



Fairytales Slashed 2

Megan Derr , Sasha L. Miller

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Stories in this compilation of fairytales are written by Megan Derr and Sasha Miller. In this second volume of fairytales, see what happens when magic is put to the best and worst of uses.

In *The Beast*, a beautiful but spoiled young man is attacked by a dark faerie seeking vengeance... vengeance that destroys the young man's world, and leaves him hideously disfigured and afflicted by a terrible curse...

The Wizard's Tower is the story of a soldier who receives a letter informing him his brother has gone missing, one of many victims of an evil wizard. But when he arrives in the village where his brother lives, all that remains of the wizard is a lone tower and a strange young man...

The Huntsman faithfully serves his King, guarding the forest that surrounds and protects the castle. But the peace his kingdom has long enjoyed is shattered when the King returns home early with a new Queen on his arm, a woman of great beauty and terrible magic...

Sleeping Beauty tells the story of a poor, young teacher desperate to save his sister, the only family he has left. But her disease is rare, and the cure beyond their means, and the only chance at saving her requires a terrible price...

Fairytales Slashed 2 Details

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From Reader Review Fairytales Slashed 2 for online ebook

Shelby says

3.5 Stars

Lillian Francis says

The Beast - 4 stars

The Wizard's Tower - 4 stars (but there were a lot of editing errors in this one)

The Huntsman - 4 stars. This is darker than the others. My heart broke over and over for Cal as he was forced to do things he didn't want to do (Yes, I'm being vague because spoilers). The romance is probably the strongest of the collection. And I need a story titled 'the goblin's alchemist' or some such, because those two need a story.

Sleeping Beauty - 3.5 stars. The least satisfying of the four. The main focus of the story was the friendship between Asa and Cos (from The Wizard's Tower) and there wasn't enough attraction between Asa and Bralin to carry the relationship part of the story. Also I think everyone treated Bralin poorly after his 'outburst, when Asa and Cos were the ones in the wrong. (Plus loads of editing errors in this one)

Ignore the editing issues and enjoy these low steam, different takes on fairy stories.

Josephine says

The Beast - Megan Derr: ★★★★★

A more angsty take on the traditional Beauty and the Beast story

The Wizard's Tower - Sasha L. Miller: ★★★

I liked the story and characters, but wasn't really feeling the chemistry between the male leads

The Huntsman - Megan Derr: ★★★★★

Loved it, probably my favourite of the collection

Sleeping Beauty - Sasha L. Miller: ★★★★★

I found the resolution to be a little too tidy, but overall, I really liked it

Kira says

The Beast by Megan Derr - 2 stars (*Beauty and the Beast*)

Absolutely hated the Beast (character) at the beginning but he redeems himself at the end. The true essence of Beauty and the Beast.

The Wizard's Tower by Sasha L. Miller - 2 stars (*Rapunzel*)

Roark's only real personality is that he's grumpy all the time? A lot of it was really vague? --this is how one of the characters actually speaks...which is a little annoying...

The Huntsman by Megan Derr - 4 stars (*Snow White*)

By far the best story in the collection, I think, and my favorite of the lot. It is perhaps a little dark, but Snow White is a pretty dark tale. Waiting (looking?) for the story about Goulet and Marcum.

Sleeping Beauty by Sasha L. Miller - 2 stars (*Sleeping Beauty*)

My least favorite in the collection. Started off pretty rough and the characters didn't really leave much of an impression. Bralin was much more likable in *The Wizard's Tower* where he wasn't a main character.

Melody says

Imaginative

Darn it it's over. There needs to be a book 3. I love these unique, sweet, gay fairy tale romances. This book is beautiful. Megan Derr has become one of my favorite new authors.

Mercedes says

I loved this a lot, except for the last story where every other sentence ended in a question mark. Was it a question or a statement or a doubtful statement? I don't know and I don't care and I found them too annoying!

Mandi says

Really enjoyed all the stories offered in this. Nice m/m flavored twists to fairytales. There's almost no smexxin (except for that one time...), but the writing draws you in so well, you don't even miss it.

A few editing errors (on the Kindle edition anyways), but nothing to take away your enjoyment of the book.

Argona says

I really liked:

- The Beast by Megan Derr, a retelling of the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale.
- The Huntsman by Megan Derr, a retelling of the Snow White fairy tale.

Both were enjoyable, engaging stories with nice twists.

