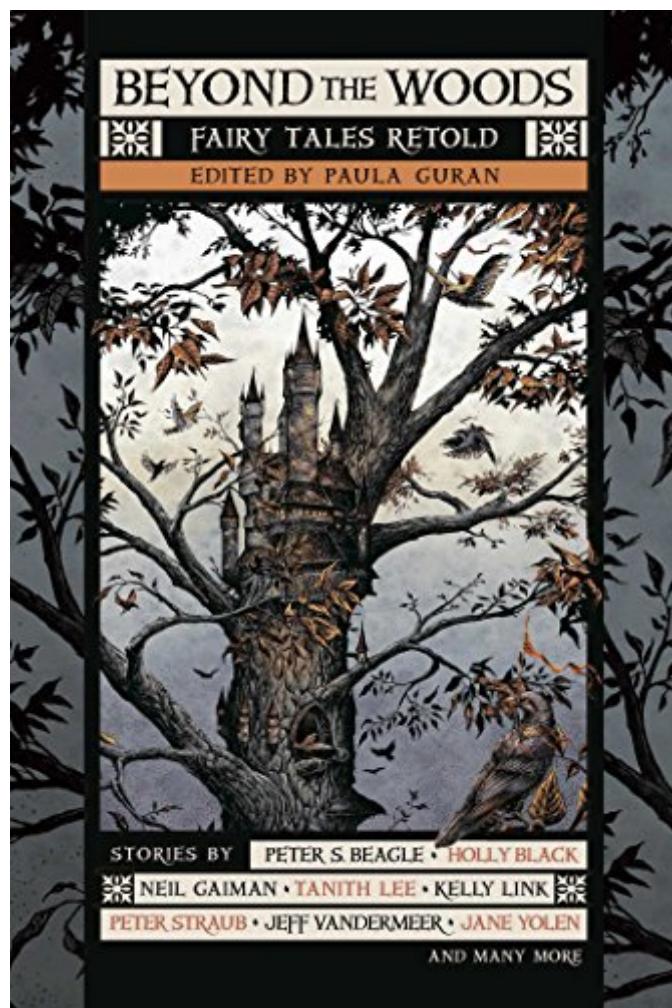


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Beyond The Woods: Fairy Tales Retold



Synopsis

Once upon a time, the stories that came to be known as "fairy tales" were cultivated to entertain adults more than children; it was only later that they were tamed and pruned into less thorny versions intended for youngsters. But in truth, they have continued to prick the imaginations of readers at all ages. Over the years, authors have often borrowed bits and pieces from these stories, grafting them into their own writing, creating literature with both new meaning and age-old significance. In the last few decades or so, they've also intentionally retold and reinvented the tales in a variety of ways—delightful or dark, wistful or wicked, sweet or satirical—that forge new trails through the forests of fantastic fiction. This new anthology compiles some of the best modern fairy-tale retellings and reinventions from award-winning and bestselling authors, acclaimed storytellers, and exciting new talents, into an enchanting collection. Explore magical new realms by traveling with us, Beyond the Woods . . .

Book Information

File Size: 2213 KB

Print Length: 536 pages

Publisher: Night Shade Books (July 5, 2016)

Publication Date: July 5, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01B6FJONQ

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #18,489 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #26 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Anthologies & Short Stories #32 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Anthologies #42 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Anthologies

Customer Reviews

Great new take on some fairy tales. Here's who wrote what in this book: Introduction: Throwing In

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Beyond the Woods: Fairy Tales Retold is exactly what it sets out to be - a compilation of fairy tales

retold for the modern generation. The modern adult generation. Where fairy tales were once cleaned up and made happy and "family-friendly" for the consumption of children (looking at you, Disney), these fairy tales go back to earlier forms when such tales were cautionary tales. If you were aware that the editor, Paula Guran, edits the annual Year's Best Dark Fantasy and Horror series, you would be prepared for this. I sort of absorbed that, but it did not register totally until I started reading the stories and found that indeed, most of these tales were on the darker side, with some extremely grim ones. I'm not complaining. I don't need all my stories to have happy endings. As it was, I enjoyed most of the stories included in the anthology; there was only 1 story that I distinctly disliked. Some of these stories are based on very familiar fairy tales, some on the not-so-familiar. Others are totally new fairy tales, but using plot devices, settings or situations common within the fairy tale formula/genre. These do not only stick to the common English/European/American tales - there are Chinese, Indian and Arabian fairy tales, as well as possibly more from cultures I am not familiar enough with to identify. But "based on" is a rather misleading term to use. Each writer brings a new perspective to well-worn tales, either retelling the story from a minor character, or from the antagonist's point of view. Some of them rewrite the whole story, giving us new endings altogether. Others retain the shape of the story, but bring it into modern times. I would recommend this extremely long tome to anyone who is a fan of fairy tales and/or horror stories. Unless you're a kid. I would not recommend this for children. Note: I received a digital ARC of this book from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

I had read some before, but it was good to reread them. Some didn't do much for me - sorry, I've never particularly liked Peter Straub stories - but they are all very well written and great extensions, redefinitions of, or simply whole new fairy tales. Definitely a collection I'll reread!

I adore folk and fairy tales and have always loved re-telling. This book definitely did not disappoint! More please!

A wonderful book of new tellings of Fairy Tales.

If you enjoy retellings of fairy tales, you will enjoy most if not all of these stories. I would definitely buy it again.

great

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