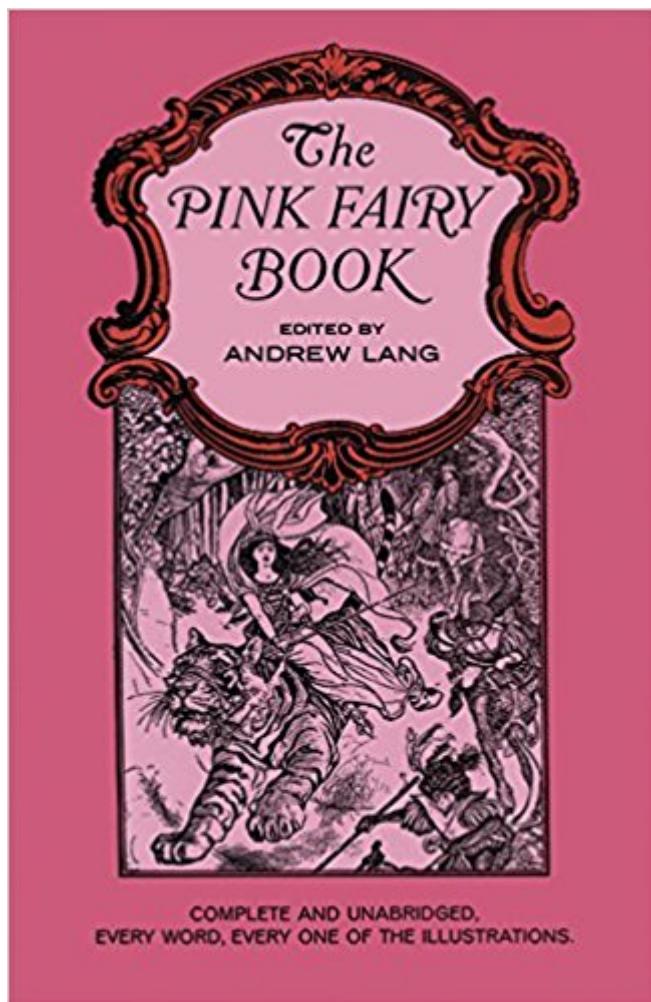


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# The Pink Fairy Book (Dover Children's Classics)



## Synopsis

Forty-one Japanese, Scandinavian, and Sicilian tales: "The Snow-Queen," "The Cunning Shoemaker," "The Two Brothers," "The Merry Wives," "The Man without a Heart," and more. All the stories are narrated in the clear, lively prose for which Lang was famous and are considered to be the very best English versions available. Includes 69 illustrations.

## Book Information

Series: Dover Children's Classics

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #165,448 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Country & Ethnic #325 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics #1053 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

Andrew Gabriel Lang was a prolific Scots man of letters. He was a poet, novelist, and literary critic, and a contributor to anthropology. He now is best known as a collector of folk and fairy tales. A gifted student and avid reader, Lang went to the prestigious St Andrews University (now holding a lecture series in his honour every few years) and then to Balliol College, Oxford. He would later write about the city in Oxford: *Brief Historical and Descriptive Notes*, published in 1880. Moving to London at the age of 31, already a published poet, he started working as a journalist. His dry sense of humor, writing style and huge array of interests made him a popular editor and columnist and he was soon writing for *The Daily Post*, *Time* magazine and *Fortnightly Review*. It was whilst working in London that he met and married his wife Leonore Blanche Alleyne. Amongst the most famous of Andrew Lang books are *The Rainbow Fairy Books*, growing from Lang's interest in myths and folklore which continued to grow as he and Leonore traveled through France and Italy hearing local legends. In the late 19th century, interest in the native fairy tales of Britain had declined and there

were very few books recounting them for young readers. In fact, fairy tales and magical stories, in general, were being attacked by some educationalists as being harmful to children. It was to challenge this notion that Lang first began collecting fairy stories for the first of his colored fairy books, *The Blue Fairy Book*. Whilst other folklorists collected stories directly from source, Lang set about gathering those stories which had already been recorded. This gave him time to collect a much greater breadth of fairy tales from all over the world, most from well-known writers such as the Brothers Grimm, Madame d'Aulnoy and others from less well-known sources. Whilst Lang also worked as the editor for his work and is often credited as its sole creator, the support of his wife, who transcribed and organized the translation of the text, was essential to the work's success. The last Andrew Lang book, *Highways and Byways of the Border* remained unfinished after his death on 20th July 1912. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

