then one night Dara follows Remi into the woods where a man is waiting. He tries to stop him but they disappear. As days pass and no Remi, and old wise women ask Dara to sit with him and tell him what happened. Dara than begins to tell her about the eye pain and she tells him the Troll story.

Another love conquers all stories but set in old world fairy tale with Trolls and evil men. Author gave us the right sexual encounters between the characters to keep the story entertaining without using sex as a tool to fill the pages.

Riding Red by Victoria Oldham (based on Little Red Riding Hood) 2 1/2 rainbows

Red works at a BDSM club and has felt like someone has been watching her. Walking home Red is accosted but as the person starts doing things Red enjoys they must leave. A week goes by and Red feels that it was all a dream. Red is once again going home and once again accosted but this time they are not interrupted.

So this one is about FF sex, not much of a story line, but the author does a way with words.

Bad Girls by Jane Fletcher and Joey Bass (based on Sleeping Beauty and Snow White) 3 rainbows

Malcara and Brangomar, bitter that both Sleeping beauty and Snow White got there HEA. They decide to have a party of their own.

So even though this one is really short, I loved the sarcastic undertone that was developed to just those few pages.

If I could say one thing about this collection, is read them a couple at a time. Even though it's only 198 pages total. After reading the first 5-6 stories back to back, I personally started to get jaded and had to stop. And honestly, if I didn't have to submit for a review I probably wouldn't have finished this. Which is a shame because there are some stories that were good, but as a collection, 16 stories is too much.

I was given a copy of this book for an honest review by Crystals Many review

Candace says

What a refreshing book! I say that for several reasons, the main one being that I really enjoyed it. Another

reason being that it is not a book that I would normally choose to read. I haven't read a fairy tale collection in a while. (I have been reading a lot of books based on fairy tales.) But that will change now. I have one ready to read soon and another one ordered!

Erotica. (There, I said it. I'm older and old-fashioned and erotica is not my cup of tea.) While it was in a couple of the stories, it was done in such a way that it did not bother me. There was more romance and love which brings me to the next issue.

"Queer." That is the word in the title, but I would never use it; I feel more comfortable with the term "homosexual." Maybe "homosexual" didn't flow off the tongue as well in the title? I have never read anything where the main characters were gay. I think because I just assumed I would identify more with a heterosexual main character. But I read books with robots and gypsies and many other types of people and things as main characters so my argument fails. What I learned from these stories is that everybody is looking for their "true love" or "happily ever after" and that is what is beautiful to read about.

As I think you can tell, I really enjoyed reading all of these stories. None really stood out as "the best", but likewise there weren't any that were terrible either. They were on a variety of fairy tales with a variety of issues. Some were funny and some were more serious. Some had urban settings, while some were the more traditional, "Once upon a time..." historical setting. If I had to pick a few that stood out for me, I would choose the following:

In "Red", a retelling of "Little Red Riding Hood", I loved how in an unexpected twist the tale stays very close to the original story in a way you don't expect.

In "The Red Shoes", I love how the retelling has been set in an historical Southern cotillion.

In "The Vain Prince" based on "The Frog Prince", a gay king who was forced to marry a queen and never know passion was determined that his gay son, a prince no less, would not live a life without love. He throws a party of eligible young men for his son. That is love.

If you are looking for something different to read, pick it up!
rated 3.5

*I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and the publisher in return for an honest review.

Chris says

Disclaimer: ARC via Netgalley.

Okay, this isn't the type of thing I normally pick up. It isn't because of the fairy tale motif; I mean really have you seen my shelves? It's more that erotica or whatever you want to call featuring same gender partners really doesn't do it for me. My reaction is really, oh that's nice or at least it's better written than Anita Blake porn. Truth be told, 50 Shades of Grey didn't do it for me either.

But enough about me. I just wanted you to know that because if you are the type who read queer erotica I

have no frame of reference really for this collection, so you might want to look at a review that does.

Let me say, however, I am glad I caved into whatever moved to request this book via Netgalley and what or whoever decried I should get approved.

But, I can hear you say, you didn't give these five stars, so why do you say that?

Well, it's true, I didn't give it five stars, but it is a short story collection so I have to judge it on the whole, and the erotica bits weren't my cuppa.

However.

