

Fatima the Spinner and the Tent

By Idries Shah

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Fatima the Spinner and the Tent By Idries Shah

Fatima is a young woman whose life seems beset by one disaster after another. Setting forth on a journey from her home in the West, she shipwrecked and cast ashore alone near Alexandria. Adopted by a family of weavers, and beginning to prosper in her new life, she is captured and made to work making masts. Undertaking a journey to sell the masts, her ship is wrecked off the coast of China. It is only here that Fatima finally realizes that what seemed to be disasters were really essential steps towards realizing her eventual fulfillment. A story of wisdom and depth, ideal as a bedtime story, it helps children understand the need for perseverance to reach their goals. This Teaching-Story is well known in Greek folklore, but this version is attributed to the Sheikh Mohamed Jamaludin of Adrianople (modern-day Edirne in Turkey) who died in 1750. This book is filled with wonderful illustrations by Natasha Delmar. Taught to paint by her father, the celebrated classic Chinese painter Ng Yi-Ching, she captures Fatima's adventures with a wealth of detail and color. Using Middle Eastern and Chinese design , Delmar transports readers into the exotic worlds of Fatima's travels, in a way delightful to both young and old.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Grade 2-8–Shah first published this version of an 18th-century Turkish tale in his *Tales of the Dervishes* (Penguin, 1993). It is the story of Fatima, daughter of a prosperous spinner, who is involved in three disasters. When a shipwreck leaves her washed up on a beach, she is taken in by a family of weavers. She learns their trade, only to be captured by slavers, who sell her to a mast-builder. Entrusted to accompany a cargo to market, the girl survives another shipwreck off the coast of China, where she is welcomed by townspeople as the female stranger of legend who would make a tent for the Emperor. She is delivered to the palace, where she uses her skills to complete the task by spinning flax into ropes; weaving some sturdy cloth; and carving tent poles, finally realizing her wish for happiness. The story fulfills the requisites of a folktale–a strong main character, three misfortunes, the completion of a seemingly impossible task, and the granting of a wish. Delmar's finely detailed paintings incorporate a variety of Middle Eastern and Chinese designs, both within the pictures and in borders surrounding text boxes. Several spreads are panoramas that have amazing depth. An endpaper map shows the path of Fatima's travels. Although some aspects of the plot are weaker than the protagonist's strength of character, children will relate to the positive lesson about making the best of one's misfortunes.–*Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH*
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From Booklist
Retold by the late Afghan author Shah, this folktale has been beautifully illustrated by Delmar in richly colored, highly detailed pictures that evoke the story's Sufi traditions. With her father, Fatima starts off on a sea voyage in search of a husband. When her father dies in a shipwreck near Alexandria, a family of weavers takes her in and teaches her its craft. Then she is captured by slavers; she survives once again, and learns to build masts. After several other disasters, she settles in China, where she teaches the people all she has learned and also finds love and happiness. The words and pictures stay true to the story's roots, even as they celebrate a timeless protagonist who survives a perilous journey and makes a satisfying life. Clear maps on the endpapers show Fatima's world travels. *Hazel Rochman*
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Review
Fatima The Spinner And The Tent is based on a classical "Teaching-Story" well known in Greek folklore - this particular version is attributed to Sheikh Mohamed Jamaludin of Adrianople (modern-day Edirne). Fatima the Spinner and the Tent is the tale of a woman who seems beset with one disaster after another as she travels from Morocco to the Mediterranean, Egypt, Turkey, and finally China. It is in China that she realizes the that what seemed to be terrible misfortune was in fact a valuable part of her life and her path to fulfillment, for in the course of her journey she learned the skills that would serve her well in her hour of greatest need. A story of wisdom and hidden depth, recommended for bedtime reading and children's library collections. -- Midwest Book Review When a shipwreck leaves her washed up on a beach, Fatima is taken in by a family of weavers. She learns their trade, only to be captured by slavers, who sell her to a mast-builder. Entrusted to accompany a cargo to market, the girl survives another shipwreck off the coast of China, where she is welcomed by townspeople as the female stranger of legend who would make a tent for the Emperor. She is delivered to the palace, where she uses her skills to complete the task by spinning flax into ropes; weaving some sturdy cloth; and carving tent poles, finally realizing her wish for happiness. The story fulfills the requisites of a folktale-a strong main character, three misfortunes, the completion of a seemingly impossible task, and the granting of a wish. Delmar's finely detailed paintings incorporate a variety of Middle Eastern and Chinese designs, both within the pictures and in borders surrounding text boxes. Several

spreads are panoramas that have amazing depth. An endpaper map shows the path of Fatima's travels. Although some aspects of the plot are weaker than the protagonist's strength of character, children will relate to the positive lesson about making the best of one's misfortunes. -- School Library Journal

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Thomas Melendez:

Would you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt when you are in the book store? Aim to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't judge book by its include may doesn't work is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not because fantastic as in the outside appearance likes. Maybe you answer can be Fatima the Spinner and the Tent why because the amazing cover that make you consider concerning the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content is actually fantastic as the outside or cover. Your reading 6th sense will directly direct you to pick up this book.

David Nester:

Reading a book to become new life style in this season; every people loves to examine a book. When you learn a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, these us novel, comics, in addition to soon. The Fatima the Spinner and the Tent provide you with a new experience in reading through a book.

John Glass:

As a pupil exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher questioned them to go to the library in order to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's spirit or real their pastime. They just do what the professor want, like asked to the library. They go to there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is being complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. Therefore this Fatima the Spinner and the Tent can make you sense more interested to read.

Shirley Parker:

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