



The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden

By Catherynne M. Valente

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The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden By Catherynne M. Valente

A Book of Wonders for Grown-Up Readers

Every once in a great while a book comes along that reminds us of the magic spell that stories can cast over us—to dazzle, entertain, and enlighten. Welcome to the Arabian Nights for our time—a lush and fantastical epic guaranteed to spirit you away from the very first page....

Secreted away in a garden, a lonely girl spins stories to warm a curious prince: peculiar feats and unspeakable fates that loop through each other and back again to meet in the tapestry of her voice. Inked on her eyelids, each twisting, tattooed tale is a piece in the puzzle of the girl's own hidden history. And what tales she tells! Tales of shape-shifting witches and wild horsewomen, heron kings and beast princesses, snake gods, dog monks, and living stars—each story more strange and fantastic than the one that came before. From ill-tempered “mermaid” to fastidious Beast, nothing is ever quite what it seems in these ever-shifting tales—even, and especially, their teller. Adorned with illustrations by the legendary Michael Kaluta, Valente's enchanting lyrical fantasy offers a breathtaking reinvention of the untold myths and dark fairy tales that shape our dreams. And just when you think you've come to the end, you realize the adventure has only begun....

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A lonely girl with a dark tattoo across her eyelids made up of words spelling out countless tales unfolds a fabulous, recursive Arabian Nights-style narrative of stories within stories in this first of a new fantasy series from Valente (*The Grass-Cutting Sword*). The fantastic tales involve creation myths, shape-changing creatures, true love sought and thwarted, theorems of princely behavior, patricide, sea monsters, kindness and cruelty. As a sainted priestess explains, stories "are like prayers. It does not matter when you begin, or when you end, only that you bend a knee and say the words," and this volume does not so much arrive at a conclusion but stops abruptly, leaving room for endless sequels. Each descriptive phrase and story blossoms into another, creating a lush, hallucinogenic effect.

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review The opening volume of the *Orphan's Tales* begins in a palace garden, where a girl has been abandoned because of the strange, ink-black stain around her eyes and over her eyelids. Because the sultan and his nobles wish to avoid the problem she presents, she is left to wander the gardens, alone until another child, a boy, comes and speaks to her. She reveals the secret of her ink-stained eyes, that they contain many tales. In return for the boy's company, she tells him stories, beginning with the tale of the prince Leander. Each succeeding story grows from the one before it, characters recounting tales they were told and even weaving them back together. There is an entire mythology in this book, in which the themes of familiar fairy tales are picked apart and rearranged into a new and wonderful whole. The narrative is a nested, many-faceted thing, ever circling back to the girl in the palace garden and the prince she is telling the tales to in a wonderful interpretation of what fairy tales ought to be. The illustrations, by Michael Kaluta, constitute an excellent supplement, reminiscent of illustrations of such fairy-tale books as Andrew Lang's, though Kaluta does no toning down for Victorian sensibilities. *Regina Schroeder*

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Review

"Cathrynne Valente weaves layer upon layer of marvels in her debut novel. **In the Night Garden** is a treat for all who love puzzle stories and the mystical language of talespinners."—Carol Berg, author of *Daughter of Ancients*

"Fabulous talespinning in the tradition of story cycles such as *The Arabian Nights*. Lyrical, wildly imaginative and slyly humorous, Valente's prose possesses an irrepressible spirit."—K. J. Bishop, author of **The Etched City**

"Astonishing work! Valente's endless invention and mythic range are breathtaking. It's as if she's gone night-wandering, and plucked a hundred distant cultures out of the air to deliver their stories to us."—Ellen Kushner, author of **Thomas the Rhymer**

"Refreshingly original in both style and form, *In the Night Garden* should delight lovers of myth and folklore."—Juliet Marillier, author of the *Sevenwaters* trilogy

"While the obvious comparison is to *One Thousand and One Nights*.... These are fairy tales that bite and bleed. Every moment of lyricism is countered by one of clear-eyed honesty, and sometimes the moments combine.... Valente weaves an intricate, exquisite web that ultimately binds each story to the

other."—*Washington Post Book World*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Cooke:

Book is definitely written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can realize everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As it is known to us that book is important point to bring us around the world. Next to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A guide *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden* will make you to always be smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that open or reading a new book make you bored. It is not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or suitable book with you?

Roy Brown:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden*, you may enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Kristy Abrahams:

Reading a book to get new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to go through a book. When you read a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, because book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself look for a fiction books, this kind of us novel, comics, and soon. *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden* provide you with new experience in reading a book.

Judy Newberry:

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day through watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This *The Orphan's Tales: In the Night Garden* can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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