



# The Ugly Princess and the Wise Fool

*Margaret Gray , Randy Cecil (Illustrator)*

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**Can a seafaring fairy godmother, a wise fool, and an enchanted hairstyle keep Princess Rose out of trouble?**

*"A very long time ago, when all the countries you've ever heard of were in different places on the map, a princess was born who was not beautiful. She wasn't even remotely pretty, and the whole kingdom was in deep shock about it."*

Princess Rose doesn't get any prettier as she grows up, but the kingdom does get over its shock. Everyone adores the skinny, buck-toothed princess, and she doesn't mind her appearance—until the handsomest prince in the world comes looking for a bride. Despite warnings from her seafaring fairy godmother and a wise fool named Jasper, reckless Rose wishes for beauty. She gets her wish, and the prince, but finds neither is as nice as she had expected.

*The Ugly Princess and the Wise Fool* is a 2003 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## The Ugly Princess and the Wise Fool Details

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Author : Margaret Gray , Randy Cecil (Illustrator)

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# From Reader Review The Ugly Princess and the Wise Fool for online ebook

## ❁angela says

A little amusing due to the mocking of common fairytale tropes/clichés but the plot is boring, easily forgettable. And the illustrations were just plain ugly.

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## Angie says

A charming story with some very deep insights that should be read and meditated upon by adults as well as children.

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## Mohammad says

This is a very funny and amusing book to read when you just want to kick back and relax. It is an original fairy tale similar to Cinderella. When a handsome prince comes along and wants to marry the other sister and not the ugly Princess Rose, she then wishes to be beautiful. Off course the prince isn't very nice, once she gets to know him. Will she be marrying him anyway? She needs the help of the court Fool, who is actually a wise man in disguise. (The king banned all wise men from his kingdom because they were laughing at him.)

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## Diane says

In Couscous, beauty & ignorance is everything; Rose is ugly, Jasper is wise, so they try change themselves.

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## Ash says

3.5. Definitely cute and quirky but a tad predictable.

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## houseoflavender says

I love this book.

Even though this a children's book, the characters have more depths than many novels out there.

I just wish it was longer.

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## **Alonus says**

I read this every night

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## **Emily says**

The Kingdom of Couscous is obsessed with beauty, as were all kingdoms in the land of once-upon-a-time. By tradition, all princess were beautiful, but it was the 3rd daughter that was always most magnificent. Until, that is, Rose is born. Rose is not beautiful. She is caring, thoughtful, and intelligent, but she is not beautiful at all. This never bothered her, until Prince Parsley comes to visit. Rose's friend, Jasper, the court fool who really has a Ph.D. in wisdom, is saddened by Rose's sudden interest in her looks, but he tries to be supportive. This is a very funny book, and has great lessons in it. A wonderful twist on fairy tales.

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## **Jain says**

I love juvenile fiction and read quite a bit of it, but this book still felt too "young" for my tastes. There were a few cute scenes, and the wise fool subplot was reasonably interesting, but I was bored by most of the story.

Also, while I recognize and support Gray's attempts to dismantle common fairy tale tropes (beauty being synonymous with virtue; love at first sight), I don't think she chose the most effective ways to do that.

At one point, the ugly princess's fairy godmother says to her regarding beauty, "I don't see what's so great about it. Don't you want to compose passionate operas or be a famous healer or peacemaker--something that would help the world a little?" as though there were only two options for women: 1) being attractive but stupid/self-centered/boring, or 2) being unattractive but smart/kind/interesting. And, in fact, the princess and her (elderly) godmother are the only truly positive female characters in the book. (To be fair, there are only two positive male characters, as well, but in their case their "virtue" is based in their intelligence rather than their looks or lack thereof.)

And while I think it's nice that writers are trying to present alternatives to love at first sight, I don't think that "if a man and a woman are friends, then they should get married" is necessarily the best substitute.

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## **Hannah says**

This is such a cute story! I love it!!

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## **Cheryl says**

Cute, but boring. Too long, too predictable. The theme has been done better elsewhere. The characters are superficial icons. And why don't the king and queen get Rose's teeth fixed, even if only for her health?

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### **Cassie Kelley says**

This book was one of the first I remember reading that focuses on true beauty. For a girl, growing up hearing that beauty is important, this book can be a wonderful break. My own childhood was more like Rose's than her sisters. I read and rode horses and enjoyed being boyish. I didn't care about beauty until I was a teenager, but even then, unlike Rose, I didn't really care too much about it.

The story is charming and the characters delightful. From Jasper's kindly attitude to Rose's wonderful personality. Physical beauty isn't everything, and this book does a wonderful job of explaining this in a unique way that girls everywhere will enjoy. It mixes wisdom with a touch of 'Once upon a time...' fantasy.

If you're a child or feel like a child at heart, visiting the lovely kingdom of Couscous and getting into the lives of magical godmothers, wise fools, and ugly princesses will be a fun experience that may teach a lesson or even remind older readers of the lesson from long ago. Open this chest protector and give it a chance!

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### **Kambri says**

This is a good book, (from what I've read in it), it is about an ugly princess who has 2 sisters, Asphalt and Concrete. The ugly princess, Rose, wishes in a mirror to be beautiful. The Fairy God Mother comes and makes her beautiful again. That is as far as I have gotten.

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### **Grant says**

A morality play without moralizing, with humor and deft storytelling.

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### **Sayeeda says**

took me days to read 176 pages boring at places

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