



The Fairy's Mistake

Gail Carson Levine , Mark Elliott (Illustrations)

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Two very different sisters have two very different encounters with the fairy Ethelinda. Rosella is kind and helpful. Her reward: Jewels and gems tumble out of her mouth whenever she speaks. Myrtle is rude and spiteful. Her punishment: Bugs and vipers slither out of her mouth. The fairy Ethelinda feels she's meted out justice just right--until she discovers Rosella has been locked up by a greedy prince and Myrtle is having the time of her life!

The Fairy's Mistake Details

Date : Published April 8th 1999 by HarperCollins (first published March 21st 1999)

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Author : Gail Carson Levine , Mark Elliott (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Fairy's Mistake for online ebook

Sara Thompson says

This book is part of a series titled The Princess Tales. Each book is a retelling of a fairy tale. This is a short, sweet book with an interesting twist. Rosella and her twin sister Myrtle are bespelled by a fairy. Each time they talk something comes out of their mouths - for Rosella it's jewels and for Myrtle it's creepy crawlies. What happens is an interesting journey for all three parties (the fairy included). All of the books in the series are just as interesting. I expect them to replace the fairytales of our youth.

With that said, I highly recommend Gail Carson Levine - her books are well written and entertaining. She has even written a book for teens on becoming writers themselves and that was an amazing book.

Ramya says

I now remember reading this when I was eight!

I was always like...what was that book with the good princess that actually got hurt because of gems spewing from her mouth? Well. Now I know.

:)

PurplyCookie says

"**The Fairy's Mistake**" is a play on "**Toads and Diamonds**" a story from Perrault about gifts given by a witch to two sisters, one kind and the other unkind.

Ethelinda is horrified to discover that her fairy blessing on the kind Rosella, that jewels fall from her mouth when she speaks, is being exploited by her greedy new husband, Prince Harold. Her curse on Rosella's sister, Myrtle, who drops slimy and creepy things from her mouth when she speaks, is also going awry; Myrtle uses this to get whatever she wants from people.

I liked the way the plot was twisted so that the good character gets a punishment and the bad character gets a reward, and then everything works out. I didn't like the way Rosella never stood up for herself, she just let herself be bossed around, she didn't seem to have much of a brain until the end and then all of a sudden she starts standing up for herself, I didn't get how that transformation had occurred.

Book Details:

Title The Fairy's Mistake (Princess Tales)

Author Gail Carson Levine

Reviewed By Purplycookie

Josiah says

This is another in GCL's delightful anthology of fairy tales about the Kingdom of Biddle. This time two sisters - twins on the outside but with temperaments different as night & day - are rewarded by the fairy Ethelinda for their characteristic choices. But Ethelinda's spells backfire and the rewarded sister is miserable while the cursed sister is triumphant. Will the fairy be able to right the wrongs before it's too late?

Plot: B

Writing: A

Vocabulary: B

Level: Easy

Worldview: Moral Therapeutic Deism - Golden Rule

Rating: G (a wicked girl gets cursed with nasty animals coming out of her mouth every time she talks)

?Ruth? says

Very much a book for children - a very short, humorous story which I'm sure is based on an old fairy-tale but I'm not sure which one.

Emily says

I love Gail Carson Levine but this was not my favorite.

Fairy Tales

Fairies

Princesses

Trevor says

Not bad for a quick read tailored to young readers. The main character, Rosella, is about the only likable character in it however. The prince and his entire palace are full of selfish morons, her mother and sister are both conniving creatures that never truly get their just punishments, and Ethelinda is an incompetent bungler. So, I guess what I'm saying is that this is the most realistic fairy-tale I've ever read. 3/5.

Kathy says

These short easy reads are books that I find entertaining and fun to read.

Jane says

Loved this one, the first in a series of charming retellings of classic fairy tales. Remember the two sisters, one mean and one good, who go to the well and come back with various things dropping from their mouths when they speak? A clever twist here!

Fables&Wren says

WrensReads Review:

Do you like retelling of fairytales? Gail Carson Levine is the author for you. She is witty, and pokes fun at fairytales all the while making you love the story even more.

“Once upon a time, in the village of Snettering-on-Snoakes in the kingdom of Biddle, Rosella fetched water from the well for the four thousand and eighty-eighth time.”

– The Fairy’s Mistake by Gail Carson Levine

Just by the first paragraph, you can grasp the humor Levine puts in her words.

In The Fairy’s Mistake, a retelling of a French fairy tale called Toads and Diamonds by Charles Perrault (titled “Les Fées,” or “The Fairies”), two twin sisters are cursed (or gifted?) with two completely different things. Let’s rephrase that: one sister is bestowed a curse and the other a gift, though which is which is yet to be determined.

Oh a prince! Being so humble and pleasant as he is realizes his love for a lady he just met! Oh, and she happens to have something he wants. Coincidence I am sure.

One sister uses what the fairy gave her for helping others, and the other uses it to gain control over people.

Will the sister with the curse live happily ever after? Will the other sister with the gift live happily ever after? Will the fairy ever learn that things don’t always happen the way she wants them to?

I have a soft spot for fairy tales and that is exactly up Levine’s alley. She is a spectacular writer and story teller. She will make you laugh out loud with her classic retelling. I recommend this book, and the rest of her books, to anyone that loves a good fairytale.

