

The Fairy's Mistake (Princess Tales)

By Gail Carson Levine

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Gail Carson Levine charmed the world with *Ella Enchanted*, her spirited retelling of the Cinderella story. Now this award-winning author turns her attention to two more classic fairy tales, and deftly turns them upside down and inside out with her trademark wit and hilarity.

In *The Fairy's Mistake*, two very different sisters have two very different encounters with the fairy Ethelinda. Rosella is kind and helpful. Her reward: Jewels and gems tumble out of her mouth whenever she speaks. Myrtle is rude and spiteful. Her punishment: Bugs and vipers slither out of her mouth. The fairy Ethelinda feels she's meted out justice just right--until she discovers Rosella has been locked up by a greedy prince and Myrtle is having the time of her life!

In *The Princess Test*, King Humphrey has decided it's time for his son, Prince Nicholas, to marry. But he must make sure the bride is a real princess. So he devises a series of princess tests, designed to weed out the phonies and the fakes. Meanwhile, Nicholas has fallen in love with Lorelei, a mere blacksmith's daughter. She's no princess, but he wants to marry her all the same--but how will she ever pass the terrible tests?

In these first two delightfully entertaining, laugh-out-loud Princess Tales, Gail Levine gently spoofs the notion that fairies are always right and that tests can ever prove a person's worth, but holds fast to the notion that true love will always win in the end.

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The Fairy's Mistake (Princess Tales) By Gail Carson Levine Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Grade 3-6-Two novellas that are grounded in well-known tales and set in the magical kingdom of Biddle. The Fairy's Mistake is a play on "Toads and Diamonds," a story from Perrault about gifts given by a witch to two sisters, one kind and the other unkind. The Princess Test is based on Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea." Illustrated with full-page pen-and-ink drawings, both retellings are delightfully lighthearted, with little doubt that good will ultimately triumph over evil. There is a rich use of language and spirited characters, especially the females. Although "The Princess Tales" lack the complexity of plot and fantastical invention found in Levine's Ella Enchanted (HarperCollins, 1997), they make a nice addition to the genre of novels based on and yet departing from traditional tales. Although their short length and sly humor would make the books appeal to reluctant readers, the difficult font makes it hard to recommend them to that audience.
Carol A. Edwards, Sonoma County Library, Santa Rosa, CA
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From Kirkus Reviews
PLB 0-06-028061-1 This hand-sized volume features delicate black-and-white line drawings that are very much in keeping with the tone of many fairy tales, but those familiar with Levine's Ella Enchanted will wisely expect, and be gratified by, the sly and unexpected foolery of this story and its companion, The Princess Test (0-06-028062-X; PLB 0-06-028063-8). In The Fairy's Mistake, Ethelinda is horrified to discover that her fairy blessing on the kind Rosella, that jewels fall from her mouth when she speaks, is being exploited by her greedy new husband, Prince Harold. Her curse on Rosella's sister, Myrtle, who drops slimy and creepy things from her mouth when she speaks, is also going awry; Myrtle uses this to get whatever she wants from people. The Princess Test takes on Lorelei's ability to feel a pea under 20 mattresses: this young thing is a great trial to her family as she is allergic to, or injures herself with, almost every household item she touches. Genuinely delightful and funny, both tales are set in the village of Snettering-on-Snoakes in the Kingdom of Biddle, a place readers will want to visit again. (Fiction. 7-12) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review
"This hand-sized volume features delicate black-and-white line drawings that are very much in keeping with the tone of many fairy tales, but those familiar with Levine's" Ella Enchanted" will wisely expect, and be gratified by, the sly and unexpected foolery of this story and its companion, " The Princess Test." In" The Fairy's Mistake, " Ethelinda is horrified to discover that her fairy blessing on the kind Rosella, that jewels fall from her mouth when she speaks, is being exploited by her greedy new husband, Prince Harold. Her curse on Rosella's sister, Myrtle, who drops slimy and creepy things from her mouth when she speaks, is also going awry; Myrtle uses this to get whatever she wants from people." The Princess Test" takes on Lorelei's ability to feel a pea under 20 mattresses: this young thing is a great trial to her family as she is allergic to, or injures herself with, almost every household item she touches. Genuinely delightful and funny, both tales are set in the village of Snettering-on-Snoakes in the Kingdom of Biddle, a place readers will want to visit again."--" Kirkus Reviews""The author of Ella Enchanted revisits similar territory in these first two installments of "The Princess Tales" series. Extended spoofs of the Grimms' ""Toads and Diamonds"" and Andersen's ""The Princess and the Pea, "" the stories feature characters with names such as Humphrey, Sam, Leonard, and Ethelinda. The action and dialogue, likewise, are down-to-earth and dryly humorous. In the first tale, a fairy rewards and punishes two sisters' respective kindness and greed, but both plans backfire wildly: Rosella ends up unhappily engaged to a prince who only has eyes for the jewels that spill fromher mouth, while people

give Myrtle whatever her heart desires, so long as she keeps her mouth shut and her insects and reptiles to herself. All eventually works out, but the jokes wear thin by the end. The humor is more varied and original in the second story, in which a prince falls for a blacksmith's kind daughter but despairs of her ever passing his parents' "princess tests." He doesn't know it, but the girl's a shoo-in; Lorelei has the fragile constitution of a princess, and with her polite fastidiousness and excessive sensitivity toward food, clothing, and surroundings she easily crushes the competition-seventy-nine real princesses. Static and unnecessary illustrations accompany the stories, which are printed in an ornate, difficult-to-read typeface. Nowhere near as enchanting as Ella, but fans of funny fairy tales will have some laughs." -- "Horn Book"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wayne Millican:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book The Fairy's Mistake (Princess Tales) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

Robert Rooks:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try to and must have the free time or they will get great deal of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , if we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is usually The Fairy's Mistake (Princess Tales).

Lee Long:

The book untitled The Fairy's Mistake (Princess Tales) contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author provides you in the new age of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

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