



Feminist Fables

Suniti Namjoshi

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This ingenious reworking of fairy tales, mixing Greek and Sanskrit mythology with original material, is now a feminist classic.

Feminist Fables Details

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From Reader Review Feminist Fables for online ebook

Laura Verret says

Supremely satisfying.

Rhiannon Fennell says

Favourite story is on page 99

Abby M says

Read: "Nymph," "The Princess," "Local History," and "Jewel" from this collection.

Gill says

Not really my cup of tea. These are short easy to read in spare minutes 'fables', but I really just didn't get them although there were passages that were amusing. I had mooched it for someone else and read it before posting it on. Not impressed but perhaps it's just me...

Mehwish Mughal says

133 witty, poignant and candid tales.

The best one:

"There was once a man who thought he could do anything, even be a woman. So he acquired a baby, changed its diapers and fed the damn thing three times a night. He did all the housework, was deferential to men, and got worn out. But he had a brother, Jack Cleverfellow, who hired a wife, and got it all done." - The Tale of Two Brothers.

Mirabelle says

I rarely read fables and this is the first time I ever read anything similar to Sanskrit fables. I like the parodies but I think some of them should be a bit longer. The hedgehog one was adorable and funny. I read Bitch, Slut, Whore, Sow to one of my friends. My favourite one was Jewel because of how provocative it was in such few sentences. Trigger warnings for this book: rape, death, misogyny, kidnapping

Everett Darling says

Namjoshi has a lot of wit and weaves these feminist cover versions in a genuine fashion. But where these original fables, myths, and folktales have had hundreds of years to mature, through countless re-tellings and revisions, the immediacy of Namjoshi's style doesn't adequately capture their original potency. Perhaps by taking out the element of the inherent or perceived misogyny of these fables, their essential power is diminished? Perhaps new feminist folklore, perhaps even manifested in the oral tradition, would be more profound? By creating a world on one's own, instead of mining the patriarchal past to produce cover versions of cover versions, a new understanding might develop, one that's not based on reaction but progress.

Jacquelyn says

A collection of short (most less than one page), tweaked fairy tales and fables, exposing the male-centric ideas and values instilled in us since childhood.

It was okay. Some of the poems were clever, but a lot of them had a clipped tone to them that made me think they were just listing the ways in which the original fable favored masculine qualities, instead of delving into the most heinous one or turning it around. There were so many of these, I started to think that the author started with a handful of really great poems, was told to expand it to book-length, got a list of fairy tales, told herself there was anti-feminism in each one, then busted out a paragraph/stanza about it. Most of it felt rushed, but like I said, there are a few gems in there too.

Mel says

Good but a bit transphobic at points