This collection contains one of the best, if not the best, retellings of the Snow Queen I have ever read. Hands down. "Heartless" by Veronica Wilde retells the story using lesbian lovers and with an emphasis on the Snow Queen herself. Seriously, it is absolutely stunning in its beauty. It is worth the price of the book alone. Honestly, it is one of the best short stories I have read in a long time, and it haunts you.

HCA would be proud.

Andi Marquette's "Red" – a retelling of Little Red Riding Hood – is my second favorite, a close runner up – and hearkens in many ways to Angela Carter's "In the Company of Wolves". Quite frankly, both "Red" and "Heartless" deserve to appear in any Best of Collections that come out. They are both brilliant.

There are some humorous pieces, including a few that focus on the evil queens and stepmothers from the tales. There are two good, solid good, beanstalk tales. The most enjoyable thing about the book is how some authors play or showcase either homophobia or the use of tropes. This is most obvious in the beanstalk stories. The first "Beanstalk" by Clifford Henderson plays on the idea of the world above and the world below being different. One more conservative and threatening; the other more open. The second story involving Jack, "The Beanstalk Revisited", inverts and plays with the evil stepmother trope and appearance. It isn't as strong as "Red" or "Heartless" but it is an enjoyable story nonetheless.

The stories fulfill the traditional purpose of the fairy tale - to teach and to discuss or showcase topics that are perhaps too sensitive (less so today) to deal directly with. This collection does that very well, making it a worthy heir to the fairy tale tradition.

Kristen Cansler says

What a great collection of stories! I'm a sucker for retellings. I love the creativity that they always bring, and *Myth and Magic* was no exception. The stories are all quick and full of love, lust, and steam! The LGBTQIA spin on the stories made them even better. I've yet to read any LGBTQIA retellings and these stories got me excited to find more!

As with most anthologies, some stories are hit and miss. But there are so many gems in this! You cannot miss them. There are an array of stories that deal with a lot of different emotions, settings, and relationships. *Myth and Magic* has something for every LGBTQIA loving reader!

**I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review with no compensation.

Adam says

[

The Snow King by Rhidian Brenig Jones - 4.25 st

Jennifer says

This book was ok. There wasn't anything truly spectacular here, but most of the stories were enjoyable. Pretty much these are fairy tales altered to become gay and lesbian tales. Some of the stories are just love stories but some go so far as being erotica so I wouldn't give this book to the kids.

Rachel says

This was... disappointing. I went in expecting not necessarily the best stories I've ever read (as this was a book I merely picked up off the shelf that I'd never heard of), but the concept was exactly to my tastes and I expected to enjoy it.

Well, I really didn't. The concept, again, was solid. I liked the ideas and the twists behind all of the stories--that was fresh and interesting and exciting. But the writing was just... okay. Save for maybe one or two, there really wasn't much distinction between the writer's styles. Overall, the stories were flat and lacking depth. I think largely this was a problem of length; this is a very thin book, with a lot of very short stories packed in. Very short stories can work, if done well, but most of these works felt like they were trying to tell stories that needed to be longer. The depth and character development required to make these stories work just didn't fit into the length, and it made most of the stories feel like just a bare-bones draft of what the writer wanted to happen, rather than a developed story.

Still, the writing wasn't *bad*. Just unremarkable, which is why I have to give this book a rating of "okay." I really would have loved to love it, but there just wasn't enough spark there for me.

Isana says

Received this on NetGalley for review.

The idea of this is so amazing! But I will say upfront that I was extremely disappointed by the use of the word queer in the title because literally all the stories are about persons who seem to identify as gay. There were no bisexuals or pansexuals or asexuals or trans* persons, all of who fall under the category of queer. It's just really annoying when people act like "queer" only refers to gay persons and that's what this book does. Honestly, I don't think saying "gay and lesbian" fairy tales would reduce the readership at all.

That aside, most of the stories were really interesting.

There was "Beanstalk," which ended up being a really cute lesbian retelling of "Jack and the Beanstalk". The idea was quite innovative and read well.

"The Princess and the Frog," which comes after the story of the same name, is very funny and light-hearted and adorable (once one gets past the idea that the evil character seems to be East Asian based which has a slightly uncomfortable racist feeling attached.)

"Heartless" was also quite great. Based on "The Snow Queen," it was somehow both sad but also happy? Anyway, it was quite good.

Also entertaining were "The Snow King" and "Sneewitchen."

It's probably not my immediate recommendation for an anthology, but I would recommend it if someone was starved for gay and lesbian fairy tales.

