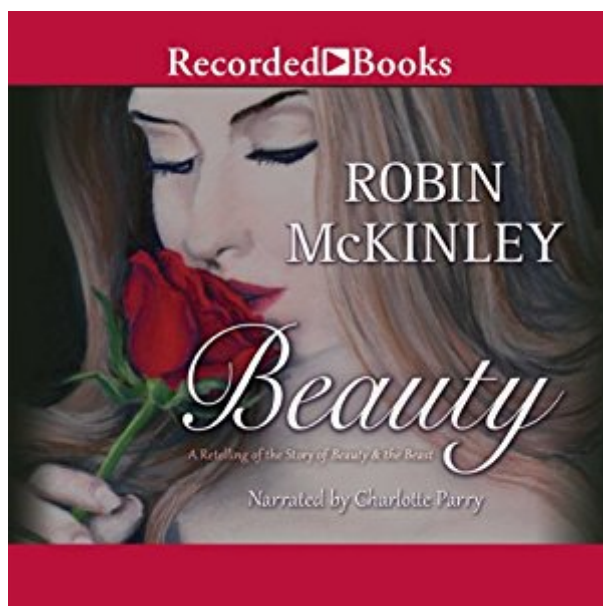


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Beauty: A Retelling Of The Story Of Beauty & The Beast



Synopsis

New York Times best-selling author Robin McKinley has won numerous awards for her writing, including the prestigious Newbery Medal. Though her two sisters are beautiful, Beauty, despite her name, is thin and awkward - but she's also courageous. So when her father makes a terrible promise to a Beast living in an enchanted castle, Beauty knows she must volunteer to be the Beast's prisoner.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this decades ago; when it went on sale I picked it up as an ebook. I read it, hoping it would live up to my memory of it and it did. What a great retelling of the fairy tale! The characters were developed, the story moved along smartly, and the ending was perfect. I loved the touches of whimsy (check out some of the titles in the library!) and the slow romance between Beauty and the Beast. The earlier sections did much to develop Beauty's character. If you like the story of Beauty and the Beast, I think you'll fall in love with this book. If you like fantasy, this is a well-written one.

I loved this book when it first came out, and I still find it one that I can read again and again. This Beauty is a pragmatic, hard-working daughter in a family which has been coping with a big change in their lives since their father's business failed and they had to move from their city home to a rural area far inland. Her sisters, much prettier than she, are just as loving as her father - a nice switch on the more traditional story - all of them make the best of the changes in their circumstances with no complaint. Beauty's life with the Beast is consistent with her character - she makes the best of her life wherever she finds herself.

I've read many versions of Beauty and the Beast over the years but I can tell you that I loved Beauty. This is a retelling of the classic fantasy Beauty and The Beast. But with this version, McKinley's "Beauty" doesn't quite live up to her nickname (her real name is Honour) and can be more accurately described as an awkward teenager, a girl who prefers to spend her free time with books, scholarship, and horses. I liked her immediately. I loved the storyline that lead up to her father accidentally stumbling upon the bewitched castle of the "Beast" where he is forced into a promise that will forever change Beauty's life. While Beauty may be a Young Adult book, I think it will appeal to anyone who loves a magical and heartwarming, love story. McKinley's characters are well-drawn, sympathetic and just plain lovable, right down to her horse, Greatheart. I loved Beauty's Sisters and the love Beauty has for her entire family. This made it all the more difficult for Beauty to leave her family to go to an unknown fate with a Beast that has even frightened off the birds and animals of the forest. This is another one of those books that I had a hard time putting down and I slowed down my reading at the end so I could savor it all the more.

"Beauty", by Robin McKinley is a wonderful retelling of the very old, very familiar French fairy tale, "Beauty and the Beast". As a life long lover of the genre; I spent an enchanting afternoon and evening reading this creative version. I do not know how I escaped finding Ms McKinley in all the years since 1978. For me, it all began when my eye caught the title, The Outlaws of Sherwood; whilst browsing one of the many sites I search for new books to read. The title assured me it had to be Robin Hood, in one form or another. From Errol Flynn to Kevin Costner, I have never missed a movie about the legendary "hero" and read any story or book that came my way; and McKinley's retelling of the tale made her my "hero" as well. In fact, so enjoyable was her rendition, that I immediately upon completion of that book, bought and downloaded "Beauty". As one would safely assume, it is pure fantasy abounding in magic, a beautiful girl, a beast/man, an enchanted palace and mysterious happenings on every page. As this telling is actually a full length novel, it contains a great deal more "story" than the shorter written versions that were read to me as a child, and that I later read to my children. The story is well told, the principal characters well defined and consistent; and even knowing the story and being quite certain of the ending, the author manages to maintain a certain amount of suspense. A great read if one enjoys fantasies, and I do. Incidentally, 20 years after the publication of "Beauty", Ms McKinley wrote another book with this theme titled, "Rose Daughter"; I finished it today immediately following my reading of "Beauty". . . and I am now engaged in Ms McKinley's version of "Sleeping Beauty", which she calls "Spindle's End"..

Robin McKinley has (at least) two retellings of the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale, and this is by far the better of the two. Rose Daughter (the other of her two retellings) suffers some pacing issues, and I found myself getting bored right where the action should have been picking up. Beauty, on the other hand, does not suffer this problem, and impetus to continue reading to find out what happens next is maintained well. McKinley does a good job making the world fit together. I liked that you don't really have any solid idea of what time period this takes place. The story would fit well anywhere in a range of several hundred years.

I first read this book many years ago and I have recommended it to my children to read, especially my daughters. The story is told in such a magical way that I could see clearly each scene in my mind. Everyone that I have recommended it to has loved it also. Hard to put down once you start. Totally clean and good for ages 12 to adult. I love a good romance story and this one is the best!

I loved this story the first time I read it, and was happy to find it as a kindle book. The story is so well woven and presents a fresh new look at the beauty and beast story, and ever since I first read it, I now find myself judging all other versions of the old story to this one, and unfortunately, many are left wanting because this one was so enthralling. I cannot praise this story enough, or do justice to the writer's style. This is one of those stories that you have to read to appreciate the art of storytelling by the author. I just wish some of her later books were as enjoyable as this one was.

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