



Beauty and the Beast

Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont

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This is the original version of *Beauty and the Beast* by Jeanne-Marie Leprince De Beaumont which became the basis for all future versions, including the new 2017 movie adaptation.

Beauty and the Beast Details

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From Reader Review Beauty and the Beast for online ebook

Raoofa Ibrahim says

I read this story when I was 7 years .. I still remember some of my imagination about it.
and now I'm re-reading it in English.. It didn't fascinate me like it did when I was little, but It's a good story!

I'm excited to see the movie .. Emma watson as Beauty
Beauty and the Beast Official US Teaser Trailer

Mohammed Ali says

???? ??? ?????..??? ??? ??????? ? ??????? ??????? ??? ????? ??? ????? ??????? ??? :)

Meags says

4 Stars

It's a tale as old as time...

See what I did there? Hehe. Seriously, though, **Beauty and the Beast** has always been a favourite classic fairytale of mine. I grew up absolutely obsessed with the Disney version because of *reasons*...

I was always crazy jealous of Belle for snagging herself the owner of the greatest make-believe library in the world. That Beast seriously has it going on!!!

Hearing that a live-action film version is on the way in 2017 was the kick I needed to finally attempt to read the classic version of this tale, and apparently (according to Wikipedia) Leprince de Beaumont is the author of the most well known version, so here I am.

Although I still prefer the Disney version best, this version was sweet and charming and kept me captivated for the entirety of this (surprisingly short) story. My fellow library lovers will also be relieved to hear that even back in good old 1756 the Beast gives Belle his library. What a guy!

Nickolas says

That's right I just read Beauty and the Beast. I'm a man too by the way. A MAN! I'm a man that wins pennants and state championship rings. I'm a man that fought in Valley Forge and later stormed the beaches of Normandy to kill Nazi's. I'm a man that hates sissy stuff and will bench press your face off if you question otherwise. This is not a Disney book OH NO! This is not full of singing and chirping fa la la NO WAY! This is a cautionary tale for real men LIKE ME, who are seduced by pretty women to turn from beastlike man warriors into little girly men who hang out with fairies and buy their wife pretty lacy ballroom gowns which they no doubt put on when she's not around.

This version of the classic story is an abbreviated adaptation by Jeanne-Marie Le Prince de Beaumont (1711 – 1770) of the longer and oldest known manuscript of the tale written by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve (1695 – 1755). I wish I had the one by Gabrielle because the beast in that 100 page book is actually more beast in nature and not just in appearance. Sort of like me on the football field!

This was a quick read and one I used to buffer the pretty dreary and depressing Russian literature I'm currently going through, which I do love, but you need to take a break with some lighter material every now and then am I right fellas!?! In this version of the story Beauty asks this horrifically stomach wrenchingly deformed freak of a man to marry her, which he then immediately and magically turns into a handsome prince. This is all very convenient isn't it? This is so as to not to shock the reader into thinking that this horribly deformed man is actually going to have consensual sex with this hot buxom high bred woman. That would be too shocking to the status quo and would have likely resulted in the guillotine or some other medieval form of death. All in all, a good story with no girly crap like that Disney garbage.

Sr3yas says

Beauty and the Beast, finally.

Not that one.

No, not the one with Hermione either.

Ah, the original! Where Beauty has five siblings including two (evil) sisters and Beast is pretty much a nice guy from the very beginning.

And I really don't understand the fairy's justice system.

You shall remain a beast until someone truly loves you.

You shall remain a statue until you own your faults and pains inflicted upon your sister.

You shall remain dead until someone solves Ecliptic alignment of CMB anisotropy.

Pfft, fairies!

Brad says

Out of idle curiosity, I've lately been turning my reading to Scoutie into a discovery of the source texts for *Disney*'s biggest films. I stumbled upon versions of both *Cinderella* and *Sleeping Beauty* that were surprisingly close to *Disney*'s Princess movies, and we had much fun with them (I wish old Walt hadn't cut the baby-eating Ogre Queen Mum from *Sleeping Beauty*, though. What fun that would have been).