The rest of the stories were good, but not very memorable.

Mike says

Get comfortable. This review may end up longer than the book.

If you've read Fairytales Slashed 1, which had 17 short stories - many of which were either different enough from standard-issue fairy tales that I didn't recognize their influence, or else were totally original - you may not realize that this isn't quite the same thing.

Volume 2 only has four stories. They're longer and more involved, so it's not like this book is markedly shorter than the first version. I do tend to like my stories longer and meatier, but there's also less wiggle room if one falls flat, you know? In book one, if I didn't care for one of the stories, I had sixteen others to pick up the slack.

Now, this is interesting: I didn't realize before I bought this - or really, even, until I was about 99% done - that this wasn't entirely written by Megan Derr. Yes, even though Sasha L. Miller's name is right there. When I was just about done with this review, I went back to see who did what, and interestingly, the two stories I liked best were Derr's. I call this interesting because I bought the book thinking she wrote the whole thing like she did the first volume, and I've been on kind of a Megan Derr kick lately in any case, and it was unexpected to have what was essentially a blind trial prove that I really do like her stuff better than the average gay fairy tale. Or, I would if there were any such thing as an "average gay fairy tale."

THE BEAST (Derr) - 4.5 stars - This is a reimagining of Beauty and the Beast. Now, volume one had a BATB retelling in it too ("The Rosebush," if memory serves) that I really liked, so as soon as I realized what was going on, I was hoping that it would be both different enough from that other tale to qualify as a separate story (I'd have been ticked if I paid for four short stories and found out I'd already read one of them) and that it was also as engaging as that other one.

I needn't have worried. This was, IMO, the best in the volume. It started out rather, hmm, grittier? than I was expecting. Volume one was pretty G-rated, so I was surprised to see this one start off with a...well, I suppose "a bang" fits pretty well, huh? I was also a little worried when I realized just how truly entitled and selfish and hateful the beast was; it's hard to get the reader on a character's side when there really isn't much to like about him. And she did an artful job of turning him into a sympathetic character.

I have very little bad to say about The Beast. It occurred to me as I read that I might have made some different choices if I were telling the story...but I wasn't, and she did a fine job it.

THE WIZARD'S TOWER (Miller) - 2.5 stars - I confess, this was probably my least favorite in the book. I *think* this is supposed to be a reupholstered Rapunzel, but I only think that because the book came right out with the classic "let down your hair" line. Other than that, there really weren't any similarities, at least from what I can remember of Rapunzel, between this story and that one. (Which I readily admit probably isn't much, so don't let that sway you.)

Two things really grated on me. The first was one of the main characters' insistence on ending declarative sentences with question marks. Think Rupunzel, valley girl style. It's an artistic decision that set him apart, but I kind of wanted to shake that particular character. Often.

The other is Roark, the main main character. I didn't like him. Usually, with unlikeable characters, they're humanized somewhere in the story so that the reader can become more sympathetic. The end of this story, I still kind of wanted to hit him. It's a theme I've seen before in fantasy stories with gay romance elements, where the main character is this beastly, unpleasant dude with some sort of irresistible masculine energy. It's hard to imagine why the other characters forgive the fact that the guy is a great hairy toad and fall for him

anyway, with no charm in evidence. (Rugged good looks certainly aren't enough for me, and I can't say I have a whole lot of respect for people who overlook immature, nasty behavior just because the perpetrator is hot.) So my main problem with the book was that I didn't like Roark, and the author didn't give him enough in the way of redeeming qualities for me to grow to like him. When you find yourself rooting for the bad guys to take your hero down a peg...

THE HUNTSMAN (Derr) - *4 stars; 5 if not for the editing* - This is a retelling of Snow White, and it's pretty clever. The author manages to take other unrelated fairy tales (Sleeping Beauty, for example) and work them into the story in a peripheral way. Unlike the last story, I liked all the characters in this one. I did think once or twice that the Huntsman seemed to be afflicted with Poor Suffering Martyr syndrome, and maybe he'd have fewer problems if he'd try being a little more practical, but he did alright in the end. I did like all of the supporting characters. Even the evil stepmother!

