



The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy

Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy , Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie (Introduction)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy

Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy , Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie (Introduction)

The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy , Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie (Introduction)

CONTENTS Gracieuse and Percinet Fair Goldilocks The Blue Bird Prince Ariel Princess Mayblossom Princess Rosette The Golden Branch The Bee and the Orange Tree The Good Little Mouse The Ram Finette Cendron Fortun?e Babiole The Yellow Dwarf Green Serpent Princess Carpillon The Benevolent Frog The Hind in the Wood The White Cat Belle-Belle The Pigeon and the Dove Princess Belle-Etoile Prince Marcassin The Dolphin

The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy Details

Date : Published October 6th 2003 by University Press of the Pacific (first published 1698)

ISBN : 9781410208316

Author : Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy , Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie (Introduction)

Format : Paperback 588 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Classics, Cultural, France, Fiction, Short Stories, Folklore

 [Download The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy , Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie (Introduction)

From Reader Review The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy for online ebook

Susan says

1892

Erik says

This is it. This is the single best fairy tale collection I've ever read! The twenty-four stories presented in this book are beautifully written, with great imagery (despite the lack of illustrations), interesting characters, and allusions to classical mythology. This was also the very first fairy tale collection to bear the name "fairy tales" - Madame d'Aulnoy's title for it was *Contes de fees* (a term she coined).

The stories are not recognizable to most modern audiences. Some people might remember *The Blue Bird* and *The White Cat* for their appearances in Tchaikovsky's ballet version of *Sleeping Beauty*, but the others are more obscure. At one time, these stories were commonplace in children's fairy tale collections, but sadly few newer collections have them (most of the ones that do are reprints of older collections). And unlike most of today's fairy tales, these stories actually DO feature fairies.

I also praise this collection because it features several stories with active female protagonists. My favorite fairy tale of all, *The Bee and the Orange Tree*, is one of those stories. Surprisingly, the literary fairy tales of France were mostly written by women, and most of them are pretty female-friendly. (People tend to think of fairy tales as a misogynistic genre written exclusively by men, which this collection disproves.) It also gives a lot of insight to what fairy tales were like before the Brothers Grimm.

This collection is definitely not appropriate for children, as the stories are quite violent and two of them even feature unhappy endings. I would recommend it for teenagers and adults, as well as older kids who can handle the darker content. I'd definitely recommend it to older girls who are fond of princesses but find Disney Princess and Barbie movies too childish. The language is very complicated, though definitely easier to read than Tolkien - keep in mind that the stories were originally intended for an upper-class audience (d'Aulnoy was a baroness). While French literary fairy tales are my favorite fairy tales, most of them don't have the universal appeal that the Brothers Grimms' stories have. In other words, this collection probably isn't for everyone.

Actual copies of this book are kinda hard to find, but the entire collection is available on [SurLaLune Fairy Tales](#).

Marquise says

This edition contains 22 literary/"salon" fairy tales by Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy (other editions may have 3 more for a total of 25 tales), selected from the multi-volume edition of her entire production that are out in French.

The length of these stories varies, some are short-story length and others as long as a novelette and a novella,

and the introduction explains that all of them are the most famous ones, some of which were already published in individual editions in English, illustrations included, but at least a couple were never translated before that I'm aware of until this edition, the translator of which is named as J. R. Planché, the same who translated my unabridged English edition of Madame de Villeneuve's *Beauty and the Beast*, and that I consider an excellent, excellent translator after having originally read these tales (d'Aulnoy's and Villeneuve's) in the original French. These tales are public domain and available online, but not all are by this translator, so I recommend you look out for Planché when searching a copy for yourself, digital or print.

Of the fairy tales, my favourites were:

THE RAM

A "Beauty and the Beast" type of tale, with an unexpected and shocking twist. I'd already read this one before, but it was nice to revisit it.

FINETTE CENDRON

This was a curious rendition of "Cinderella" (the Perrault version, this one came a few years afterwards) with a significant chunk of "Hänsel and Gretel" mixed in. Probably my favourite version of this tale.

THE YELLOW DWARF

It gave some "Rumpelstiltskin" vibes, but it's not the same plot nor similar beyond the vague similarity at the start. This was also the tale that taught me that, for all her glittering worlds, ultra-beautiful and ultra-handsome, happy-forever-and-ever tales, Madame d'Aulnoy doesn't hesitate to punch you in the guts out of nowhere.

THE GREEN SERPENT

This one I'd already read before as well and still keeps up well. It's the Countess' retelling of "Cupid & Psyche," with a bit of a "Sleeping Beauty in the Wood" flavour (I'm sensing Madame must've loved Perrault's tales a lot, she takes a fair bit of inspiration from him) at the beginning, and a twist involving the heroine that differentiates it significantly from the Greek myth. This is also probably the only one in which the protagonist doesn't have a highly flattering name like in all the other tales, because she's called Laidronette, from *laide* = ugly in French.

THE HIND IN THE WOOD

Somewhat similar, thematically speaking, to "Brother and Sister" with a wee sprinkling of "The Singing, Springing Lark" (not the plot itself, just one element). You could also spot the Diana & Actaeon myth if you make an effort to see the connection, though it's not exactly obvious. It's the simplest of my favourites, and sweet.

THE WHITE CAT

Maybe the most subtly sultry of the tales, which is to be expected given that cats are the stars. This one's also a "Beauty and the Beast" type of tale, which I'm also beginning to suspect might've been one of the Countess' favourite themes, if not the favourite, seeing how recurrent it is in all her stories.

BELLE-BELLE, OR THE CHEVALIER FORTUNÉ

By far the most original tale in this book, in my opinion. It reminds me strongly of Hans-Christian Andersen's "The Three Wishes" because of the theme, but it's an entirely new plot of Aulnoy's own making. It has a knight-errant as protagonist, who happens to be a true knight without being a knight. You'll have to read to know, I'm not spoiling it!

I'd award these seven stories 5 stars each, and 4.5 stars overall for the entire anthology. This should be your pick if you want to be introduced to "salon" fairy tales from 17th and 18th century Europe that aren't by Perrault or the Grimms; Madame d'Aulnoy can be melodramatic at times, but she's a much better storyteller

than the Countess of Ségur and other *précieuses*.

Velma says

aka The Fairy Tales Of Madame d'Aulnoy - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madame_d...