Our most recent read was Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve's *La Belle et la Bête*, the version abridged by Jeanne-Marie Le Prince de Beaumont in the late 1700s.

Again I was surprised by how closely the *Disney* company (this time under Katzenberg/Eisner) adhered to the text. All the key elements remain in the movie; they are often altered but they're there: the Enchantress (evil in the book), the rose(s), Belle's father meeting the Beast first, food magically appearing, Belle's release and return. I didn't expect the versions to be so closely related without Walt Disney's personal influence, but they were and that's likely at the root of why *Disney*'s *Beauty and the Beast* is so successful.

What I found most delightful, however, is how much friendlier Villeneuve's original is compared to the *Disney* movie (I've since discovered that it is not much friendlier. It is actually the Beaumont adaptation, which is what I read, that is friendlier. I need to get my hands on the original). The Beast is far less the abusive kidnapper and much more a Prince trapped in bestial form. He's kinder from the outset, anonymously providing food and shelter for Belle's father, the tired, cold, passerby, and only reveals himself and takes her father prisoner when the father attempts to pick a rose for Belle. Moreover, there is no apparent clock the Beast is racing against, no nasty Gaston to muddy the waters, and no foolish villagers marching to destroy the Beast in his castle, and less of a feeling that Belle is a kidnap victim who falls prey to the Stockholm syndrome.

It's a straight up tale of love developing through friendship, and a tale of kindness and selflessness being rewarded. *Winnie-the-Pooh* is next (not a discovery for me, but it is for Scout). One more thing about this version of *La Belle et la Bête*: the art by Walter Crane is kind of beautiful in its quaint way -- even in an eBook.

Duane says

Just perfect. What's not to like about this story? This fairytale, written in 1756, has been charming children and adults alike for over 250 years. Of course the modern interpretations and enhanced considerably, but this original tale is still an enjoyable read.

ToànTrung Nguy?n says

C?m nh?n t? b? phim m?i ra r?p

Tôi lúc tôi khâm phục gi?i biên k?ch Hollywood và Disney, h? có th? làm t?i làm lui m?t c?t truy?n mà không bi?t chán, hi?n nhiên n?u c?t truy?n ?ó v?n còn kh? n?ng ki?m ra ti?n; nh?ng làm m?t b? phim mà n?i dung ?ă c?, nó có hai nguy c? l?n: M?t, nó không hay h?n phiên b?n c?; và hai, n?i dung nó quá quen thu?c ??n m?c ng??i ta không kiên nh?n xem l?i nó.

Giai nhân và quái v?t (Beauty and the Beast) là truy?n c? dành cho tr? em c?a bà giáo làng Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont vi?t. Bà cùng th?i v?i Voltaire và Rousseau, bà c?ng ?am mê v?n ch??ng c?a c? hai, c?ng hi?n c?a bà v? ph??ng di?n giáo d?c không có g?i ?áng k? ngo?i tr? nh?ng truy?n c? vi?t cho tr? em, nh?ng nó c?ng không th?t ??c s?c ?? ?? g?i bà là m?t nh? v?n chuyên nghi?p có chi?u sâu nh? Andersen. Nh?ng sinh ra trong th?i ??i r?c r? c?a tri?t h?c, khoa h?c l?n ng?i; Beaumont ?ă t?o ra m?t truy?n c? ?? chi?u sâu ?? nó s?ng m?i cùng tên c?a m?nh, Giai nhân và quái v?t.

? ?ây tôi không ?i sâu vào phân tích nguyên b?n, ??c bi?t là ph??ng di?n v?n h?c. ?ó là m?t ch? ??... r?nh r?i b?n. ? ?ây tôi ch? nh?n m?nh vài y?u t? m?i trong phiên b?n ?i?n ?nh c?a h?ng Disney 2017.

Trong v?n chi ti?t m?i, tôi ch? ch? tâm vào m?t chi ti?t mà tôi cho là quan tr?ng: Belle yêu Beast vì ?i?u g?i? Nói cách khác, c?u n?i c?a hai tâm h?n kia là g?i.

