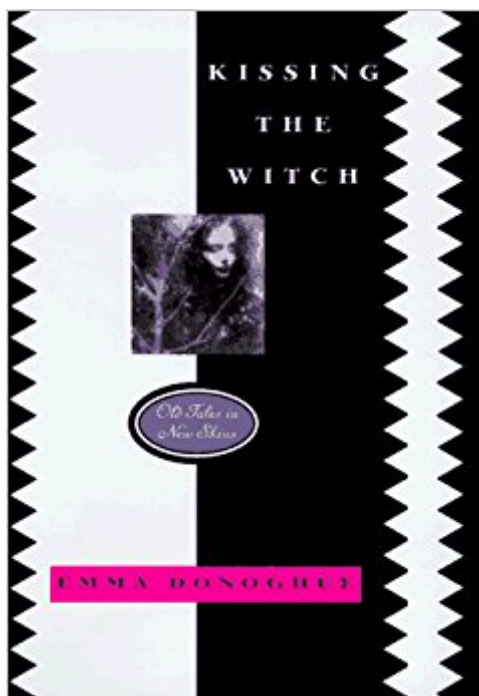


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Kissing The Witch: Old Tales In New Skins



Synopsis

Cinderella forsakes the handsome prince and runs off with the fairy godmother; Beauty discovers the Beast behind the mask is not so very different from the face she sees in the mirror; Snow White is awakened from slumber by the bittersweet fruit of an unnamed desire. Acclaimed writer Emma Donoghue spins new tales out of old in a magical web of thirteen interconnected stories about power and transformation and choosing one's own path in the world. In these fairy tales, women young and old tell their own stories of love and hate, honor and revenge, passion and deception. Using the intricate patterns and oral rhythms of traditional fairy tales, Emma Donoghue wraps age-old characters in a dazzling new skin.

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: HarperTeen; 1st American ed edition (May 15, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060275758

ISBN-13: 978-0060275754

Product Dimensions: 4.8 x 0.9 x 8.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,725,232 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Literary](#) #100 in [Books > Teens > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Fairy Tales & Folklore > Anthologies](#) #739 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories](#)

Customer Reviews

At age 28 Emma Donoghue is already a marvel. The author of two critically acclaimed novels, a fascinating work of lesbian history, and a series of successful stage plays, Donoghue can apparently do anything. With *Kissing the Witch*, a collection of revisionist fairy tales, she has proven once again that she is a great writer. In these 13 interconnected tales she finds new meanings in old stories: Cinderella runs off with her fairy godmother, Snow White's awakening is more erotic than romantic, and Rapunzel discovers that her freedom, although not her salvation, is in her hair. Donoghue writes about women, some lesbians and some not, and makes them the center of her fantastical world. The bold, daring boys of the Grimm tales are not here, but in their place are vibrant, knowing, and brave women and girls who are finding out what the world holds for them.

Of this collection of 13 revisionist, overtly feminist fairy tales, PW said, "Sophisticated teenagers (and adults too) will be mesmerized by the powerful voices and intricate structure, while the lesbian endings promise controversy." Ages 12-up. (Apr.) rCopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

I really enjoyed this read, especially because I love fairytales. I grew up with the traditional fairytales, and now that I'm a bit older I appreciate Emma Donoghue's fresh take on these classics. The writing is beautiful and melodic, and the stories themselves are hilarious, sometimes dark, and overwhelmingly insightful. Emma Donoghue ripped classic fairytales apart and created new ones from the ruins, and it's beautiful.

Emma Donoghue is truly gifted. This was the first book I ever read that was written by her and I fell in love. All of the stories are connected and keep going back in time "shall I tell you my own story? It is a tale of a..." I have got to say however my favorite was probably the tale of the rose (Beauty and the Beast) there was a plot twist and I have got to say it was one of the plot twists that truly made me gasp out loud. All in all an amazing book and if you have any doubts on buying this book just do it because you will not regret it.

A 1997 New York Times Notable Book, KISS THE WITCH is beyond amazing! This is fairy tales retold with a feminist slant, and done so well. Some of the stories are familiar and some take thought to recognize and Donoghue connects them so well. Emma Donoghue is a brilliant writer. If you aren't reading her you should be whether you are male or female. Always good, always entertaining, and brilliant prose. SO HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

This was a very quick and enjoyable read for me. I read "Room" and was instantaneously drawn to this writer. I enjoy her style and creativity. This book left most things to the imagination and I think it was its biggest charm. My ten year old was also fascinated when I was telling her (without the adult elements) the way the author connected and retold famous fairy tales. Wonderful book and very thought provoking.

An interesting new approach to old tales that everyone know. I particularly liked the switch of the genres and the humour present in these new stories. An enjoyable and easy read.

Emma Donoghue is an accomplished novelist, but this is a reworking of traditional fairy tales. What a delightful read this book is. It is quite a slight volume and each tale transitions into the next. I think her idea was to revamp traditional tales with a feminist and very individualistic twist and she succeeds spectacularly. I find this author writing lyrical and original. I consumed this volume in a couple of sittings. Recommended to anyone who enjoys quality storytelling.

Some of the stories seemed a little forced but all and all it was a great read and ingenious way to bring them together.

I bought this for a Women's Lit class at school, and am so glad my professor assigned it. I'll reread several of these stories again for my own enjoyment.

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