



The Snow Queen

Hans Christian Andersen , T. Pym (Illustrator)

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Reprinted here for the first time since the 19th century, these color illustrations by T. Pym make the classic Andersen fairy tale even more magical. One of Andersen's best-beloved tales, **The Snow Queen** is a story about the strength and endurance of childhood friendship. Gerda's search for her playmate Kay—who was abducted by the Snow Queen and taken to her frozen palace—is brought to life in delicate and evocative illustrations.

The Snow Queen Details

Date : Published November 5th 2002 by Everyman's Library (first published December 21st 1844)

ISBN : 9780375415128

Author : Hans Christian Andersen , T. Pym (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 96 pages

Genre : Classics, Fantasy, Fiction, Childrens, Fairy Tales, Audiobook



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From Reader Review The Snow Queen for online ebook

Rebecca says

Beautifully written and incredibly intriguing, I didn't absolutely love it but I didn't dislike it. Just a very nice, quick read to start the year. I can also see little fragments of it in Frozen!

Joey Woolfardis says

Far more enjoyable than anticipated, though I think partly due to the wonderful geometric illustrations that accompanied the story.

It is a fairly simple story with basic imagery and not a particularly great translation (I find all translations to be rather dire and wish the babel fish only existed) but it was an enjoyable read due to its simplicity. It feels almost unique in that there are heart-warming notions but no in-your-face morals.

Characters and dialogue were vague and shaky at best, but one cannot deny the lovely imagery and inventiveness of the piece. Definitely better than The Fir Tree, which was the first and only thing I'd read from Andersen.

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Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This is my favorite fairy tale, hands down. If I'm honest, I'm such a huge fan of snow and cold weather. The idea of snow becoming personified makes a lot of sense, because winter does seem to have a life of its own. I live in Texas, and we don't get much winter, but I grew up with it. I miss it so much! Reading this book makes me long for a good winter.

Along with the evocative imagery of winter, there is a very emotional and spiritual love story. Kay and Gerda share a strong emotional bond, but that bond is damaged by Kay's infection with the slivers from the shattered evil mirror. His eye and his heart are pricked, and it changes the way he sees the world, and makes his loving heart grow cold towards poor Gerda. But Gerda doesn't give up on him. When the Snow Queen steals away Kay, she goes searching for him, going on quite an odyssey and meeting some very unusual people along the way. But she never gives up on him.

The lesson of sacrificial love never gets old. That kind of love can melt the fiercest frozen heart and claim back those who are lost. I loved rereading this, and the illustrations I had in my version was a lovely adjunct.

If one has not ever read this book, I highly recommend it. It's available as a free ebook as part of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tale collection.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Snow Queen, Hans Christian Andersen

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Lyn says

First published in 1844, The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson is a delightfully charming, if somewhat dated, fantasy – back when fantasies were called faerie tales.

Told in seven parts, Anderson borrows liberally from Christian themes and pre-Christian myth to create a richly complex, but simply entertaining story that children will enjoy and adults will find amusing, especially the classical, Biblical and mythic references that may be lost, unapologetically so, on a younger reader.

C.S. Lewis fans will no doubt see in the Snow Queen a model for the White Witch and apparently this was the early pattern for Disney's popular film Frozen.

Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This was a nice story. I hope to listen to it again in one sitting. I think I may have lost some of the story with all of the stopping and starting I did.

I still don't feel compelled to watch Frozen after listening to this story.

Macarena Yannelli says

Puedo ver que parte tomaron para hacer Frozen. Es un lindo cuento en general :3

Steph says

I kind of like this. I was a little lost at the end but overall I thought it was really interesting. It's really different from what I'm used to and I'm really interested in the old interpretations of our modern retelling of the stories. The author definitely has an interesting imagination

Adam says

Disney's Frozen said it was based on Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen. That's what piqued my interest in this classic. So, after reading this, I can say fairly that Frozen is VERY loosely based. I found elements that contribute to the world and lore in which Elsa becomes the Snow Queen, but Hans's Snow Queen is less endearing. In short, I'll place the Snow Queen / Frozen comparison in the category of good book, great movie, but each in their own right.

