

ONCE UPON A TIME...IT WASN'T JUST BOYS WHO SAVED THE DAY...

Meet the fairy tale heroines who have been fighting their own battles all along, in this stunning collection of stories that time forgot



Forgotten Fairy Tales of Brave and Brilliant Girls

Foreword by
Kate Pankhurst

Priced: £12.99, hardback gift edition, 208 pages

Published: 5th September 2019

Forgotten Fairy Tales of Brave and Brilliant Girls is a collection of eight captivating fairy tales featuring adventurous, intelligent and daring girls. Once known, now largely forgotten, these fantastic stories have been brought together in a beautiful hardback gift edition to inspire and empower a new generation of readers.

Researched by *Usborne* staff writer (and resident fairy tale expert), **Lesley Sims**, the stories are traditional fairy tales from across Northern Europe, and include a sleeping prince rescued by a princess, sisters who fight a goblin to rescue a bear, and a young girl who outwits a giant to save her family. The team tasked with rewriting these stories for children today includes – as well as Lesley – **Susanna Davidson, Rob Lloyd Jones, Andy Prentice** and **Rosie Dickins**. Each story is accompanied with beautiful artwork by illustrators **Isabella Grott, Alessandra Santelli**, and **Maria Surducan**.

With sales of over 300,000 copies across all her books (through Nielsen TCM in the UK), bestselling author of *Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World*, **Kate Pankhurst**



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provides a foreword saying, *“Stories can enchant our imaginations and shape our view of the world, they can even make us think differently about ourselves. That’s why this book, bursting with brave and brilliant heroines, telling us stories almost lost to history, is so exciting and so very different to the versions of the fairy tales available when I was young...I hope they inspire readers to be brave and brilliant, and to question anyone who says they are anything else.”*

While *Usborne* are known for their fairy tale retellings – changing endings to address issues of consent and outdated gender stereotypes – it hasn’t been a case of changing these fairy tales to be more ‘feminist’. The fairy tales chosen for this collection all already featured girls and women making their own decisions and bravely defending them. These are women who don’t need men to do their fighting for them. The language of these good, enduring and relevant stories has simply been updated for a modern audience in the tradition of the genre.

Sims says, *“The reasons for these stories being forgotten (at least by popular culture), and for them coming back into the mainstream, surely tells us a great deal about changing attitudes to women and their role in society. As a specialist children’s publisher, we know that the stories we grow up with are vitally important in shaping who we are as adults. We have been changing fairy tale endings for some time now, and drawn a line firmly under princesses (or any other girls) being kissed by strange men while they sleep, or agreeing to marry men they met five minutes ago. So perhaps we’ve even played a subtle part in creating the current political climate.”*

Usborne look forward to developing their fairy tale collections internationally as they explore lands far, far away (and a bit nearer too) in a follow up title ***Tales of Brave and Brilliant Girls from Around the World***, to be published in 2020. Sims comments, *“The tales in both of these books are simply fantastic stories, with the added benefit that they will hopefully allow children to read about more diverse characters and see themselves represented in the fairy tales they read.”*

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