



Old French Fairy Tales

Comtesse de Ségur , Virginia Frances Sterrett (Illustrator)

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Old French Fairy Tales Details

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From Reader Review Old French Fairy Tales for online ebook

Simina says

This was my favorite book when I was a little girl.

Vicky says

Voilà, je m'essaie à lire à voix haute la Comtesse de Ségur à ma fille, elle vient d'avoir quatre ans. Ces livres étaient mes préférés lorsque j'étais enfant, je suis curieuse de voir comment ma puce y réagira et ce que j'en penserait moi-même en tant qu'adultes.

Nous avons entamé la lecture il y a deux jours et avons donc deux chapitres de lu, ma fille me bombarde de question sur les personnages, sur qui est gentil, qui est méchant, sur le pourquoi de leurs comportements et de leurs actions mais en même temps elle semble apprécier.

voilà c'est terminé et je dois avouer que j'ai terminer la dernière histoire seule. À 4 ans, je me rends compte que ma fille est encore un peu trop jeune pour les contes de la comtesse de Ségur, les histoires sont complexes et les descriptions sont parfois interminables... Surtout les descriptions des robes et des bijoux qui ont fini par me taper sur les nerfs. La dernière histoire, celle d'ourson est celle que j'ai le plus apprécié peut-être parce que l'ayant lu seule j'ai pu maintenir un rythme raisonnable?

Enfin, je suis un peu déçue par l'expérience et attendrait un peu que ma fille grandisse avec de renouveler mais je garde espoir que "Les malheurs de Sophie" saura un jour la captiver...

Cara says

I was surprised by the level of suspense of several of these tales - I actually found myself nervous at the outcome. The illustrations are whimsically beautiful - like something out of a dream. The language is a bit dry, but I'm sure that has more to do with something being lost in translation.

Masha says

super

Bertha Alicia says

Love this old fairy tales collection, but...

But where are the pictures? There are an Illustrations Index, but none of them in the book!

Otherwise, this book is a 5 stars book...

♥Mary♦Sweet♣Dreams♠Are♥Made♦of♣This♠ says

I fell in love with this book and honestly, they don't give it much credit here in the U.S. I read all the fairy tales as a child and they are a permanent part of my library. These french tales are the foundation of our Disney movies. The book has great visuals and descriptions. The stories are timeless and unique. They have good lessons to be learned. The grammar is impeccable! I really wish they would make this a leather bound. The stories are about enchanted woods, princesses, magical animals, quests, fairy godmothers and morale. You have never read a book like this one and I'm sure that both your child and yourself will find it very amusing. I definitely believe that you should buy this book for your collection. The illustrations are very nice. It really is timeless classic.

Chris says

It is difficult when reading a dominion free kindle book to judge some older works. You lack the charm of the illustrations which in some cases can totally change your view of the book. This kindle, a free classic, lacks the illustration and just presents the text.

The fairy tales in this collection are very French and somewhat in the tradition of the French Salon stories. I say in the spirit because while all the characteristics are there there is a *je ne sais quoi* missing from them that exists in the stories of Mde d'Aubony or L'Heritier. Perhaps it is because all of the heroines are so blah and blonde and good and exactly like. Where the other Salon writers all have good heroines but in the great ones there is something different.

The best tale, for me, in this collection was the story of Orison, he that looks like a bear, because why the character of Violette is almost like the other princesses that populate this volume, she sacrifices her beauty for him, loves him despite his ugliness, and he loves her when she becomes ugly. The two also remember a faithful servant unlike another member of their family.

There is a rather interesting Cinderella variant in this collection.

Theresa says

Beautiful illustrations, but the stories are an odd combination of depressing, uplifting, and unintentionally goofy. There was a "Prince Marvelous" involved.

Phil says

(#37 in my Year of Reading Women)

Prettily written, but the stories don't half go on (I like my fairy tales to be under ten pages long - brevity is part of their charm) and ultimately I got sick of not only the perfectness of the "good" characters but also how restrictive and tyrannical much of the behaviour expected of them is (one girl is instructed (and later rewarded for) to keep her curiosity under control - not nosiness or peering into other people's business, but

curiosity, whereas I think that curiosity is super important). These stories suggest that doing what you're told without questioning is of far more value.

So, historically interesting and mildly diverting and prettily written, but not stories I'd be wanting any children of mine to be learning life lessons from.

Erik says

I don't actually have a copy of this book, but I read the entire thing online, and believe me, it's AWESOME! There are only five fairy tales, but they're all pretty good and very well-written. The illustrations (which are kinda trippy, but in a good way!) also add charm to the stories.

