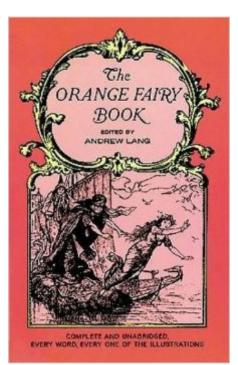
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# The Orange Fairy Book (Dover Children's Classics)





## Synopsis

It is almost impossible to envision what childhood would be like without the enchanting world of fairyland. Old witches in cloaks of gold, giants that turn into dwarfs, tears that become birds, monsters and magicians, ogres and fairies â " these are the companions who thrill boys and girls of all lands and times, as Andrew Langâ <sup>™</sup>s phenomenally successful collections of stories have proved. From the day they were first printed, the Lang fairy tale books of many colors have entertained thousands of youngsters, as they have also brought pleasure to parents who have read these classics to their children. The Orange Fairy Book delves into the oral traditions of Rhodesia, Uganda, and the American Indian; the traditions of the Punjab and of Jutland; and such familiar European sources as Hans Christian Andersen (â œThe Ugly Ducklingâ •) and Madame dâ ™Aulnoy (â œThe White Doeâ •) for its 33 stories. But it is not important that the lad climbing the tree to a cloud kingdom is an Indian brave rather than Jack, or that the giant-killer Makà ma is African. The events are familiar favorites with children the world over. All the tales are narrated in clear, lively prose. Not only are Langâ <sup>™</sup>s collections generally considered to contain the best English versions of the standard fairy tales; they are also the richest and widest in range. His position as one of Englandâ <sup>™</sup>s foremost folklorists, as well as a first-rate editor, make his collections unmatchable in the English language."Admirable series of photographic reprints of the first editions. Altogether very good value." â " New York Review of Books.

### **Book Information**

Series: Dover Children's Classics Paperback: 384 pages Publisher: Dover Publications (June 1, 1968) Language: English ISBN-10: 0486219097 ISBN-13: 978-0486219097 Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1 x 8.4 inches Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (20 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #725,069 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Anthologies #81 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Country & Ethnic #1193 in Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fantasy > Myths & Legends

#### Customer Reviews

Lang was one of the first editors to collect multicultural fairy tales into one volume for readers. The Orange Fairy Book offers tales from many cultures. Included tales are The Girl-Fish, How Isuro the Rabbit Tricked Gudu, How the Stalos Were Tricked, The Adventures of a Jackal, Story of the King Who Would See Paradise, and many others. I have enjoyed the colored fairy books for years. Don't miss the great illustrations either.

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 guite 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.

This is another fine installment of the colored fairy books by Andrew Lang, which are collections of fairy tales from all around the world. I want to say right off, if you want the good edition with the preface written by Andrew Lang and the illustrations, the Dover edition is the one to have, and most other editions should be avoided, as they are not quality nor do they have those things in them. I liked many of the stories inside, including the Girl-Fish, The Ugly Duckling, The Enchanted Wreath, Pinkel the Thief, The White Doe, and the list goes on. If you have any questions as it relates to this book, or want details about the stories inside (and what I listed is just a small taste), feel free to ask. And may stories like this guide you into Faerie, a wonderful, sometimes terrifying place, where joy and peril are everywhere, sharp as swords...

From the Brothers Grimm to The Mother Goose Fairy Tales, fairies and the magical unseen world has always fascinated me. All the various color fairy story books offered by via Kindle are wonderful flights of fancy and imagination which can take anyone out of the mundane world of cares and responsibility to a place only Peter Pan and Tinkerbell know intimately. Get a copy of each color book. They will carry you over the bumps in life and are a delight to read and reread.

I was so happy to see that Andrew Lang's Fairy Books are now available on Kindle. Don't miss this chance to check out what fairy tales used to be, before Walt Disney watered them down for modern children. This is a great book for anyone who loves a good, old-fashioned fairy tale.

I find this book to be one of the best fairy tale books I've ever read. The illustrations are simply beautiful! The different plots and twists for each tale are interesting.

I read these all through school and love each and every book of the colored fairy series. Andrew Lang writes beautifully and the illustrations are wonderful. This series should be in every child's library.

Bought this with other books in the same series. I will eventually have the whole collection that I plan to display in my dining room. I hope that my grand-children will find the same joy and escape that I did as a child through this series of books.

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