The forty-one stories in this book are derived from Sicilian, Japanese, and Scandinavian traditions. Included are such favorites as "The Sprig of Rosemary," "Snowflake," "The Slaying of the Tanuki," "The Golden Lion," "The Snow-queen," plus many more. These are the refreshingly original versions, in all their straightforward, sometimes brutal, glory. Read "The Snow-queen" and you will find the real story, not the watered-down insipid Disney rip-off version. These tales are all real and delightful in their own ways. *The Pink Fairy Book*, published in 1897, is the fifth of twelve collected fairy story books that were researched, translated and compiled by Andrew Lang (1844-1912) and his wife, Leonora Blanche Alleyne Lang. Andrew Lang, a Scotsman, was a literary critic, novelist, poet, and a contributor to the field of anthropology. All in all, I do recommend this book for literary and psychological research and analysis, and just for the fun of it, if you are so motivated.

I love the color fairy books so was very excited to see them available for kindle. This kindle edition is terrible! There is no separate table of contents and no illustrations. The stories just run together in a stream of unbroken text. I wonder if it was formatted at all. The product images were very misleading. I'm glad I didn't pay for this. It's almost unreadable.

In the late 19th century, historian, scholar, and anthropologist, Andrew Lang, began publishing collections of fairy tales from around the world. The first volume was 'The Blue Fairy Book'

published in 1887. Lang was not a true ethnologist, like the German Brothers Grimm. He was far more the 'translator' than collector of tales from the source, stories transcribed from being told by people to whom the tales were passed down by word of mouth. In fact, many stories in his first volume, such as Rumpelstiltskin; Snow White; Sleeping Beauty; Cinderella; and Hansel and Gretel were translated from Grimm's books of fairy tales. Some of his 'fairy tales' were even 'copied from relatively recent fantasy fiction, such as *A Voyage to Lilliput*, the first of the four episodes in Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. My inspiration for commenting Lang's series of fairy tale books is for the sheer quantity of tales, the wonderful woodcut illustrations, some few of which may have become almost as popular as the tales (although not quite in the same league as Sir John Tenniel's illustrations for Lewis Carroll's great fantasies), and the fact that I had these when I was young. With twelve of these books, with between 30 and 36 stories in each book, this gives one about 400 different stories. If I were to recommend anything as standard equipment at a grandparents' house, it would be a complete set of these books. Needless to say, there are a few 'warnings' to accompany books assembled over 100 years ago. You will encounter a fair number of words with which even an adult may be unfamiliar, let alone a five year old. For example, on the second page of *The Princess Mayblossom* in *The Red Fairy Book*, a character puts sulfur in a witch's porridge. This requires at least three explanations. What is sulfur, what is porridge, and why is sulfur in porridge such a bad thing. More difficult still is when a prince entered the town on a white horse which 'pranced and caracoled to the sound of the trumpets'. In 19th century London, caracoling (making half turns to the right and the left) was probably as common and as well known as 'stepping on the gas' is today. But, if you're a grandparent, that's half the fun, explaining new words and ideas to the young-uns. There is another 'danger' which may require just a bit more explanation, although in today's world of crime dramas on TV, I'm not sure that most kids are already totally immune to being shocked by death and dead bodies. In these stories, lots of people and creatures get killed in very unpleasant ways, and lots of very good people and creatures suffer in very unpleasant ways. It's ironic that the critics in Lang's own time felt the stories were 'unreality, brutality, and escapism to be harmful for young readers, while holding that such stories were beneath the serious consideration of those of mature age'. The success of a whole library of Walt Disney feature length cartoons based on these stories is a testament to how well they work with children. But do be warned, Uncle Walt did clean things up a bit. Lang's versions hold back on very little that was ugly and unpleasant in some of these stories. The down side to the great quantity of stories is that even when some come from very different parts of the world, there is a remarkable amount of overlap in theme, plot, and characters. But by the time you get to another story of a beautiful young girl

