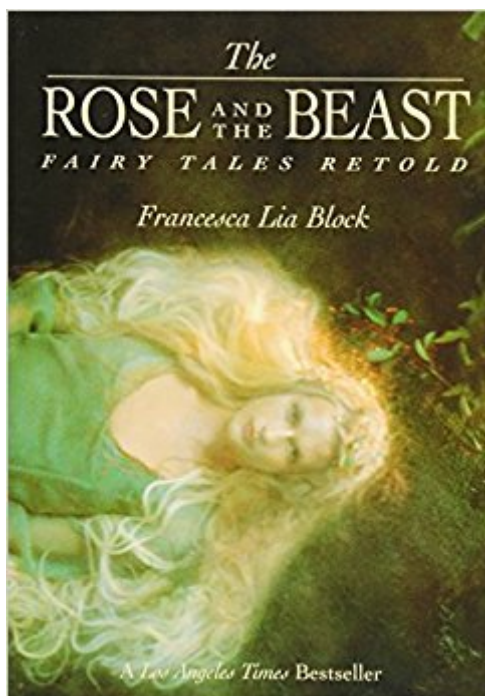


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# The Rose And The Beast: Fairy Tales Retold



## Synopsis

With language that is both lyrical and distinctly her own, Francesca Lia Block turns nine fairy tales inside out. Escaping the poisoned apple, Snow frees herself from possession to find the truth of love in an unexpected place. A club girl from L.A., awakening from a long sleep to the memories of her past, finally finds release from its curse. And Beauty learns that Beasts can understand more than men. Within these singular, timeless landscapes, the brutal and the magical collide, and the heroine triumphs because of the strength she finds in a pen, a paintbrush, a lover, a friend, a mother, and finally, in herself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Francesca Lia Block, whose Weetzie Bat novels have often been called pop fairy tales, here turns to the real thing for some very different imaginings of Snow White, Thumbelina, Cinderella, Rose Red and Rose White, and other tales. Block's stories are more resonance than retelling, fevered dreams behind which the outlines of the traditional tales move fitfully like figures glimpsed now and then through a summer fog. Veiled references to Block's own Los Angeles appear in the twisty house of the seven dwarfs built into a canyon like Laurel or Topanga, the redwood forest on a seaside cliff through which Beauty travels to her Beast, the tree-darkened canyon houses with French doors that open onto exuberant neglected gardens lush with irises and roses. In these evocations Bluebeard becomes an aging blue-haired producer, Sleeping Beauty pricks her arm with a heroin needle, Red Riding Hood's wolf is a lecherous stepfather, and the Snow Queen is a sex

goddess who lives in a marble mansion with her boy toy, possibly in Beverly Hills. Sensuous images enrich these languid and darkly ironic visions: jasmine-scented night gardens, leopard couches with velvet pillows, luscious food flavored with mint, coconut milk, or pomegranate sauce, cool candlelit baths. As always, Block's poetic allegories of adolescence are strikingly original and a bit dangerous, a feast for connoisseurs of YA fiction and savvy older teens. (Ages 14 and older) --Patty Campbell --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

In a starred review, PW wrote, "Block sets out to revisit nine fairy tales, filling her stories with gritty, even headline-grabbing issues. The darkness of these conflicts and subjects proves the strength of the magic she describes: the transfiguring power of love." Ages 12-up. (Aug.) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

One of the most magical books I've ever read. I reread it every winter, I recommend it to anyone who loves fairytales and magicz

Stays true to the Grimm Fairy Tales while updating them.

Loved when I was in middle school but now at 25 I find it lacking. A fun retelling of stories to read once but nothing more.

This book is not my cup of tea. The writing in it reminds me of the annual bad-writing contest, in which each participant writes a story in the style of "It was a dark and stormy night." However, if you enjoy really long run-on sentences, like the following excerpt in quotation marks, then perhaps you will like this book: "She went out in the city with its lights like a radioactive phosphorescence, wandered through galleries where the high-priced art on the walls was the same as the graffiti scrawled outside by taggers who were arrested or killed for it, went to parties in hotel rooms where white-skinned lingerie-clad rock stars had been staying the night their husbands shot themselves in the head, listened to music in nightclubs where stunning boyish actors had OD'd on the pavement." Yikes! Thank goodness I also bought 1001 Arabian Nights, as the classics never fail to delight!

Well, I will start by saying that I have always been a big fan of Francesca Lia Block. She deals with the "dirtiest" of topics-cutting, drugs, abuse- in ways that make them sound dreamy. I'm writing this after reading the book for the 5th or 6th time. Of the nine fairy tales rewritten here, a few stand out

above the rest: Snow Charm Bones Beast. Block makes these tales different, almost unrecognizable. My only issue is that sometimes her narration gets repetitive. It's as if many of the stories are being told by the exact same person, in the exact same voice. Still, I'd recommend this book to anyone who likes modern fairy tales. You won't be disappointed.

I love fairy tales retold, but frankly this book is just bad. The author spends a lot of time describing tactile sensations and just assumes you will fill in character development yourself...even though she's completely divorced the characters from their original story. There's no reason to identify with the story which makes reading it a chore. Several of the stories aren't retelling so much as finding a comparable real life horror (like trafficking and rape) and giving them the most comparable fairy tale name. They had potential but in my opinion they're just poorly written. I really don't recommend it.

As other reviewers have said, I expected originality and fun twists on the stories. Instead, they only vaguely resemble the originals (sometimes I wouldn't even be able to tell if it weren't for the name). The prose is pretty, sure, but adding in adult content isn't a shortcut for creativity. Also, it was much shorter than I expected. I finished the entire book in one short sitting.

ex- girlfriend had me read this stating it was great... a non creative writer wrote a bunch of old fairytales and added a few swear words and tried to modern them up a little... pretty lame

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