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Dixie Conley says

Quite a clever retelling of this fairy tale. I did like how the reward turned into a punishment and the punishment, but I must admit to a niggling feeling that all was not set right. The heroine was still married to a prince who didn't love her and her wicked sister was still able to blackmail everyone into doing her wishes, so the fairy tale ending was lacking. Perhaps that was yet another way to tell us that fairy tales are rather imperfect when they are real, but I felt disappointed by it.

Amy says

This was a cute story, a good read-aloud for my girls, ages three and five. I'm still pretty grossed out by things coming out of their mouths when they talked, especially bugs and snakes and ick! It's just not at all practical and I imagine (since none of this is real--I know!) that it gets old pretty fast. And I wish there was some explanation, even if it made no sense at all, of why Ethelinda didn't just take the gift and curse away. Even just saying it was against fairy rules would have been enough. Or is there an expectation that we'll remember all about magic from "Ella Enchanted" and so we'll know why she can't?

I definitely recommend this book, which is why I gave it four stars. It's a cute, quick read, and great for little girls.

***Book Nerd* says**

I love this book!!!!!!

<3

I highly recommend it!!!!!!

Rebekah says

[the prince stealing from the princess even after they are "happily" together? (hide spoiler)]

Brynlee A says

They are in a village where the price and a poor family with a daughter lives. The daughter has diamonds that fall out of her mouth. Just because of a fairy godmother. So the prince and the girl are getting married. All because she has diamonds that fall out of her mouth. They where going to wait until the were ready to announce that they were getting married.

Lorelei is a little girl whom is getting married to a prince. Lorelei lives in a small house with siblings. She has a twin sister. Lorelei changed bye she was every nice and the was kinda mean before got introduced to the Price, then she turned very nice again. Lorelei is a very loving little girl and she is luck to get married to a price. I think that she deserves to be married to a loving and kind prince. Might I add the prince is very handsome. Well of course he is because she came for a nice looking King.

I think this book was really amazing. I love how Lorelei is so nice. I like how she said yes to getting married to a very handsome prince. He is a very lovely man. I think that it was really funny when she had a snake come out of her mouth. I also liked how when the snake was coming out of her mouth the author used really good details of what she felt like when the snake was coming out of her mouth. I just loved this book so very much i think that it was an amazing book I can't wait to read the next book from this series.

Eden says

Rosella is sent to get some water and when she gets to the well, she finds an old woman there. The woman asks her for a drink, and Rosella, the kind person she is, gives her a drink of water.

This old woman, however, was really a fairy in disguise and she rewards Rosella for her kindness.

When Rosella speaks, gems fall from her mouth. And when her mother finds out, she sends Rosella's twin, Myrtle to the well to give the old woman water, but instead she finds a knight and refuses to give him a drink.

Again, this was the fairy in disguise and she decides to punish Myrtle to teach her a lesson. Bugs and sneaks come out of Myrtle's mouth when she speaks.

But when a greedy prince wants to be with Rosella for her ability to speak and gems come out, and Myrtle uses her punishment to get what she wants, the fairy wonders if she's made a mistake.

This story I read not long ago in a collection of folktales, but it was a bit different and shorter. I liked it then and I like Levine's retelling of it as well.

Rosella was very kind and she wanted to make everyone happy, even if she wasn't happy herself. Her twin was completely different, however. And the prince was very greedy, which was annoying, but I suppose he wasn't too bad, especially towards the end.

Overall, it was a enjoyable book. I really liked it and would read it again.

Grace Bittle says

The life lesson I learned from this is: always give water to strangers at the well!

Rosie Adams says

For a complete review, check out my Young Adult book blog:

<https://readsandroses.com/2017/10/16/...>

When a fairy gifts Rosella jewels falling from her mouth when she speaks, she doesn't realize how problematic it will turn out to be. People begin taking advantage of her, especially greedy Prince Harold, forcing her to speak all the time, simply because of the wealth flowing from her lips. In *The Fairy's Mistake*, Rosella must find a way to make this gift a blessing, rather than a curse, for the rest of her life.

Are you an avid reader of YA fiction? If so, please consider becoming a follower of my blog, <https://readsandroses.com>, or participating by leaving comments! I love hearing from my fellow book lovers.

Shelby says

5 Stars!

This was a really cute made up story. I like it was different from the original stories. It thought that this was not age appropriate for me because it is more like a children's stories. I did really think it would be more like a children's story. It still was a good book and I liked the writing.

Mara says

I bought this book thinking it would be just as incredible as Ella Enchanted, but it isn't. In the author's defense, it does say ages 7-12, so that explains a whole lot. It read as a children's book, because it was intended as one. I like the retelling of Mother Hulda (or as the Dutch know it 'Vrouw Holle), because it doesn't end after the reward and the punishment. The fairy realises she has made a mistake *cough cough* title *cough cough*, and has to find a way to fix it.

I think I would have loved this book when I was about seven (if I'd read it in Dutch, because my knowledge of the English language back then wasn't much more than 'yes, no and please'), and I'd definitely recommend it to any fairytale fans of that age, but I don't recommend it to eighteen yearolds, cause then it will definitely be incredibly boring. (Although there was a plottwist that I did not see coming). I literally finished the book in 15 minutes, so it's nice to read if you need some extra books for your goodreads reading challenge, but that's it.
