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The Door In The Hedge



Synopsis

Master storyteller Robin McKinley here spins two new fairy tales and retells two cherished classics. All feature princesses touched with or by magic. There is Linadel, who lives in a kingdom next to Faerieland, where princesses are stolen away on their seventeenth birthdays-and Linadel's seventeenth birthday is tomorrow. And Korah, whose brother is bewitched by the magical Golden Hind; now it is up to her to break the spell. Rana must turn to a talking frog to help save her kingdom from the evil Aliyander. And then there are the twelve princesses, enspelled to dance through the soles of their shoes every night. . . . These are tales to read with delight!

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 13 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Robin McKinley knows her geography of fantasy, the nuances of the language, the atmosphere of magic. . . (The Washington Post)

Robin McKinley has won various awards and citations for her writing, including the Newbery Medal for *The Hero and the Crown* and a Newbery Honor for *The Blue Sword*. Her other books include *Sunshine*; the New York Times bestseller *Spindle's End*; two novel-length retellings of the fairy tale *Beauty and the Beast*, *Beauty and Rose Daughter*; and a retelling of the Robin Hood legend, *The*

Outlaws of Sherwood. She lives with her husband, the English writer Peter Dickinson.

McKinley's "Blue Sword" series has long been one of our favorite 'keepers'. However, although she has written many books since then, we have read but not kept any of them. This, too, is reasonably good read but not good enough to be a keeper for us. The first story, in particular, is an incredible bore. There's hardly any dialogue; it's just long, long paragraphs of descriptions and narrative text. It's like reading an essay on a not-very-interesting fairy tale. The last story is beautifully written, but the tale is familiar and McKinley's lyrical writing breaks no new ground, creates no variant from the original storyline - it simply adds more pages to the same old story. If she were a brand new author one would say this was a 'promising work.' But McKinley is a well-established author. That she came out with this 2014 rehash of old fairy tales is very disappointing. If you want to read fairytales that are brilliantly original, "Bone Swans" by C.S.E. Cooney and Gene Wolfe, beats this "B-level anthology" by McKinley, hands-down.

The stories in this book are sweet and wonderful. I've been enjoying Robin McKinley's books and this one is no exception. A true masterpiece of lovely, complex short stories.

I normally don't read short stories but those in this book are definitely keepers! It's on sale right now in Kindle format for \$1.99--snap it up. I will be rereading this treasure. Anything McKinley writes is very good, but this collection is wonderful.

You can't go wrong with Robin McKinley; everything she writes is wonderful. She's been on my Automatic Buy list ever since I first discovered her. There's a nice healthy backlist now. I recommend every book on it.

I bought this book because I love fairy tales. These stories, however, try too hard to be archetypal and classic. They end up being stony and turgid. There are some interesting moments, but I kept counting pages to see when it would be over. There are no surprises and no excitement. Occasionally she draws an interesting picture, enough so that I kept reading. But really, the language is too stilted for children and too banal for adults.

I forced myself to finish the first tale. Then I got a half dozen pages into the second tale when I could take no more. I did not enjoy the style of writing. It did not capture my imagination let alone my

attention.

Be prepared to be enchanted by this wonderful collection of short stories. They are beautifully written tales of men and women who bravely fight against treachery and evil magic for love and honour.

Each of these stories is a gem. The author tells a traditional fairy tale in a way that is still traditional but with a measured cadence and charm.

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