



## King Stork

*Howard Pyle , Peter Glassman , Trina Schart Hyman (Illustrator)*

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Filled with all the things a good tale should have—from fiery dragons and savage lions to a clever princess and a handsome hero—this storyteller's favorite is here paired with spectacular art from Caldecott medalist Trina Schart Hyman. The original edition won the 1973 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Illustration.

## King Stork Details

Date : Published March 16th 1998 by HarperCollins (first published April 1st 1973)

ISBN : 9780688158132

Author : Howard Pyle , Peter Glassman , Trina Schart Hyman (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review King Stork for online ebook

### Amie says

This is a fun, fantastic fairy tale. I enjoy Pyle's beautiful writing style. The beginning is a little macabre, and sensitive readers may not be able to handle it. But remember what Einstein said, "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales."

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### Rosemary says

I've been re-reading my large collection of Pyle lately. This remains one of my absolute favorite versions. Also, many years ago, it was my first introduction to the incredible artistry of Trina Schart Hyman. Sly, witty, and earthy. She loved bare feet and painted them constantly, and that one trait gives her characters a certain grounding in their world. Pyle, no mean artist himself and the teacher who inspired a generation of illustrators, also was a great storyteller. His reworkings of fairy tales still make me laugh and have a liveliness and very American humor lacking from the somewhat drier collections of Lang and others of the late Victorian and early Edwardian era.

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### Kami says

I wanted to love this book because of the story and illustrations but I had a few caveats. I didn't like that he beat his wife with a stick till she promised to be good, yeah, that might have been the original, but that isn't something I want to be reading to my kids and I'm usually all for reading the original fairy tales to kids. And the pictures were lovely (I love Trina Schart Hyman's illustrations!) but the girl was so scantily clad that I didn't really think it was appropriate. We own a Little Mermaid book that has a lot of mermaids without tops, so I'm not exactly a prude, but this seemed so unnecessary where it seemed more fitting in the Little Mermaid book. I guess that's why it bothered me more here. Anyway, check it out before you buy, if that kind of stuff might bother you.

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### Jennifer Heise says

The illustrations are amazing! 5 out of 5 for illustrations, -2 for the plot...

I love the format of the book... but what a misogynistic story! The princess is luring men into competing with her for her hand-- and if they fail, they will be beheaded. An old witch crone helps her with this, while her father sympathizes with the males heading for a beheading. When the soldier finally wins his bride, he must pour milk on her and beat her with a wooden switch as she changes from one form to another-- and then she becomes the best wife any man could ask for.

Illustratively, this may be one of the best Trina Schart Hyman books ever, but I won't show it to my son because of the story line.

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### **Cheryl says**

No dragons, no lions, despite what the blurb says. I can't tell for sure, but I don't think the text is Pyle's original (despite no mention of an adaptation, when I find picture captions for Pyle's original art the language is much more archaic). And the princess, well, is she wicked, and deserves to be beaten? Or is she a strong and smart young woman who wants to be independent, or at least to marry a man (woman?) of her choosing? Of course Hyman's art is fantastic, though. I particularly love the king.

Btw, don't get this fairy tale mixed up with the fable about the frogs who desired a king.

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### **Kristen says**

5 stars for the illustrations.

This story was highly enjoyable until I came to the domestic violence. Sure, this is a fairy tale, but when the moral of the story is beating your wife to make her kind and submissive? No thank you. I draw the line.

Too bad, because Trina Schart Hyman's illustrations are gorgeous and wonderfully detailed. I guess I shouldn't have expected too much from the guy that compiled the adventures of the misogynist in tights though.

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### **Jayne says**

I can't say that I am surprised at the number of reviewers criticizing a nineteenth century text through the lens of twenty-first century liberal political belonging. Though it is in the tradition of fairy tales and fables to teach a thing, this text is emphatically *not* a lesson in modern gender roles; goodness, that would be boring--and indeed, *is* boring if that is the narrow frame one chooses to read within. If, however, one were to consider Pyle's text within more of a political framework, well, that would liven the conversation up a bit; especially as juxtaposed against Hyman's beautiful but suggestive illustrations--is she being subversive or is she being intentionally sustaining? As one might expect, Pyle's original illustrations are not suggestive (they can be found in *The Wonder Clock*) and that fact may itself open up other avenues of discussion--yes, about politics (and gender) but also, about art and representation, about experience and meaning. Indeed, taken as a whole, this book is an especially fertile field for conversation, being rich in both language and artistry, stimulating the intellect as well as the imagination.

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### **StrictlySequential says**

T.S.H.!!!

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## **Miriam says**

It was a lucky day for the drummer lad when he did a favor for the king of the storks because, frankly, he didn't have much to recommend him otherwise.

*"It is a poor fellow who cannot manage a wife when he has her" -- and he knew as much about that business as a goose about churning butter.*

This is an odd story but Pyle's prose and Hyman's art make it work.

I do wonder about the backstory, though. How did the young princess become a wicked enchantress and meet a crone with an ~~awesome~~ scary castle?

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## **Michael Fitzgerald says**

TSH needed to rein in her considerable talents. She overdoes things here.

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## **Beverly says**

Howard Pyle's telling uses motifs from various folk and fairy tales; such as helping a stranger and getting rewarded; being given tests, and receiving help from the stranger that he had helped; and having to hold onto someone while they changed shapes (as in Tam Lin). Trina Schart Hyman's illustrations are detailed and lush; although the young woman/witch's clothes barely cover her.

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## **Kelly says**

The story itself is fine- typical fairy story. It's the illustrations that get the low rating. I usually love Trina Schart Hyman's work, but these illustrations are practically pornographic when it comes to the dresses the princess is wearing. This is in the children's section at my library. Unbelievable.

Instead of this book, I recommend picking up a copy of Howard Pyle's The Wonder Clock. That volume is illustrated by the author and his sister, and contains a number of fairy tales, including King Stork.

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## **Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says**

\*Not for young children!

Look, I really liked this very strange book. It isn't really a kid's book, maybe it was in the 70's, but most modern parents would be horrified. I would buy this for my spouse because he would think this was hilarious. He's pretty much the target audience.

The princess is as close to naked as she could possibly be. There are also gruesome heads on pikes. The princess is actually a witch who has enjoyed watching all those people get beheaded. At the end of the book, the dude marries her anyway because he has a 'cure' from King Stork. To cure her of being wicked, he has to dump milk on her and beat her with a switch while she shapeshifts. Yes. That happens. Then she turns into a mellow housewife.

Obviously, this is a problematic picture book. I'm a pretty lenient parent, but, I can't picture reading this to my daughter yet. I didn't really have a problem with the cure for the princess' affliction until the sentence about her being an excellent housewife after. Obviously before that she was basically a murderer, so housewife is an improvement over murderer, but still.. I don't particularly like the message that if you like someone's appearance but not their attitude that you just beat them until they have the attitude you prefer..

AND after all that, I was still absolutely amused by this bizarre book. This will probably end up being spouse's anniversary gift. Too bad they are only available used.

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### **Set says**

This story is so strange and I like weird but the story is kind of nonsensical, yet, I still love it. The illustrations blew me away.

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### **Richelle Rininger says**

This book was very bizarre. It was suppose to be a children's book. In my opinion maybe a teen book because of the morals and sexual content of the book. The pictures where well thought out and interesting illustrated.

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