Nikki says

Normally I quite enjoy queer retellings of fairytales — I've written a couple, because it's just fun to take such a familiar story and wring the heteronormativity out of it. I've enjoyed stories like Malinda Lo's *Ash* greatly. But most of these took the same sort of tone, flippant and trivial — which is fine, but not what I'm interested in right now. There are some fun ideas, some humorous bits, but there's also some aspects that make me wince: the idea that only one sort of boy (a gay one) would wear a felt scarf to dinner. Whaaat? Stereotypes, really? Gah.

It wouldn't be so bad if those stereotypes weren't still harmful. In so many ways, it's ridiculous to look at someone and say, "Oh, you look gay." Or whatever. It's not funny yet because it's still so harmful.

Shrug. Mostly left me cold, though some of the stories were better than others.

Originally posted here.

Mauojenn ~ *Mouthy Jenn* ~ says

NetGalley book review

This book is a well put together anthology. I really didn't know what to expect but I was over all very satisfied. Some of the stories were a little on the blahhh side but others really had you thinking.. WHAT IF?! If you like a mix-up on the fairytale take, this book is for you.

Lucy says

I received a copy of this from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Anyone who has followed me on goodreads, twitter or youtube this last year will know that queer fiction and retellings are my jam. Queer retellings? I am ALL over that. I went into this expecting a decent anthology with enjoyable but unpolished queer tales, with maybe one or two real gems. I was SO wrong.

This is one of the most solid anthologies I have ever read. The links between the original stories and the retelling were easily noticeable, but the authors didn't allow the conventions of the originals to drag them down. The majority* of these stories were extremely clever, giving new, unexpected twists to the tales while still remaining fundamentally true to the originals. Reading through each story and discovering the angle the author had taken was a real joy. There seemed to be an even split between lesbian couples and gay couples, which was also nice. I feel like lesbians get left out sometimes.

*I say "the majority" because one or two of these stories had too much instalove and not enough plot, but overall the quality of writing and plot was fantastic. Red by Andi Marquette was my favourite, and The Ivy and the Rose came in at close second.

4.5/5 stars.

Corrie says

Myth and Magic: Queer Fairy Tales was a re-telling of some well-known classic fairytales. It was an equal mix of both male/male and female/female with the m/m ones tending to be more on the explicit side.

Nice read but no real high flyers.

m/m, f/f

Themes: familiar fairytales revisited

3.4 stars

amomentsilence says

Pretty good considering. Any time I get to read an anthology or collection where half to 3/4 of the compiled stories I like is a sheer miracle! This one fits the bill so 4 stars! A fun and delightful weekend read! :3

Althea Ann says

* The Vain Prince - Andrew J. Peters

** Beanstalk - Clifford Henderson

SWF seeks FGM - Allison Wonderland

A Hero in Hot Pink Boots - J. Leigh Bailey

*** Red - Andi Marquette

The Beanstalk Revisited - Rob Rosen
*** Heartless - Veronica Wilde
The Ivy and the Rose - Juliann Rich
Goldie and the Three Bears - Sasha Payne
Final Escape - Stacia Seaman
Sneewittchen (Snow White) E.J. Gahagan
The Red Shoes - Alex Stitt
The Princess and the Frog - Barbara Davies
The Snow King - Rhidian Brenig Jones
Riding Red - Victoria Oldham
Bad Girls - Jane Fletcher and Joey Bass

DNF, no rating.

The first story was rife with misused words and bad grammar. In addition, on a personal level, I didn't care for the solution to the story's dilemma. And then there was the abruptly inserted and awkwardly-written sex scene...

The second story didn't win me over either - it's an overly didactic allegory. Simplistic politics, with a dash of insta-"love."

I love fairytale retellings, and am open to all flavors of sensuality... but I'm thinking that this isn't the volume for me. (Especially since anthologies often open with their strongest selections...)

On to the next book...

Edit... based on another review, I went ahead and read Heartless - Veronica Wilde. OK, this one is pretty sexy. It works. (And is much more what I was expecting from this volume...) It's a contemporary, erotic S&M retelling of 'The Snow Queen,' which retains a supernatural element.

And..OK, last one. Red - Andi Marquette - also recommended by another review. A retelling of Red Riding Hood where a young woman seeks to protect her ailing werewolf lover. The allegory involving anti-werewolf bias actually works very well, but although the story was a fairly solid selection, with a standard fantasy feel, it didn't quite convince me to go on and read the rest of the collection...
