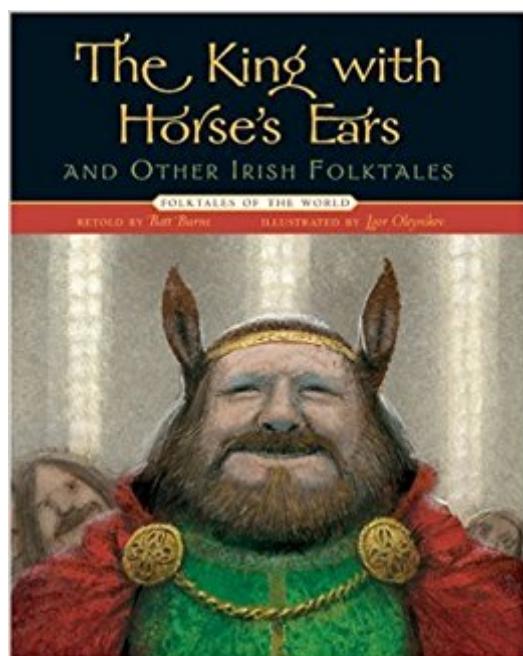


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# The King With Horse's Ears And Other Irish Folktales (Folktales Of The World)



## Synopsis

Storytelling is one of Ireland's oldest and grandest traditions, and these vivid tales of far-off days will introduce young readers to the country's irresistible folklore. Here are brave warriors with superhuman skills, monster dogs with blazing eyes, fairy folk and leprechauns, and the magical land of Tir na nÓg. Author Batt Burns grew up with these beloved characters and legends, and he captures all their enchanting language and flights of fancy. Exquisite art by Igor Oleynikov enhances every tale. Contents include: The King with Horse's Ears, The Greedy Barber, Oisín in the Land of the Ever Young, Back from the Fairies, Paying the Rent, A Clever Leprechaun, The Lost Island of Lonesome Seals, and many more!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4 "8 "This collection of folktales by a master storyteller will make readers feel as if they have stepped into an Irish country farmhouse for an evening of tales near the hearth. The 13 stories range from legends of warriors such as Cuchulainn and Fionn Mac Cumhail, to tales of leprechauns and pookas, to stories of resourceful farmers and demanding landlords. The selections range from 4

to 10 pages in length, and are suitable for reading aloud. Each story contains a smattering of Gaelic names and phrases; pronunciation guides are included as footnotes, and a glossary expands upon unfamiliar terminology. The author provides a note at the beginning of each story to set the scene, and in the back matter he cites sources for the tales. Oleynikov's gouache illustrations provide a fitting accompaniment to the lyrical yet wild tone of the stories, at times haunting and mysterious, at times rollicking and playful. Booktalk this volume with Kate Thompson's *The New Policeman* (HarperCollins, 2007) for readers who are fascinated by Irish culture and legends. "Misti Tidman, Boyd County Public Library, Ashland, KY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

These 13 Irish tales retold by storyteller Burns follow fairies and warriors, heroes and clever thieves. The oft-anthologized tale jostles alongside the lesser known in a collection that features Fionn Mac Cumhail, one of Ireland's most famous heroes, as well as Gadai Dubh, one of Ireland's most famous thieves. The stories are cleanly retold in contemporary, accessible language, and each is introduced with a short paragraph providing cultural or other information. A glossary offers a guide to the pronunciation of Gaelic words, and Gaelic names are given phonetic pronunciation within the tales themselves. Burns opens with an introduction explaining his storytelling upbringing and concludes with sources for his selected tales. Oleynikov's paintings have a rough texture that suits the energy of the retellings and adds to the lively tone. This is a hearty collection, handsomely produced with Celtic-knot borders and gouache full-page and spot illustrations. Readers (and potential storytellers) seeking humor and adventure would do well to begin here. Grades 3-6.

--Negro Janice Del

Wonderful printed versions of traditional Irish Folklore. I would recommend this to anyone interested in Ireland, folktales, or just interesting stories. It is refreshingly well written and entertaining! The only thing missing is the Irish Brogue!

I bought this for my Irish husband who loves it. However, coming from a different background, I would not buy these stories for very young children - can be quite scary and gruesome.

Batt Burns is one of the foremost shanachee ( storyteller ) from Ireland. His CD's or tapes are wonderful for kids and adults. I'm super pleased at his new book. My students and I love it. It's really interesting that "The King with Horse's Ears" is paralleled in , of all places, Tuva/Mongolia, with "The

King with Donkey's Ears," almost the very same story.

Very unusual and creative storytelling.

It arrived in perfect condition. The young woman in Brussels was thrilled to have received it. She is an educator interested in children's folk tales.

Not sure I would read it to young kids but it is interesting.

I'll say from the start, I can't say if this collection is true to Irish Folktales as told by Irish grandparents from memory. I'm not Irish. But after reading Batt Burns' retellings of these stories, I kind of wish I was. The stories are short enough to make for good bedtime story, but not so long that interest falters. There are pronunciation keys for the dialect words within the story, although I doubt I read them quite right. The stories, like any good folktales, come back with good morals about strengthening your family or helping your friends, and, generally, are uplifting. I found Igor Oleynikov's pictures really brought the stories to life. Especially in the tale of the Pooka, his illustration helps show a creature that is reasonably scary, but also fits with what the tale tells of the mythical creature. All in all, excellent stories to pass on, and a reasonable start to learning parts of Irish culture. I look forward to reading more from the Folktales of the World Series.

Some of the stories were hard to follow and seemed to be missing pieces. But overall it was a beautiful book!

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