mistreated by a stepmother, it will have been several month since you read Cinderella or the Little Glass Slipper in The Blue Fairy Book. The other side of the coin is that you can play the game of trying to recall what that other story was with a similar theme. There is one very big word of caution about buying these books through or a similar on line outlet. I stopped counting when I got to twelve different editions of The Blue Fairy Book, or a volume including several of these books. Not all of these editions have the original woodcuts and even worse, not all have a table of contents and introduction. The one publisher which has all twelve volumes is by Dover. Other publishers, such as Flying Chipmunk Publishing (yes, that's it's name) also have all the original illustrations, table of contents, and introduction, but I'm not certain that publisher has all twelve volumes. Dover most certainly does, as I just bought all twelve of them from . While I suspect these stories may have been 'old hat' for quite some time, it may be that with the popularity of Lord of the Rings, the Narnia stories, and the Harry Potter stories, all of which have their share of suffering and death, that these may be in for a revival. Again, the main attraction is that for relatively little money and space, Grammy and Grandad get a great resource for bonding with children.

Andrew Lang (1844-1912) wrote a number of books of fairy tales and differentiated each from the other by color; for example, this one is green, another is pink, another is blue, and others yellow, grey, brown, and lilac. The book contains several dozen tales. They are generally fitting for young children, with one exception. The Danish story The Princess and the Chest should not be read to a nervous child, Lang suggests, because "it rather borders on a ghost story." There are also stories from Sweden, Japan, Sicily, Africa, Germany, and France. Lang makes sure that in his tales the good people always win out at the end and the bad suffer. He urges his readers to be kind, for kindness always brings good in fairy tales. Frequently, everything seems to be going wrong, the hero seems to be about to lose what he or she wants so much, a princess or money. But then the hero encounters an old man or an old woman, usually appearing very poor. The person asks for help, such as food or lodging. The hero gives it and is rewarded with something magic that resolves all of the hero's problems.

so many great faery books/stories....great times had by me and my grandson. love finding these stories all in one book

Fast delivery! Great packaging! Awesome seller!!! 2nd time I've purchased from them!! Definitely recommend!! Product was exactly as pictured and described!!

is part of a series by Andrew Lang reading them all together makes for a great read but separated they get a little wishy washy my suggestion is read them all at once or not at all

Bought this book to read to a friend who loved the series - a retired English professor suffering from early Alzheimer's

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The Dance Fairies Boxed Set (7 Books) (Rainbow Magic, #1: Bethany the Ballet Fairy; #2: Jade the Disco Fairy; #3: Rebecca the Rock 'n' Roll Fairy; #4: Tasha the Tap Dance Fairy; #5: Jessica the Jazz Fairy; #6: Serena the Salsa Fairy; #7: Isabelle the Ice Dance Fairy) The Pink Fairy Book (Dover Children's Classics) Fairy Companions Coloring Book - Fairy Romance, Dragons and Fairy Pets (Fantasy Art Coloring by Selina) (Volume 4) The Pink Fairy Book (Xist Classics) My Life in Pink & Green (Pink & Green series Book 1) The Red Fairy Book (Dover Children's Classics) The Orange Fairy Book (Dover Children's Classics) The Spanish Fairy Book (Dover Children's Classics) The Violet Fairy Book (Dover Children's Classics) Pink Is For Blobfish: Discovering the World's Perfectly Pink Animals (The World of Weird Animals) FAIRY Nursery rhymes for children: A Fairy nursery rhyme book Perrault's Fairy Tales (Dover Children's Classics) The Complete Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen: 127 Stories in one volume: From the most beloved writer of children's stories and fairy tales, including ... Nightingale, The Emperor's New Clothes... Grimm's Fairy Tales: The Children's Classic Edition (Children's classics) Fairy Fantasy: Enchanting Fairy Adult Coloring Book Minecraft Fairy Tales : Complete Series (Minecraft Fairy Tales Series Book 10) Lacey the Little Mermaid Fairy: A Rainbow Magic Book (The Fairy Tale Fairies #7) The Twisted Fairy Tale Box Set, Books 1-3 (A Twisted Fairy Tale Book 0) The Victorian Fairy Tale Book (The Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library) Fairy Queens: Books 5-7 (Fairy Queens Box Set Book 2)

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