

Black Heart, Ivory Bones

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Hair bright as gold...Lips red as blood...Heart black as sin...Truth sharp as bone...

As in their previous critically acclaimed volumes of reconsidered fairy tales, award-winning editors Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling have gathered together remarkable stories that illuminate the more sinister, sensual, and sophisticated aspects of the tales we cherished in childhood; the fables of witches and princes and lost children that we once imagined we knew. *Black Heart, Ivory Bones* showcases twenty beguiling tales for the child-that-was and the adult-that-is, penned by twenty of the most creative artists in contemporary American literature. Here dissected are the darker anatomies of the timeless, seemingly simple stories we have long loved. Here wonder and truth have serious bite.

A lovelorn prince seeking his father's blessing concocts a fantastic tale of a witch, a tower, and lustrous long hair...A pair of accursed red boots punishes a beautiful dancer for her pride...A troll-killing, princess-rescuing warrior is compelled to consider events from his adversaries' point of view...In a blistering tell-all memoir, Goldilocks reveals the sordid truth about her brutal foster parent, Papa Bear...

Rich, surprising, funny, erotic, and unsettling, these twenty new yarns and poems offer exceptional anew treasures--as they brilliantly reveal lusts and jealousies, foibles, hatreds and dangerous obsessions, the things that slyly lurk in the midnight interior of oft-told tales.As in their previous critically acclaimed volumes of reconsidered fairy tales, award-winning editors Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling have gathered together remarkable stories that illuminate the more sinister, sensual, and sophisticated aspects of the tales we cherished in childhood; the fables of witches and princes and lost children that we once imagined we knew.BLACK HEART, IVORY BONES showcases twenty beguiling tales for the child-that-was and the adult-that-is, penned by twenty of the most creative artists in contemporary American literature. Here dissected are the darker anatomies of the timeless, seemingly simple stories we have long loved. Here wonder and truth have serious bite.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
This sixth anthology in the adult fairy-tale series by acclaimed editors Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling presents another diverse collection of stories and poems loosely based on folklore traditions around the world. Readers familiar with previous books in the series will recognize the names of many regular contributors, including Tanith Lee, Jane Yolen, Esther Friesner, and Joyce Carol Oates, as well as works from Neil Gaiman, Charles de Lint, and others. Tanith Lee's "Rapunzel" opens the collection with a charmingly simple reconstruction of that classic fairy tale. Esther Friesner's "Big Hair" takes the same theme into the present with less cheerful results. Greg Costikyan considers the fate of an ensorcelled sleeping beauty dug up by archaeologists centuries later in "And Still She Sleeps," while Jane Yolen's "Snow in Summer" turns the tables on Snow White's evil stepmother with a deep-dish apple pie and a fry pan. Scott Bradfield's "Goldilocks Tells All" is especially memorable for its Jerry Springer-like portrayal of the ultimate dysfunctional family. Leah Cutter considers the loneliness of living under a curse in her Texas two-step story "The Red Boots." Severna Park's feminist "The Golem" revives a Jewish folktale, while Bryn Kanar's haunting "Dreaming Among Men" draws on Native American legend. Howard Waldrop's "Our Mortal Span" is perhaps the most unique story here, a surprising blend of black comedy, killer-robot story, and fairy tale. While on the whole this collection isn't as strong as previous volumes, it still delivers a fine array of thoughtful writing on some of the best-known--and yet unknown--stories we love. --*Charlene Brusso*

From School Library Journal
YA-Continuing their successful project of producing rich, adult-oriented anthologies with fairy-tale motifs, the editors have enlisted 20 contemporary authors to share creations that have clear roots in fairy lore. Tanith Lee, Neil Gaiman, Jane Yolen, Brian Stableford, Michael Cadnum, Charles de Lint, and Joyce Carol Oates are among the literary luminaries who have contributed new work here. Many of the settings are contemporary, the characters share the realistic traits that make those who inhabit traditional fairy stories sympathetic, and their predicaments and exploits are compelling. Brief introductions and endnotes accompanying each tale provide just enough context to enrich readers' understanding of how and why the author may have constructed this particular tale. Esther Friesner's "Big Hair," for instance, will make readers think about the JonBenet Ramsey case, but the author disclaims this association. Severna Park provides a quick but lucid argument for the comparison her tale makes between the status of women and the status of Jews. Several of the stories are presented in alternative narrative styles, including Gaiman's blank-verse entry and Susanna Clarke's epistolary format. Teen readers dedicated to exploring fairy tale and myth will delight in this new volume. Further, it invites those who might just be experimenting with the genre to delve beyond this first taste of it. Several of the tales lend themselves to directed reading and analysis.
Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA
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About the Author

Ellen Datlow was the fiction editor at *Omni*magazine for seventeen years. She is now editor of thewebzine *Event Horizon* She has edited numerous successful anthologies, including *Blood Is Not Enough, Little Deaths, Off Limits, Twists of the Tale,* and *Vanishing Acts.* With Terri Windling she has edited the popular anthology series *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* for thirteen years. A multiple World Fantasy Award-winner, she lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angela Powers:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book titled Black Heart, Ivory Bones? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Esmeralda Rossman:

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