The one flaw in this tale was the poor proofing. As a whole, this book wasn't as well copyedited/proofed as the prior volume, but for some reason, about five times as many mistakes jumped out of this story at me as did in the previous two stories. Obvious mistakes. Typos, punctuation, at least one instance of the wrong pronoun being used... I think I'd bump this up to five stars and promote this story to "favorite" if the story was tidied up, but as it is, the errors distracted from an otherwise awesome tale.

SLEEPING BEAUTY (Miller) - *3.5 stars* - This story returns to the world of "The Wizard's Tower" (story #2). Which is unfortunate, because, like I mentioned, I didn't care for that world much. (Normally, BTW, I love cameos.) This one relegates Roark to supporting actor and let's the others take a more involved role, and that's the only thing that saved this story; Roark is still a toad without any manners. Bad enough that I still couldn't put my finger on what redeeming quality he had, and he must have had one, because none of these people have stopped speaking to him. Anyway, Roark is refreshingly absent for much of the tale.

One reason for a less than perfect score for this one is tied to one of my problems with the second story - speaking declarations as though they're questions. NOW it's not only the one dude that does it, it's like a contagious disease. I want to believe that this was an artistic decision, done entirely on purpose. I assume she's attempting to show hesitation and subservience. It's still kind of maddening.

All in all, I enjoyed this collection of stories. I know I talked a great deal about the faults, but I read this book straight through to the end, and I'm glad I did. It's not quite worth the five stars I gave volume one, but it's still good despite the flaws.

Justyna Ma?gorzata says

I've just read The Beast and I have to write something about it, because the story is almost a full 5* from me. I was so engaged in the story I even cried at one time, which is the first time I have cried because of any book in quite some time. The story is long, but thanks to that the evolution of Alcor is more believable. And it was just right that Rohese met the beast not right after the curse, but quite a time later. I came to really like Alcor. Rohese was a slight too perfect, but I guess him being so only served to humble the Beast for not seeing and appreciating it before. A really emotional and lovely tale.

Okay, so now I have read the Huntsman as well, and I'm sorry to say I'm disappointed. First of all, what the queen had forced Calder to do was disgusting and didn't sit well with me. Secondly, Caldor looked promising in the beginning, but turned out to be something between a martyr and emo kid. And he was simply an idiot and a coward for not going to get Lev's help right from the start. Levaughn, on the other hand, was boring and it did nothing to help his image that while he had been in love with Calder all the time, he slept with

other men when they were apart. Marcum and Goulet were much more to my liking and I was disappointed that while they were obviously interested in each other, their story didn't get further than that. Just sneaky glances and jealous comments. I really want their own story!

Natalie says

Okay so unlike the first volume, there are fewer stories but they're longer. The first inspired by Beauty and the beast. A noble is cursed by a dark fae. I really liked this one. It was sad but sweet, a tale of friendship, loss and love.

Didn't like the second story as much. Rapunzel. Roark goes to find his missing brother who's been taken by a wizard. Cos was a little too shy, he felt like a small child so it didn't feel right. Roark has serious anger management issues. I preferred the first story.

Ooh it's hard to tell if I liked the huntsman or the beast best. This one had everything, goblin, wizard, alchemist and of course Snow White and the evil queen. I loved this one from start to finish. Really wanted to see what happened with Marcum and Goulet.

Cos and Roark are back in Sleeping beauty, this time Bralin has a love interest. Asa is a poor wizard assistant professor looking after his dying sister, he spends most of his time draining his magic into her or researching spells to save her. Kinda felt like Cos was the main source of trouble in this one. Roark was less angry and Bralin was an average pain. Felt sorry for Asa and his sister.

Deeze says

The Beast by Megan Derr

A enjoyable and interesting twist on the Beauty and the Beast tale. I really liked we got to see the Beast for a while before he meets his Beauty.

4 stars.

The Tower by Sasha L Miller

I really enjoyed the Rapunzel twist to this story, a very well thought out idea. I never warmed to Roark though. He was mean and gruff, and I never really saw much of a change in him.

3.5 Stars.

The Huntsman by Megan Derr

Probably my favorite story. Not only a clever twist on the Snow White story, but packed full of much more detail. The romance in this one was probably the strongest for me too.

4.5Stars.

Sleeping Beauty by Sasha L Miller.

Another well thought out and interesting take on the Sleeping Beauty theme. We get to meet up with Cos, Roark and Bralin again, and I actually liked Roark more this time. Asa and Bralin were the main couple and while I could fully understand Bralin losing his temper, my heart still broke for poor Asa. Luckily like all true fairytales I didn't have to wait long to see their HEA lol.