Là sách.

Belle ???c miêu t? nh? m?t c?n nàng ?am mê tri th?c, c?n là c?n g?i bi?t ch? duy nh?t trong làng, yêu k?ch th? Shakespear và không tìm n?i m?t tâm h?n ho? ?i?u. Cô ch? bai k? v?i bi?n ??p m?a Gaston, c?n h?ng h? v?i th? t?p t?c cai tr? ?an bà và b?t tuân m?nh l?nh v?i th? th?i l? c?a làng. Cô thông minh và c?n sáng t?o, c?n có m?t t?nh cách và nhân cách rõ ràng h?n Belle ? phiên b?n ho?t hình. Và c?ng d? hi?u, c?n là s?n ph?m c?a n? quy?n lu?n mà Disney th??ng khéo léo ??a vào tác ph?m c?a m?nh.

Gi?a th? gi?i c?n ?ó, c?n ??n v?i Beast b?ng s? ng??ng m? tr??c h?t, là sách. Khi Beast d?n c?n tham quan phòng sách c?a m?nh, h? chia s? c?ng nhau nh?ng quy?n sách hay. Th? gi?i t?m h?n c?a h? g?n l?i, Beast tr? n?n cao th??ng và l?ch thi?p h?n trong m?t Belle nh? có sách. Sách, không ch? là c?u n?i hai tâm h?n mà còn quy?t ??nh s? kh?m phá tâm h?n mà Belle dành cho Beast. ? sách, c?n bi?t Beast là ng??i ???c giáo d?c c?n th?n, bi?t th?i quen ??c sách c?a ch?ng d?a trên t?nh kh? c?ng tr?c m?nh li?t c?a ng??i ?an ông, c?ng nh? s? cao qu? khi ch?ng ch? quan tâm v? tác ph?m c?a nh?ng hi?p s? b?n tr?n.

? ?ây là ?i?m m?i mà tôi cho là ??c ?áo, n?u m?i phiên b?n tr??c ?ó Belle n?y sinh t?nh c?m v?i Beast là ? s? g?n g?i và c?m kích vì ch?ng ?ă c?u nàng gi?a b?y s?i. Xét v? ph??ng di?n t?m lý h?c, nó... không thuy?t ph?c. Tình yêu c?n s? th?u hi?u cao h?n, t?m h?n con ng??i mu?n chi?n th?ng v? ngoài th? xác th?i nó ph?i có g?i ?ó quy?n r? h?n. Trong tr??ng h?p n?y, nh? biên k?ch Stephen Chbosky và Evan Spiliopoulos, ?ă t?nh t? khi ??a t?nh ti?t này vào phiên b?n ?i?n ?nh, khi?n t?m lý nh?n v?t ???c thuy?t ph?c h?n.

Tôi k?i, xem m?t b? phim ch? vì m?t cái m?i ?ó, v?y là ??.

Its_a_nerdy_thing says

it's my favorite fairytale and it's classic and amazing ?

N?ρα says

Τραγικ? παρ?λειψη απ? μ?ρους μου να μην ?χω προσθ?σει ?να απ? τα αγαπημ?να παραμ?θια της παιδικ?ς μου ηλικ?ας. Η διασημ?τερη ιστορ?α αγ?πης και το πιο ρομαντικ? παραμ?θι που ειπ?θηκε ποτ?. Το πιο σημαντικ? ?μως ε?ναι ?τι η ιστορ?α για την πεντ?μορφη και το τ?ρας ?χει πολλ? κοινωνικ? μην?ματα. ?πως το να μην κρ?νεις και διαχωρ?ζεις τους ?λλους αν?λογα με την εξωτερικ? τους εμφ?νιση, ε?ναι ?να απ? αυτ?. Η ομορφι? ? η ασχ?μια της ψυχ?ς δεν συν?δει απαρα?τητα με αυτ? της εξωτερικ?ς παρουσ?ας. Πρ?πει να αγαπ?με τους ?λλους για αυτ? που πραγματικ? ε?ναι και να μην φοβ?μαστε να γνωρ?σουμε τον αληθιν? τους χαρακτ?ρα. Πολυαγαπημ?νο.