Regarding edition, the Kindle ebook with this cover [The Snow Queen (Fairy eBooks) by Hans Christian Andersen, Marie-Michelle Joy and T. Pym... Published March 5, 2012] was a good version with illustrations for both e-ink Kindles and full color Kindle apps.

Dem says

3.5 Stars

*The Snow Queen by Hans Christian Andersen was a beautiful story.
I listened to this one on audio while wrapping Christmas presents in front of the fire.
What great company this little book was.*

Stepheny says

The Snow Queen was a free gift to audible members...last winter. It's been loaded on my app for quite some time without really catching my interest. I made the decision to read it when I started season 4 of Once Upon a Time.

The narration was really great and I enjoyed the story. I have never watched Frozen. I was worried about that for a while because it was the movie everyone was talking about it... I had to let it go...

No one?

Alright. Can't blame me, can you?

Anyway, it's worth a read. The story is there, the characters are great. I can't say a lot because it's so damn

short. Mayhap even shorter than this review!

But, read it. Listen to it!

Peter Monn says

Very dark but interesting. My full review will be up on my booktube channel at
<http://YouTube.com/peterlikesbooks>

Jarom says

I. LOVE. THIS. STORY.

Yes, this is a fairy tale that I plan to tell my children before I tuck them into bed at night. Holy cow. This is the tale of a boy and a girl. Simple enough, right? The story hasn't even begun and you know it will be good.

It all begins with a mirror. Made by demons in the pits of Hades, this mirror takes everything good that looks into it and makes it the exact opposite. The better of a person you are, the worse it makes you look.

This mirror shatters. Shards fall to the earth, and one of them pierces the heart of a boy. It poisons him, freezes his heart over, and he is spirited away by the mysterious Snow Queen.

The girl, his close friend in childhood, notices his change in behaviour and when he goes missing, she embarks on a quest to save him.

Following several encounters, she finally finds him deep in the Snow Queen's frosted palace, frostbitten and numb to the world.

He doesn't recognize her.

It is here that she realizes just how much he means to her, now that he looks at her with dead eyes.

She can't get him to remember her, so she hugs him and turns to leave.

And the shard of mirror falls out of his heart, and it all suddenly comes rushing back.

He sweeps her off her feet and they live happily ever after, the end :)

Perfect.

This is a fairy tale that puts into perspective the journey. Everyone expects a happily ever after to fall into their lap as soon as they fall in love.

We often overlook the dragons, the orcs, the goblins and imps that lie in the way to everlasting happiness, don't we?

Well folks, love is easily found.

Pure, true love, however, is what remains when the knight sheathes his sword for the last time. After the last bandit surrenders and the troll lies slain, that is when two lovers decide on a happily ever after.

So the million dollar question: is love worth it? Is it worth the fight?

I'm with Hans Christian Anderson: Heavens yes it is!

Great story. Loved it.

Mara says

Well, I'm not gonna turn down an audible freebie now am I?

Their take:

The Snow Queen will be free until January 31, 2015.

*Audible's 2014 Narrator of the Year Julia Whelan performs one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved fairy tales, *The Snow Queen*. This classic tale is a fantastical fable of two dear friends - one of whom goes astray and is literally lost to the north woods, while the other undertakes an epic journey to rescue him. This charming, strange, and wonderful story is a timeless allegory about growing up and the challenges of staying true to one's self, and it served as the wintry inspiration for the blockbuster hit *Frozen*.*

Matt says

In this retelling of a Hans Christian Andersen classic, two young children have their friendship torn apart when a curse befalls one of them and he disappears. The Snow Queen lures him away, off to do her bidding. When the young girl goes looking for her friend, she is pulled in many directions and ends up hitting a dead end on more than one occasion. However, determination and the power of her love breaks down a wall or two and thaws a frozen heart, which allows the truth to triumph over all. Neo liked the story, but felt that it went on and on and on, with little of actual excitement. Andersen classics are not to be trifled with, but even still, it seemed the point was held on ice, like much of the Snow Queen's prisoners.