My personal favorite is "Blondine, Bonne-Biche, and Beau-Minon", which I liked so much I almost forgot to read the rest of the book. It has such amazing imagery and an intriguing plot. I also like how some of the stories are connected to each other. The last story, Ourson, mentions characters from Blondine, Bonne-Biche, and Beau-Minon. I also like that the majority of the characters have names, so it doesn't feel like yet another fairy tale with a nameless princess and a nameless Prince Charming.

All in all, a great book recommended for just about anyone who loves fairy tales!

Meen says

This book of fairy tales is extraordinary (and reminds me that I really need to learn how to take better care of these old darlings). The engravings are amazing, and Sophie Rostopchine (a.k.a. La Comtesse) has an amazing story herself. This, her first work of fiction (apparently there was a children's health book and a children's Mass book before this one), was published when she was well past 50 years old. And to top all that off, the book itself has a nice, spidery inscription from an Isabel Wallace ("Paris France 1869")! I love this one!

Magali says

Four point five stars for a great fairy tale collection, but it rounds up to 5 because the illustrations are just gorgeous.

Set says

I love these obscure french fairy tales that are unknown to Americans. The book is nearly impossible to find at any library but I managed to find it online. I love how everyone's name in this book resembles their character, it reminds me of A Pilgrim's Progress. The morals of the stories are not hard to see at all. The first story remind me of the dangers of the french court in a more childlike and fantastical sense.

In the first story, the wicked stepmother bribes Blondine's friend teaching children that no one is to ever be trusted much like it would have taught to the children of the court. Family loyalties were only for those of the same blood and only under circumstances beneficial to the family. The throne always spelt the blood of those in the way to their desires whether they be good and kind or otherwise. In court, one must always be weary of those whom hold the power to give you away in marriage and or put you in a tower, both examples are shown in this story. Blondine and the parrot is also an example of not knowing where your loyalties lie in court. Many children were sent to other great households or to court but loyalties were a fickle thing and there were always secrets even within the most dear friendships. And one must always be careful of the council of those whom may actually be an enemy in disguise.

But most humorously, Blondie is blonde and is good while her sister Brunette is a brunette and is bad. People do not change much and even those that haven't read this book have this preconceived notion, this is the reason why there are so many bleached blonde brunettes in America. My mother is a natural blonde and even she has tried to get me to dye my hair but NO thanks; it's an American thing.

The story of Blondine and Brunette teaches them various lessons about obedience and patience. Their education is a large one and arduous one that it would be better if they just skipped those years altogether.

The story of Henry's quest to the mountain teaches male children to love their mothers, to be brave, to be helpful of those in need, to be hard workers, to be patient and to not chew tobacco. This story has enchanting characters such as four different geniis, a fairy and animal friends. His education is baking, wine making, game hunting, fishing and cooking. His journey kind of reminded me of The Pilgrim's Progress because of all the obstacles he had to conquer to reach the garden of life. Or perhaps, Dante's Inferno to save his dear love from the clutches of death.

The story of the princess Rosette teaches children to be obedient and good-natured. Her education is a hard one of learning reading and writing, keep accounts (mathematics), different languages, musical instruments, and how to draw. This story teaches you that a princess should keep her skin fair and spot free by not running around in the sun where one gets a tan or freckles.

The story of Rosalie teaches children to obey their parents and not be curious of the thing which are forbidden to them. Of course, children always disobey but there are consequences to their actions and they learn of the evils of the world.

The story of Ourson teaches children about sacrifice and loyalty to one's family and friends.

Rafire says

What a wonderful fairy book this is. It had themes on sacrifice, penance, perseverance, foolishness, greed, jealousy, pride, gluttony, unconditional love, temptation, curiosity, humility, and several more. It doesn't have any kind of foolish love sentiments. Especially the story about Ourson and Violette, who loved him in spite of his hideousness. In the same way Ourson loved and adored Violette so much that he right away refused Violette taking up his curse so that he could become handsome.

A really beautiful book and I'd highly recommend it for children and teenagers.

Marquise says

Another volume of French literary fairy tales under my belt!

Madame la Comtesse de Ségur isn't as good a tale-weaver as Madame d'Aulnoy, however, mostly because she's way more romantic, more straightforward in her plots, which have an unequivocal feel-good quality about them, and her characterisation is at best two-dimensional and heavily archetypical, with little variance. And besides, she relies a lot more on *Deus ex machina* resolutions, never daring to rack her characters over the coals and avoiding bittersweetness.

Nonetheless, her salon tales are still creative, entertaining, and lovely. My personal favourite was *Ourson*, a story that reminded me a bit of *East of the Sun and West of the Moon* in the broadest of senses, because they're not really alike besides a certain element in common. And in this edition, each tale is illustrated by V. Sterrett, which should make for a nice addition to any folktale collection.
