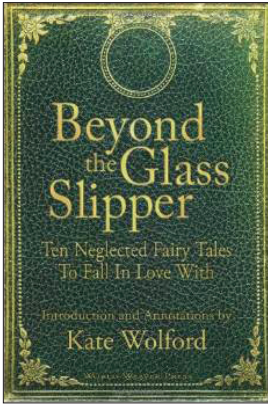


CONTEMPLATING FAIRY TALES



Kate Wolford (Introduction and Annotations). *Beyond the Glass Slipper. Ten Neglected Fairy Tales To Fall In Love With*. Kalamazoo, Michigan: World Weaver Press, 2013. 158 pp.

Kate Wolford's book serves as a good introduction for those who are discovering the world of fairy tales and would like to know more about it as well as think along the same lines as the author. The author wishes to lead the reader to the world of fairy tales in an easy and delightful way, providing matter-of-fact tips to orientate and find the right way. Yet, she is not willing to impose her own opinion on the reader, but is rather eager to show that fairy tales can be interpreted in different ways, all of which are equally important.

In the introduction to the book, the author formulates one of her objectives: to uncover and rediscover fairy tales that have been overshadowed by their popular counterparts (Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, etc.). To this end, she has found ten stories, which originate from the most famous fairy tale collections of the 19th century (mainly authored by Andrew Lang, H. Cr. Andersen and the Brothers Grimm), yet have fallen into oblivion later on.

To inspire the reader and make them contemplate, the author gives a short introduction at the beginning of each fairy tale, in which she draws attention to the aspects that should be considered at each of the stories. The author is interested in what is behind these stories, and why the characters behave like they do, why certain elements and motifs have been used, etc. By means of different questions and observations the author provides a key for unlocking these old stories, enabling us to peep inside.

This is not a scientific publication but rather one of a popular style, introducing the fairy tale genre to the wider public and indicating that fairy tales are not only part of children's literature but also offer joy of discovery to adults.

Kärri Toomeos-Orglaan