Bionic Jean says

I remember being bored when I read this story as a child, and reading it again now, nothing has really changed for me. **The Snow Queen** starts out interestingly enough, and the imagery throughout is good, but as for the actual storyline... It is very long and discursive, and as in many fairy tales, the events seem very random, and the reader tends to lose the main thread. It is the sort of story which could make a marvellous stage production, with all its imaginative possibilities, or a film or TV adaptation - as indeed it has, many times over the years. There are also many beautifully illustrated versions of the tale.

The Snow Queen, or "Snedronningen", by Hans Christian Andersen, is one of his longest original fairy tales, which was first published in 1844. At its core it is about the struggle between good and evil as experienced by two children, a girl, Gerda and her friend, a boy, Kay. It is told in seven parts, or chapters:

1. *The Mirror and the Splinters*
2. *A Little Boy and a Little Girl*
3. *The Old Woman's Flower Garden*
4. *A Prince and a Princess*
5. *The Little Robber Girl*
6. *The Lapp Woman and the Finn Woman*
7. *What Happened at the Snow Queen's Palace and What Happened After That*

The first part starts in Hans Christian Andersen's delightfully chatty way,

"Listen! This is the beginning. And when we get to the end we shall know more than we do now."

The storyteller tells of an evil troll, called "*The Devil*", who made a magic mirror which distorted the appearance of everything it reflected. It would never reflect the good and beautiful aspects of people and things, but instead magnify their bad and ugly aspects. "*The Devil*" thinks this is a great joke. He is the headmaster at a school for demons, who all decide to carry the mirror into heaven with the idea of making fun of the angels and God,

But,

"*the mirror shook and grinned, and grinned and shook*" until eventually all the demons dropped it, and it broke into "*a million billion splinters*", some no bigger than a grain of sand.

These glass splinters "*blew everywhere, getting into people's eyes, and making them see everything ugly and twisted. Some splinters even got into people's hearts and that was awful, because their hearts became like blocks of ice.*"

The first part is quite a short chapter, explaining the underlying moral thread which is to run throughout the story. The next chapter introduces the two characters, the little boy Kay, and the little girl Gerda. They live next door to each other in a large city, in the garrets of buildings which have adjoining roofs. They play among the window boxes there, which are full of herbs and roses. It was easy to get from Gerda's to Kay's home, just by stepping over the gutters of each building. The two become great friends.

Kay's grandmother tells them stories about the Snow Queen, who is ruler over the "*snow bees*" — snowflakes that look like bees. Just as bees have a queen, so do the snow bees. So wherever the snowflakes clustered the most, there you would find the Snow Queen. Looking out of his frosted window one winter's day, Kay sees the Snow Queen, who beckons to him to come with her. Kay is frightened and draws back from the window.

The days pass and there is a thaw. But one day in Spring, something happens,

"*Oh! What's that pain in my heart! And oh! What's that in my eye?*"

Even though the child blinks and thinks it has gone, we can tell from their behaviour that one of the glass splinters from the evil troll, "*The Devil*"s mirror has become lodged. The child becomes cruel and aggressive, and the other cannot understand the change in their friend, who teased them, "*kicked the window box, and tore off the rose blooms*", made fun of the kind grandmother, and did all sorts of horrid things. Everything seemed distorted and ugly to this enchanted child now, and the only interesting and beautiful things, are the tiny snowflakes to be seen through a magnifying glass.

While Kay and Gerda are playing with their sleds in the snow, the Snow Queen appears as a woman in a white fur coat, driving a curious white sleigh carriage. The enchanted child is tempted to go back with the Snow Queen to their palace.

If this is all beginning to sound familiar to you, perhaps it reminds you of C.S. Lewis. The first part of this story, with the adjoining garrets and crossing over the rooftops, was very reminiscent of the first (or prequel) Narnia story, "*The Magician's Nephew*" At the beginning of that story, the Victorian children are neighbours

in a similar type of building, and this aspect is crucial to the story's plot. Then in a similar way, C.S. Lewis clearly took his inspiration for the witch "*Jadis*" Queen of Charn, (who called herself the "*Queen of Narnia*") from Hans Christian Andersen's Snow Queen. The first meeting between Jadis and one of the children in "*The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*" is almost a rerun of Hans Christian Andersen's idea.

