



Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast

By Robin McKinley

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A strange imprisonment

Beauty has never liked her nickname. She is thin and awkward; it is her two sisters who are the beautiful ones. But what she lacks in looks, she can perhaps make up for in courage.

When her father comes home with the tale of an enchanted castle in the forest and the terrible promise he had to make to the Beast who lives there, Beauty knows she must go to the castle, a prisoner of her own free will. Her father protests that he will not let her go, but she answers, "Cannot a Beast be tamed?"

Robin McKinley's beloved telling illuminates the unusual love story of a most unlikely couple: *Beauty and the Beast*.

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Beauty: A Retelling of the Story of Beauty and the Beast By Robin McKinley Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This much-loved retelling of the classic French tale *Beauty and the Beast* elicits the familiar magical charm, but is more believable and complex than the traditional story. In this version, Beauty is not as beautiful as her older sisters, who are both lovely and kind. Here, in fact, Beauty has no confidence in her appearance but takes pride in her own intelligence, her love of learning and books, and her talent in riding. She is the most competent of the three sisters, which proves essential when they are forced to retire to the country because of their father's financial ruin.

The plot follows that of the renowned legend: Beauty selflessly agrees to inhabit the Beast's castle to spare her father's life. Beauty's gradual acceptance of the Beast and the couple's deepening trust and affection are amplified in novel form. Robin McKinley's writing has the flavor of another century, and Beauty heightens the authenticity as a reliable and competent narrator.

This was McKinley's first book, written almost 20 years ago. Since that time she has been awarded the Newbery Medal for *The Hero and the Crown* and has delighted her fans with another retelling of the *Beauty and the Beast* fable, *Rose Daughter*. Still, McKinley's first novel has a special place in the hearts of her devoted readers, many of whom attest to relishing *Beauty* time and again. (*Ages 11 to Adult*)

Review

"A captivating novel." -- -- *ALA Booklist*

About the Author

Robin McKinley's other books include the Newbery Award-winning *The Hero and the Crown*; Newbery Honor Book *The Blue Sword*; *Sunshine*; *Spindle's End*; *Rose Daughter*; *Deerskin*; *The Outlaws of Sherwood*; and the short story collections *The Door in the Hedge*; *A Knot in the Grain and Other Stories*; and, with her husband, the author Peter Dickinson, *Water: Tales of Elemental Spirits*. She lives in England with her husband, three whippets, and over five hundred rosebushes.

Users Review

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