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The Original Folk And Fairy Tales Of The Brothers Grimm: The Complete First Edition



Synopsis

When Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm published their *Children's and Household Tales* in 1812, followed by a second volume in 1815, they had no idea that such stories as "Rapunzel", "Hansel and Gretel", and "Cinderella" would become the most celebrated in the world. Yet few people today are familiar with the majority of tales from the two early volumes, since in the next four decades the Grimms would publish six other editions, each extensively revised in content and style. For the very first time, *The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm* makes available in English all 156 stories from the 1812 and 1815 editions. These narrative gems, are newly translated and brought together in one beautiful audiobook. From "The Frog King" to "The Golden Key", wondrous worlds unfold - heroes and heroines are rewarded, weaker animals triumph over the strong, and simple bumpkins prove themselves not so simple after all. Esteemed fairy tale scholar Jack Zipes offers accessible translations that retain the spare description and engaging storytelling style of the originals. Indeed, this is what makes the tales from the 1812 and 1815 editions unique - they reflect diverse voices, rooted in oral traditions, that are absent from the Grimms' later, more embellished collections of tales. Zipes' introduction gives important historical context, and the book includes the Grimms' prefaces and notes. A delight to read, *The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm* presents these peerless stories to a whole new generation of readers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you love Grimms and aren't very fluent in German, this is a book to get excited about. Even if you

are fluent, it's pretty exciting, too. Over the years, one of the top questions I've received as SurLaLune is: "Where are the dark, gritty fairy tales I hear about?" Well, that's a complicated question, but one interpretation of what they ask is: "Where are those lesser edited Grimms' tales that I've heard about?" For some reason, the entirety of the first Grimms' edition has not been translated into English previously. Zipes, in the Acknowledgements of this new book, says that during the Grimms' bicentennial in 2012 he decided, "if nobody was going to undertake this 'task,' I would do it--and do it out of pleasure and to share the unusual tales the Grimms collected as young men when they had not fully realized what a treasure they had uncovered." That's a boon since, after all, Zipes has also translated one of the most used and most recommended editions of Grimms. For that conversation see my blog post: [Library Essentials: Picking a Grimm Translation](#). Nice to have Zipes' translations of both the earliest and later versions of the tales to compare and consider. After all, the Grimms had seven editions of their famous collection and there were considerable changes between that first and seventh edition. And many of those earlier versions were grittier and more adult since the Grimms hadn't intended children to be one of their primary audiences. From the book's introduction: "In fact, many of the tales in the first editions are more fabulous and baffling than those refined versions in the final edition, for they retain the pungent and naive flavor of the oral tradition. They are stunning narratives precisely because they are so blunt and unpretentious. Moreover, the Grimms had not yet 'vaccinated' or censored them with their sentimental Christianity and puritanical ideology." And, a bonus for scholars like me and some of you, Zipes also translated some of the Grimms' notes to the tales: "As for the scholarly notes to the tales, I have provided a thorough summary of each note to indicate sources, and I have also translated the variants of the tale that I thought were important. These notes reveal, in my opinion, how knowledgeable and erudite the Grimms were at a very young age." Finally, this means that the table of contents to the book is different from what we consider the standard contents since the Grimms removed and added tales over subsequent editions. Zipes has included several of those omitted tales in his standard Grimms in the appendices but now they are provided in their original context in their original place. For example, "The Summer and Winter Garden"--no. 68 in the first edition and a Beauty and the Beast tale--was omitted in later editions for being too French. In later editions, KHM 68 (the way Grimms tales are referenced by number, abbreviating the German title *Kinder- und Hausmärchen* with the tale's number in the contents) is "The Thief and His Master." And in this edition, you get the infamous and disturbing "How Some Children Played at Slaughtering." In later editions, you get KHM 22 as "The Riddle" instead which is much more innocuous as the titles imply. So, yes, I highly recommend this book for fairy tale fans. *All my

quotations from the book are from the unproofed ARC I received several weeks ago. I waited for the final review copy to arrive but the envelope arrived last week split open along a seam and empty with a nice sticker on the front from USPS telling me that my package "Arrived Without Contents." I'm not sure if and when another will arrive.

This is a wonderful volume. As it were, this represents the first version of the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tale collection. The author is Professor Emeritus of German and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota. As such, he wondered at the lack of a published version of the original volume put together by the Brothers Grimm. Consequently, Dr. Zipes translated and edited the 1812/15 version and it was published by Princeton University Press. The Introduction by Zipes places the volume in context; he discusses the goals of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm; he notes the changes in the tone and tenor of the stories over multiple editions of the collected works. If one is familiar with the story of Rapunzel, the changes are rather stark. In the original version, she becomes pregnant by her visiting male friend. In later versions, pregnancy did NOT occur. The Grimm brothers' prefatory comments on Volume 1 and Volume 2 are provided in this collection, adding their own personal observations to the picture. Their desire to bring the collective tales told and retold by people is manifest in the publication of their original version. But it is the stories that are the highlight here. There are two frog prince stories that I read (# 1 in Volume 1 and # 13 in Volume 2). In each case, the princesses were rather snotty to the frog. An edgier version as compared with subsequent volumes. One of the issues raised by the Brothers is that lessons were often taught in these tales. One is that one is rewarded for good and generous deeds. # 83 in Volume 1, "The Poor Maiden." This is the story of a poor maiden who gave away what little she had--including clothing--to help others. The end? The stars fell from heaven and became coins that she used to become "rich for the rest of her life" (page 263). It's been a long time since I read "Puss in Boots" (Volume 1, # 33). The cat who wore boots and did great deeds for his master ended up producing a royal wife for the man, a kingdom, too, at a later point. And, finally, the cat became prime minister. Other familiar stories with somewhat edgier approaches--Little Red Cap (Volume 1, # 26), or, as we know it, "Little Red Riding Hood; Hansel and Gretel (# 15, Volume 1); Rapunzel (already noted (# 12, Volume 1). And so on. This is a volume well worth acquiring, to provide a context against which to compare later volumes and more familiar versions of the tales that we are aware of.

I would assume that most people are familiar with the Brothers Grimm and their collection of fairy

tales. It's almost a rite of passage for children, and has been for many generations. Probably less people know that there were seven editions (which, until reading this, included me). These first editions, in this first complete English translation, provide a window into the type of material that would be honed and grew over the years into the collection we know today. I was only familiar with a minority of the stories, and it was interesting to see how they differ from what I've read before. They are certainly rougher, in multiple senses of the word. Some were so short, as to be barely a story at all. And all of them, like the more familiar versions, reflected a simple morality. There were also numerous recurring themes and character types, the subject of much literature since. Overall, I think this collection is more interesting from a philological perspective, in no small part because I doubt this was meant to be read cover to cover, but I'm sure any fan of these time-tested tales would want to read them, if only out of curiosity.

This is a lovely compendium of short stories that are easy to read by the campfire. They're gruesome, racist, anti-semitic, and bizarre. Not for the sensitive, perhaps, but the manner of storytelling is so vastly different from the modern that it has a very abrupt sort of charm.

A wonderful collection of Brother's Grimm. Not 5 stars because I wish the paper was a better quality or gold rimmed since it's such a gorgeous copy. Love the art. One question, so if you know it please answer! In this Cinderella, the stepsisters do not lose their eyes. How come? I thought that was part of the original story, yet I was confused when I didn't find it in the book.

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