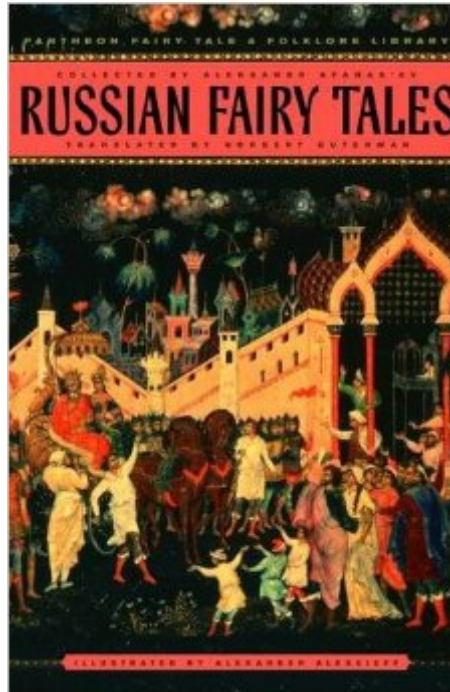


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Russian Fairy Tales (The Pantheon Fairy Tale And Folklore Library)



Synopsis

Translated by Norbert Guterman Illustrated by Alexander Alexeieff In this most comprehensive collection of classic Russian tales available in English we meet both universal fairy-tale figures—thieves and heroes, kings and peasants, beautiful damsels and terrifying witches, enchanted children and crafty animals—and such uniquely Russian characters as Koshchey the Deathless, Baba Yaga, the Swan Maiden, and the glorious Firebird. The more than 175 tales culled from a centuries-old Russian storytelling tradition by the outstanding Russian ethnographer Aleksandr Afanasiev reveal a rich, robust world of the imagination that will fascinate readers both young and old. With black-and-white drawings throughout Part of the Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library

Book Information

Series: The Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library

Paperback: 672 pages

Publisher: Pantheon Books; Reissue edition (1973)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394730909

ISBN-13: 978-0394730905

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.3 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (56 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,452 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Russian #26 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #229 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 6

Customer Reviews

I have owned since 1975 a copy of an earlier, hardcover, Pantheon reprint edition of this superb collection, which was originally published in 1945. I have used it for both light reading and for serious study (while in courses on Baltic and Slavic Folklore and Folktale Studies). The selection and translation of stories both seem first-rate. (For the latter, I have had to rely on the opinions of those who actually read Russian, instead of just having studied it in school.) The accompanying

illustrations are properly enchanting -- and only occasionally are placed where they give away the point of the story. The only real drawback is that it is still merely a selection from about three volumes (depending on the edition you prefer) of "skazki." This is the Russian term for oral tales of marvels, adventures, and misadventures, equivalent to the German "Maerchen." In both cases, the English term "Fairy Tale" is the conventional, but not really adequate, translation. (As usual in large collections, only a handful of tales concern anything like fairies.) One of the requirements for the selection seems to have been that the tales chosen should be acceptable to American parents in the 1940s, but otherwise the considerable variety of the original seems to have been largely preserved. The suggested reader age of "9 to 12" conceals the pleasure that adult readers with interests in folklore or Russian culture will derive from the volume. Fortunately, they may be lead to it by the fine supplementary material at the end, although this is now half a century old. Afanas'ev (various transliterations) was one of the many nineteenth-century collectors inspired by the Grimms,.

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