Eman says

UPDATES:

- Thanks to *Rachel* in the comments below, it turns out that Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve is the author of the original French version which was published in 1740, *La Belle et la Bête*, which is more elaborate but less famous. ~~If anyone knows where I can get an eBook with good English translation, please be generous and kindly let me know.~~
- Found the original book! Reviewed [\[here\]](#).
- Can you feel the *Belle* in Emma Watson? I totally can. Imagine *Emma* x *Hermione* x *Belle*.. All in one; all beauty and brains.. I'm SO happy they've chosen the right gal to play the right character in *Beauty and the Beast*'s latest movie adaptation that's to be released in March 2017. Bonus: It will have the music used in Disney's. I can hardly hold my horses.

As a *Disney* freak, I have a profound weakness for all Disney movies. *Beauty and the Beast* is my ultimate favorite, and *Belle* is my all-time favorite princess. I mean, the girl is beautiful, brave, and bibliophile as a cherry on top! I just love her.

This is the first time I read *Beauty and the Beast* by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont. To my surprise, I found myself preferring the Disney movie to this book. In the movie, there is a more justified story and moral behind the *Beast*'s situation. A good witch cursed him because he was selfish and unkind, and he is redeemed by *Beauty*'s love. In the book, a wicked witch cursed him out of the blue, just like that! We don't understand why; was it out of pure cruelty? Or did he do something bad that made her punish him in such a manner? It's not clarified in the book. However, it's still a very good tale. Recommended to everyone.

Morals of the story:

- Stop the hypocrisy/jealousy bullshit before you end up as a statue outside the palace of the person you envy.

- Don't be shallow and judge people by their appearances.
- If a man gifts you a library, marry him! He's a keeper.
- Read more books even if you're hot. Reading is sexy.

Mangrii says

Nunca había leído el cuento original, y esta ha sido una ocasión perfecta, aunque sea una versión abreviada escrita por Leprince de Beaumont. No voy a desvelar nada de la trama, pero sí que tengo que decir que tiene muchos cambios con respecto a la conocida versión de Disney, aquí Bella no es hija única y la rosa es importante, pero en otro sentido. En las apenas 50 páginas que tiene el volumen te ves sumergido en este cuento, tanto seas niño como adulto.

Un cuento lleno de magia y sobre todo, de valores; como la amistad, el amor, la bondad, el valor o el materialismo. La edición es preciosa, con un papel muy bueno y con unas ilustraciones de Nicoles Claveloux que quitan el hipo, todas en blanco y negro, algunas a doble página preciosas y que adornan un cuento que no puede faltar en cualquier estantería.

Geo Kwnstantinou says

Αναζητ?ντας μια πιο εν?λικη ?κδοση, βρ?κα απο τις Εκδ?σεις Αρμος. Το παραμ?θι, γν?στο, διαφορετικ? απ? την γνωστη μας εκδοχ? της Disney. Αυτ? που μου ?ρεσε περισσ?τερο σε αυτ? την ?κδοση ηταν το επ?μετρο του μεταφραστ? Γι?ργου Χρ. Κυθραι?τη. Εξαιρετ?κη αν?λυση και σκιαγρ?φιση του μυθου!

Mischenko says

I couldn't resist reading this classic version of *Beauty and the Beast* after reading a few others last week. I'm having quite the *Beauty and the Beast* marathon here lately and finally saw the movie yesterday. :)

I was pleased with this classic original tale, although I'm reading now that this isn't the very first, I still enjoyed it. I grabbed the Kindle version on Amazon because it's free. It's a quick abridged version at about 36 pages or so. There are only a few pages of illustrations and the beast looks something like more of a wild boar.

I liked the writing and this is a good children's version for new readers.

3***

Huda Aweys says

I love this story .. really :) .. and I think that: this story was able to teach -at some point- about the meaning of nobility and compassion to the children indirectly way !