4 Stars.

Overall 5 stars because the authors did a wonderful job spinning these Fairy tales into something more.

T.T. Kove says

1st read: The Wizard's Tower by Sasha L. Miller. Awesome story, from start till finish. 5 stars!

2nd read: Sleeping Beauty by Sasha L. Miller. Kind-of sequel to the first, but with a new set of main characters. 5 stars!

3rd read: The Beast by Megan Derr. A new spin on Beauty and the Beast, and fabulously done. 5 stars!

4th read: The Huntsman by Megan Derr. A spin on the Snow White fairytale. It was brilliant, but got taken a little down because of a certain event that I hadn't expected and never wanted to happen. 4.5 stars!

DayDreamer says

3.5 Stars

5 stars for *The Beast*

4 stars for *The Huntsman*

3 stars for *The Wizard's Tower*

2 stars for *Sleeping Beauty*

Tigress62 says

Barely 3 stars - I am really disappointed! This book is definitely darker than volume one, which is not a bad thing in itself (most fairytales ARE really dark, originally), and the stories are far longer than the much lighter "shorts" of volume one. Unfortunately, all of them are far TOO long, boring the reader by introducing twists and turns that unnecessarily deter from the main story, by going too far into details, by repeating stuff over and over again, and by explaining every little thing where there is absolutely no need. As usual with this author, there are many typos, words missing here and there, and a few completely garbled sentences. Besides, I do not appreciate the complete lack of reasonably acceptable, if not sympathetic, female characters in this book (apart from Snow White, who is something else entirely, they are either sick/helpless, unfriendly/rude or extremely disgusting/evil).

THE BEAST (Beauty and the Beast) is my favourite, but mostly because I am very much in love with beautiful and gentle Rohese. The Monster turns into a Beast, and I have a hard time comprehending throughout the story why exactly Rohese falls for him (again): apart from the fact that the Beast does not do drugs or alcohol and is not physically abusive anymore, he is a good cook (who never eats himself), he owns

and reads a lot of books, and he also helps Rohese's family financially, at the very end. Yay!!! But to me, all these things, though nice perks, are not really that endearing as such - and I just expected there to be more ... The introduction of Meir is strange, and there are some inconsistencies. The things that do not fit, at least not for me, include the rewarding "investments", the solicitor, the book publishing, Rohese forgetting (but not really forgetting) etc. The HEA is rushed, but ok.

THE WIZARD'S TOWER (Rapunzel) has a nice concept, but I do not like the characters at all, Bralin being the only exception, with his cheerful demeanour. The whole atmosphere of the book/village/farm is oppressive bordering on hostile; Roark is an unsympathetic grouch; Cos is far too childlike (and where did that love come from, with Roark mostly yelling/growling/snapping at him?), and there is absolutely nothing endearing Amara to me. Besides, the HFN feels somehow rushed and forced.

THE HUNTSMAN (Snow White and the Seven Dwarves) is not bad, focusing on the huntsman (the magic binding him to his ancient forest is an interesting touch!) instead of the princess, but again, there were so many far-fetched details that I did not truly enjoy it. I liked the bickering between Goulet and Marcum, though, and I would not mind reading their story.

SLEEPING BEAUTY (well, Sleeping Beauty, of course!) does not have anything in common with the original story (apart from Sariah and Cos sleeping for 2 weeks, but for a totally different reason). It is mostly a tale of two awkward guys who refuse/are unable to talk to each other, and about complications arising from curses. The story is actually the continuation of THE WIZARD'S TOWER, set a few years later: Bralin - whom I did NOT like this time around - is the MC, and his colleague Asa is his secret crush (who secretly crushes on him in return - surprise!!!!). Roark and Cos also make an appearance, with Roark still being a grouchy neanderthal, and Cos now being one of Asa's students. Cos seems a bit more grown up, though not by much, but he does save the day, and there is a HFN for Bralin and Asa. The reference to landlords and their (non-)liability for exploding ovens, the Distor-Mafia empire, the recurring mention of trekking up five flights of stairs being exhausting, the mention of slums, as well as the elaboration of the differences between assistant and full professor threw me, though, and I wondered frequently whether this was still a fantasy story set in a random kingdom or a contemporary story with magic in it.

I am seriously considering to abandon the series at this point ...
