

# English Fairy Tales (Dover Children's Classics)

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Many generations of children have enjoyed the enduringly popular fairy tale collections of Joseph Jacobs, one of England's foremost folklorists. Through every change of fashion, their ability to delight and entertain has continued undiminished. The king and queens, the wicked giants, the clever youngest sons, the talking animals and trees, the magic cloaks that make their wearers invisible-these elements stirred the imagination of our parents and ourselves, and will give as much pleasure to our children.

In this first of Jacobs' collections, many of the 43 tales will be familiar. Included are "Jack and the Beanstalk," "The Story of the Three Bears," "Henny Penny," and others. The tale of Mr. and Mrs. Vinegar who lived in a vinegar bottle, the story of "Nix Nought Nothing," of "Mollie Whuppie," and of many others are less well known and will offer a refreshing change from the well-worn favorites.

In this first of Jacobs collections, many of the 43 tales will be familiar. Included are ' Jack and the Beanstalk, 'The Story of the Three Bears, ' and others. Born in Australia in 1854, Joseph Jacobs spent most of his adult life in England where he became, with Andrew Lang, a prominent member of the English Folk Lore Society founded in 1878. He spent ten years collecting from storytellers or printed sources the fairy tales that were first published in two volumes in 1890 and 1894 and now appear here in one Everyman's Library volume. Jacobs was a cheerful man, with a down-to-earth attitude towards fairy tales, which he regarded as "essentially colloquial" rather than romantic. Though his approach to collecting and recording material was scholarly, his telling of the tales was deliberately directed at young listeners, and he tried them out on his own three children. He died in 1916.

#### Other Books

The Lilac, Andrew Lang's Fairy Books or Andrew Lang's "Coloured" Fairy Books constitute a 12 book series of fairy tale collections. The Lilac Fairy Book includes 33 stories, including the original versions of classic tales such as: A Fish Story, The Rich Brother and the Poor Brother, The Fairy Nurse, and many, many more

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