Just as C.S. Lewis's stories are clearly moral allegories, this earlier story is also a tale of good and evil. And all the subsequent story follows the child who is under the mirror's spell. It involves an evil sorceress, a clever crow, a pair of doves, a Prince and a Princess, a frightening robber girl, and a captive reindeer. There is a *"Mirror of Reason"*, and a Chinese Puzzle. There is a beautiful flower garden, an old Finnish woman and an old Lapp woman. Throughout, the child is determined to rescue the friend, showing loyalty, great courage and tenacity. Eventually the children's adventures are over and the enchantment is dispersed by the power of love. Kay and Gerda make their way back to their home, to *"the big city"*, where they find that everything is just the same, except that they themselves have grown through their experiences.

At the end, the grandmother reads a passage from the Bible,

"Except ye become as little children, ye shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven",

and Kay and Gerda realise that they were saved by their goodness and innocence. They will always remain children at heart.

This story was originally included in the same book of fairy stories as *"The Nightingale"* which was a tribute to Jenny Lind. But in the meantime, Jenny Lind had spurned Hans Christian Andersen's affections. The author subsequently - and rather unfairly - modelled the Snow Queen on what he saw as her icy manner towards him. **The Snow Queen** is a story of high fantasy, and usually included in most anthologies including works by Hans Christian Andersen; it is considered one of his greatest stories. However it does not really capture my imagination. I am extremely glad though, that he inadvertently provided the inspiration for part of C.S. Lewis's Narnia Chronicles, which I do enjoy enormously.

"I can't give her any more power than she has within her. Don't you feel how strong that is? Humans and beasts are at her service as she makes her way through the wide world on her two bare feet. But she must not learn of her power from us. (view spoiler)"

(The Finn woman talking to the reindeer)

Both illustrations are by Hans Christian Andersen's original illustrator, Vilhelm Pedersen

Foad says

David says

This Audible freebie is a nice way to hear the original Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. It's not a

particularly thrilling fable - boys meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back - though really, it's the girl who does the getting.

The story starts with an evil hobgoblin (also referred to as a demon) who goes to magic school (why did Rowling not find a way to hook this into her mythology?) and creates a magic mirror which shows "reality" in the harshest, ugliest way possible. It is shattered into a million pieces, and spread around the world, where it becomes smaller mirrors, spectacles, or tiny specks of glass getting caught in peoples' eyes, creating mischief and cold-hearted misunderstanding.

One such shard gets in the eye of a little boy named Kai, who then spurns his childhood sweetheart, Gerda. One day he goes wandering in the woods and is picked up by the Snow Queen. Gerda, convinced that he is not dead, goes on a quest to find him.

There are talking flowers, talking crows, and a not-really-evil witch, and of course, the Snow Queen herself.

A cute story with perhaps a few too many elements thrown in for the fantasy-minded modern reader, but it would certainly entertain children. Anderson does wrap this tale up with a rather saccharine Christian moral, but it's a story to please those in search of adventuresome girls and magical talking animals.

Now maybe I should go see *Frozen*.

Becky says

Audible freebie (like everyone else). I listened to this one while trying, and failing, to take a nap. Stupid stuffyrunnysore nose. >_<

I did like the reading of this one. I think that Julia Whelan had the right kind of voice for this story, and handled all of the characters well. She gave them each their own personality but didn't overwhelm the character with cartoonish voices.

The story... well, it was a little innocently simplistic for me, and none of it really made any sense (why would a cruel little girl let someone go just because? She enjoys keeping things against their will, and yet all of a sudden, she's going to be altruistic?) but I guess it's a fairy tale, so sense is not what they are intended to be made of.

Still it was a quick little story, and it was free, so I can't complain.

Christy says

3 stars

I picked up *The Snow Queen* because I'm trying to fit in a few more Christmas reads and I got it free from audible. The narration was good, but the story was just okay for me. I know a lot of people love this story and read it as children... this was my first read through. It was only about an hour to listen. I liked it, but compared to my last holiday audible listen it just missed the mark for me.

