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Princess Stories: A Classic Illustrated Edition



Synopsis

The classic tales in this lavishly illustrated collection have enchanted generations of readers. Here, among others, is the fair Snow White, Rapunzel with her golden tresses, and the princess so delicate that even just a small pea hidden under 20 mattresses keeps her awake at night. The stories are paired with magnificent artwork by some of the most renowned children's book illustrators of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From Arthur Rackham to Millicent Sowerby to Kay Nielsen, each brought a unique artistic vision to these timeless tales. This beautifully designed edition is equally at home on a child's bedside table as it is on a collector's bookshelf.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 1-5 - From a frontispiece of a Maxfield Parrish Cinderella to small black-and-white engravings and everything in between, this edition of classic princess stories showcases artists from the Golden Age of Illustration, roughly the 1880s to the 1920s. Edens has brought together eight stories, "Cinderella," "The Frog Prince," "The Little Mermaid," "The Princess and the Pea," "Rapunzel," "Sleeping Beauty," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," and "Beauty and the Beast," into one nostalgic volume. Arthur Rackham, Walter Crane, Jesse Wilcox Smith, Charles Robinson, Kay Nielsen, and Edmund Dulac are among the American and European artists represented. The edition is rich in language, tone, and picture and despite the disparate nature of each artist's style, it somehow comes together as a classic whole. There is no attribution as to which translation or

retelling Edens is drawing from but all of the stories are traditionally retold. He is faithful to Perrault's "Cinderella" in which she attends two balls, losing her slipper at the second, and he also seems to be quite aware of the more or less "authentic" translations of the Brothers Grimm. A preface does identify the dates when the stories first appeared and spins the compiler's world view that these princesses are "powerful, if not indomitable." A handsome addition to collections where a treasury of stories is useful. - Harriett Fagnoli, Great Neck Library, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 2-4. Princesses, both natural-born and aspiring, hasten toward matrimony in this entry in the Classic Illustrated Editions series of nicely produced volumes that pair beloved stories with vintage images from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Included here are tales by the Brothers Grimm ("The Frog Prince," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves"); Andersen ("The Little Mermaid," "The Princess and the Pea"); Perrault ("Cinderella," "Sleeping Beauty"); and de Beaumont ("Beauty and the Beast"). Well-chosen artwork by Arthur Rackham, Charles Dulac, and many others charts changing sensibilities from romantic pre-Raphaelitism to the stylized Art Deco of the 1920s. On the flip side, the mishmash of styles and the inevitably varied interpretations of each princess' appearance may confuse children accustomed to more cohesive treatments. Excellent endnotes citing sources for the illustrations conclude; similar notes for the translations would have made this an even stronger collection. Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

In 1991, Cooper Edens published "The Three Princesses: The Ultimate Illustrated Edition," a book containing three princess fairy tales (Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty) with 172 illustrations from the Golden Age of illustration. The book has since gone out of print and has become popular among collectors with some editions selling for well over \$100 in the used book market. Now Edens has produced a similar book, "Princess Stories," which may become just as sought after by collectors in the years to come. This time he includes eight tales, including Cinderella, The Frog Prince, The Little Mermaid, The Princess and the Pea, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and Beauty and the Beast. Edens has included over 150 illustrations to accompany the tales by such masters as Kay Nielsen, Walter Crane, Edmund Dulac, Charles Robinson, W. Heath Robinson, Honor Appleton, Jesse Wilcox Smith, and Arthur Rackham. More obscure and anonymous illustrations by these illustrators' contemporaries are also included. Thus results a feast of fairy tale illustrations in color and black and white for all ages. The

hardcover book is printed on fine paper and new illustrations appear with every turn of the page. Readers will enjoy comparing the different visions by the illustrators of the same tales. The texts are also rich and reflect earlier versions of the tales. My only regret is that there wasn't room for even more illustrations although plenty are provided here. Unfortunately, the cover of the book is deceptive due to its design. With the last two letters of "Princess" appearing over the glowing candle, the book appears to be "Prince Stories" at first glance of the cover. Never fear, the interior of the book is much better designed with no loss of illustration or textual integrity.

This book is such a visual delight and it is a wonderful book for adults as well. The different styles of the paintings are wonderful and my four year old granddaughter looks at this book over and over. We talk about the different ways the artists think about the stories through their work. I encourage anyone who wants to give children both beautiful art and great stories to have this book in their library. Thank you for this selection. It was also so reasonably priced. Princess Stories: A Classic Illustrated Edition (A Classic Illustrated Edition)

Although many of the illustrations in this, as well as the other Cooper Evans' collections of illustrations, are varied and seemingly colorful, I think that buyers should know that the colors here and in the other books are not quite true. I placed many of these illustrations side by side with copies from much more expensive art books and they fell quite short. Maybe I'm just picky, but many of the illustrations are grayer or greener than the more expensive book copies. Also, many of the illustrations are "sarmy," just so sweet as to be sacchrine. I like the illustrations in the series by Walter Crane, Arthur Rackham, Edmund Dulac, etc., but they are very much outnumbered by pictures which I would never have in my collections. Still, if your goal is to have a collection of STORIES about princesses, the sea, animals, etc. (from the whole series), then you will find some great entries here.

I was so excited to have this book in time for the holidays and to give it to a very excited little girl. I got the book and everything seemed fine, we wrapped it and had her open it on christmas morning, she was thrilled! Until, we went to lay down later that night to read her favorite story, The Little Mermaid. This is when we found that two pages of the story had been ripped out! I can't return the book now, as she is already attached to having it. I am completely unsatisfied with this purchase, especially since it was labeled in "Very Good" condition.

My child is into princess stories. We have read many different princess books. We found this book at this library . Its the loveliest book on princesses we have found so now we are buying it. The stories and illustrations are just wonderful. Different art is shown for each story, so the character changes looks throughout the story, but after explaining to a child what is going on, this is fine. Its really the best book we have found.

My daughter and I chanced upon this book in our local library and promptly checked it out. The compiler, Cooper Edens (reputed to own one of the largest collections of vintage picture books in the world) has collected eight classic princess stories in this collection, i.e. Cinderella, The Frog Prince, The Little Mermaid, The Princess and the Pea, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White and Beauty and the Beast. The book is also filled with beautiful illustrations by renowned illustrators such as, Arthur Rackham, Edmund Dulac, Kay Nielsen, Walter Crane, etc. Although the original illustrations are gorgeous, something is missing in the transfer over here - some of the illustrations appear almost washed out and not as vivid or clear as found in other books. The stories though are classic princess tales which will captivate readers, especially young children.

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