



Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood

By Maria Tatar

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar

When Hansel and Gretel try to eat the witch's gingerbread house in the woods, are they indulging their "uncontrolled cravings" and "destructive desires" or are they simply responding normally to the hunger pangs they feel after being abandoned by their parents? Challenging Bruno Bettelheim and other critics who read fairy tales as enactments of children's untamed urges, Maria Tatar argues that it is time to stop casting the children as villains. In this provocative book she explores how adults mistreat children, focusing on adults not only as hostile characters in fairy tales themselves but also as real people who use frightening stories to discipline young listeners.

 [Download Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Cultu ...pdf](#)

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood

By Maria Tatar

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar

When Hansel and Gretel try to eat the witch's gingerbread house in the woods, are they indulging their "uncontrolled cravings" and "destructive desires" or are they simply responding normally to the hunger pangs they feel after being abandoned by their parents? Challenging Bruno Bettelheim and other critics who read fairy tales as enactments of children's untamed urges, Maria Tatar argues that it is time to stop casting the children as villains. In this provocative book she explores how adults mistreat children, focusing on adults not only as hostile characters in fairy tales themselves but also as real people who use frightening stories to discipline young listeners.

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1399866 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Princeton University Press
- Published on: 1992-04-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 6.25" w x 1.00" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 332 pages

 [Download Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Cultu ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar

Editorial Review

From Kirkus Reviews

Provocative observations on the uses (and misuses) of ``classic'' fairy tales are overwhelmed by academic jargon in this oddly disjointed and disappointing study from Tatar (German Literature/Harvard). Expanding on her *The Hard Facts of the Grimms' Fairy Tales* (1987), Tatar examines the transformation of often ribald adult folk-tale prototypes into sometimes horrifyingly violent children's stories rooted in the assumptions and realities of a particular social context. At the time when such well-known collectors as the Brothers Grimm, Charles Perrault, and Hans Christian Andersen were combining folk legends with the children's literary conventions of ``cautionary'' and ``exemplary'' stories, Tatar says, infant death, abandonment by parents, and starvation were not uncommon. Today, Tatar advises, these ``cruel'' and ``sadistic'' tales, anachronistic at best, with heroines earning redemption through ``a servile attitude'' and obedience, should yield to ``a creative folklore...reinvented by each generation of storytellers and reinvested with creative social energy.'' The author fails to elaborate on this point, however, with more than sketchy suggestions about discussing stories with children. Tatar does provide a neat common-sensical corrective to the interpretive inversions of Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment* (1976), in which child victims become psychologically muddled villains (the starving Hansel and Gretel, Tatar points out, have reasons to devour the witch's house far more compelling than Bettelheim's ``uncontrolled cravings''). The author also offers an interesting dissection of the pervasive sexism of many fairy tales (why all the female villains?). The dreary monograph form of much of the book never quite gels, unfortunately, with Tatar's practical, if undeveloped, popular exhortations. (Thirty illustrations--some seen.) -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

Winner of the 1992 Book Prize in Literature, German Studies Association

"As provocative and stimulating as her *The Hard Facts of the Grimms' Fairy Tales*, this book should give a salutary shock to everyone who brings children and tales together, convincing them that "every interpretation is a rewriting' and encouraging them "to identify what is transmitted in the stories we tell children."--*Library Journal*

From the Back Cover

When fairy tales moved from workrooms, taverns, and the fireside into the nursery, they not only lost much of their irreverent, earthy humor but were also deprived of their contestatory stance to official culture. Children's literature, Maria Tatar maintains, has always been more intent on producing docile minds than playful bodies. From its inception, it has openly endorsed a productive discipline that condemns idleness and disobedience along with most forms of social resistance.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tyrone Smith:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have some other opinion?

Andy Breaux:

Now a day those who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources in it can be true or not require people to be aware of each details they get. How individuals to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Examining a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information mainly this Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood book because book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Nora Mickey:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a problem. What people must be consider if those information which is inside the former life are difficult to be find than now's taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you get it as your main information there will be huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood as your daily resource information.

Edward Franco:

You can find this Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood by go to the bookstore or Mall. Simply viewing or reviewing it might to be your solve trouble if you get difficulties to your knowledge. Kinds of this reserve are various. Not only simply by written or printed but also can you enjoy this book through e-book. In the modern era similar to now, you just looking because of your mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your ways to get more information about your guide. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still update. Let's try to choose right ways for you.

Download and Read Online Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar #L28KNAGQVJ9

Read Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar for online ebook

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar books to read online.

Online Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar ebook PDF download

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar Doc

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar MobiPocket

Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar EPub

L28KNAGQVJ9: Off with Their Heads!: Fairy Tales and the Culture of Childhood By Maria Tatar