



[Home](#) > Celtic Fairy Tales; Favourite Fairy Tales

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# Celtic Fairy Tales; Favourite Fairy Tales

Books Reviewed:

[Celtic Fairy Tales](#) [1]

Books Reviewed:

[Favourite Fairy Tales](#) [2]

Issue:

[120](#) [3]

Reviewer:

[Robert Dunbar](#) [4]

News & Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

The 'favourites' in **Favourite Fairy Tales** are ten of the classics from the Perrault and Grimm repertoire, starting with 'Puss in Boots', proceeding via 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Rapunzel' and ending with 'Cinderella'. In her retellings Hayes stays well within traditional interpretations, employing a prose style characterised by simple vocabulary, straightforward narrative and effective use of dialogue: the result makes for attractive versions for reading aloud. For each of the stories P J Lynch provides a sequence of accompanying full-colour illustrations, pinpointing key motifs and dramatic details. These constitute a stunningly visual second set of narratives, carefully reflecting (as in 'The Six Swans' or 'Sleeping Beauty') the changing moods of the written texts. This, at its paperback price, is a real bargain of a book.

Philip's introduction to his anthology of **Celtic Fairy Tales** emphasises their origins in oral storytelling and expresses the hope that a new generation of listeners and tellers will emerge to savour once again their magic. Should such an aspiration become a reality, then this collection of twenty stories will serve as an excellent resource. Taking 'Celtic' to include material from Breton, Cornish, Irish, Manx, Scottish and Welsh traditions, Philip retells these ancient tales in a style combining simplicity, lucidity and elegance, qualities which serve to accentuate their frequently elemental and stark dimension. Brent's artwork, a colourful gallery of paintings with gold leaf effects and decorative borders, is appropriately reminiscent of the world of medieval Celtic manuscripts.

Running Order:

57

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[1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/celtic-fairy-tales>

[2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/favourite-fairy-tales>

[3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/120>

[4] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/robert-dunbar>