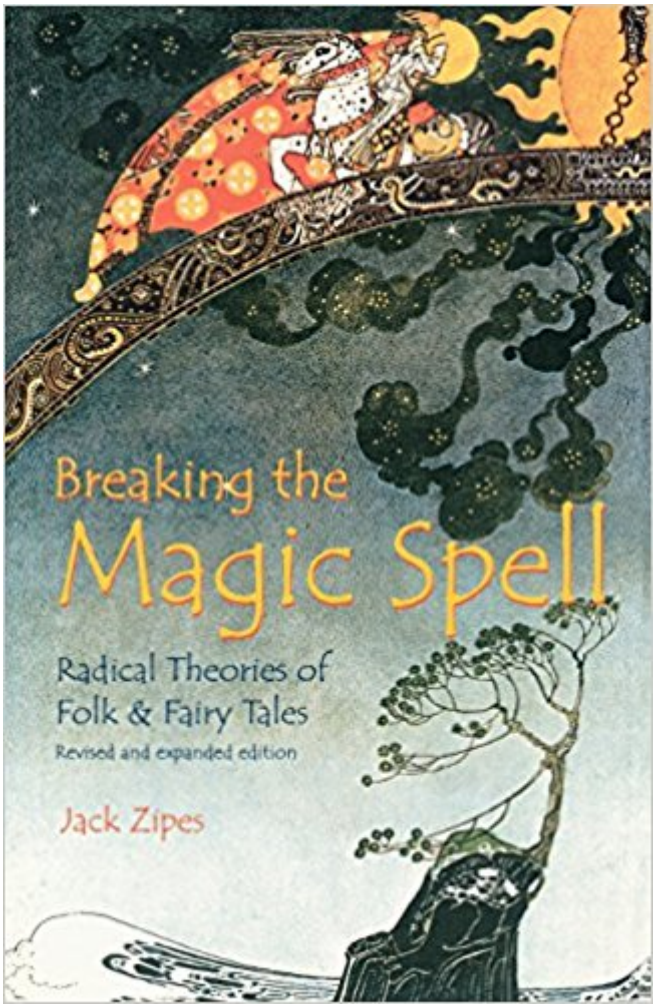
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Breaking The Magic Spell: Radical Theories Of Folk And Fairy Tales



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Synopsis

This revised, expanded, and updated edition of the 1979 landmark Breaking the Magic Spell examines the enduring power of fairy tales and the ways they invade our subjective world. In seven provocative essays, Zipes discusses the importance of investigating oral folk tales in their socio-political context and traces their evolution into literary fairy tales, a metamorphosis that often diminished the ideology of the original narrative. Zipes also looks at how folk tales influence our popular beliefs and the ways they have been exploited by a corporate media network intent on regulating the mystical elements of the stories. He examines a range of authors, including the Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Anderson, Ernst Bloch, Tolkien, Bettelheim, and J.K. Rowling to demonstrate the continuing symbiotic relationship between folklore and literature.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: University Press of Kentucky; 2 Rev Exp edition (July 5, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813190304

ISBN-13: 978-0813190303

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 5.8 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #761,599 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 inÃ Â Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > History & Criticism #406 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Folklore #447 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales > Fairy Tales

Customer Reviews

"A stimulating contribution to the critical literature of folk and fairy tales."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Children's Literature Association Quarterly"The name Jack Zipes is synonymous with highly regarded and widely read anthologies and critiques of fairy tales."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Choice"All libraries should acquire this new edition of one of the most influential texts in the field."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Choice"Fairy Tales are a highly fashionable study today for literary scholars as well as folklorists, and another new book shows what a range of interest can be evoked by them. This time in Jack Zipes' interesting and vigorous study."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Encounter"Zipes reveals the extraordinary breadth of his acquaintance with both recent and classic literature in the field of folk and fairytale research."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Fabula"Zipes

manages the impressive trick of communicating both detail and overview without simplifying either. . . the serious folklorist should should defnitely have this on his bookshelf."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Fortean Times"Zipes ably demonstrates that moral, political, religious, and other ideologies have shaped these apparently innocent narratives."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Lore and Language"This problematic, provocative study will undoubtedly provide stimulating reading for many audiences."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Romantic Movement"Zipes has written a stimulating and important contribution to the sociology of popular literature."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Sociological Review"Places traditional tales in their socio-political, economic and cultural contexts."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Teacher Librarian"Folklorists, educators and historians will particularly find this resource to be valuable. But educators and parents will also find Zipes's ideas intriguing."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Elizabeth Herron, Folks and Fairies in Action (resourcecenterblog.wordpress.com)

Jack Zipes, professor of German and director of the Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota, is the author of many books on folk and fairy tales, including Fairy Tale as Myth/Myth as Fairy Tale. He lives in Minneapolis.

I wish I could find more books like this, with critical commentary on the development of fairy tales.Unfortunately, the author is a professor of German, and uses a lot of German terms without necessarily translating them, which got confusing for this non-German speaking reader.

Fairy tales are an important part of our personal lives. We all grew up most probably hearing these tales before our bed times. These tales do include much of the wisdom we today accept as common knowedge. We need to better appreciate their importance not only to children, but to the child within all of us.

One of the earlier book from Zipes that discussed about the role and, most importantly I think, the need for such genre to exist from culture to culture.

I was really disappointed by this e-book. I found the style of presentation and the way the content was presented really detracted from what I usually find to be very interesting themes.I think that there are other books of Zipes' that cover this material in a much clearer and appealing way, such as 'The Irresistible Fairy Tale'.

The book was originally published in 1979, with this new edition coming along in 2002. The feminist interpretations of fairy tales have gained a lot of attention since the book appeared (see most any Angela Carter, my personal choice isÃ Â The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman) and it would be hard to consider that radical today. Still, the discussion of latent fascism ("Might makes right") and Utopian idealism are excellent and thought provoking. The book was originally written at least in part a response to the popularity (late 1960s and early 1970s) of Tolkien and Narnia. The update adds in Harry Potter and reconnects us to popularity of the folk tale in mass market literature."In Pittsburgh, PA, a burglar lost his shoe as he fled from the home of Mrs. M., age 43. Patrolmen arrested R.T., age 20, who was sitting shoeless in a nearby bar. Authorities said a shoe matching the one found in the M. home was discovered behind the bar." - Winnipeg Free Press, April 14, 1972Cinderella is all around us.

I really love Jack Zipes, and this is one of his helpful books for folklorists, and amateurs who enjoy reading fairy tales. It presents a variety of 'radical' theories about the meaning and construction of fairy tales. Many of the theories are no longer quite so radical. The book also gives you a good overview of feminist theories about the tales, some of which will surprise. Among other things, that fairy tales are not always about the subjugation of silly blond princesses. I reccomend this book as an intro to folk and fairy tale theory.

It is very interesting and it gives you so much information about the fairy tales and the mass media industry.

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