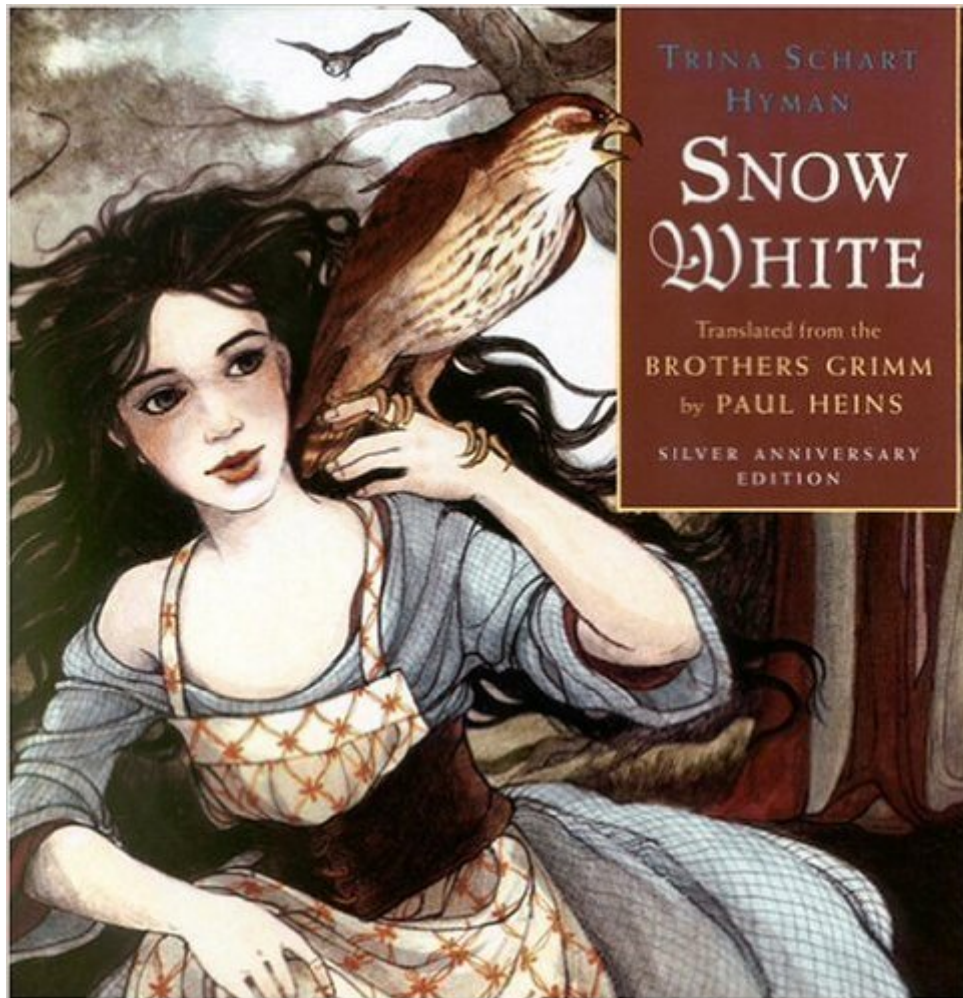


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Snow White



Synopsis

Spared by her would-be executioner, Snow White finds a home with seven kindly dwarfs, but the hateful queen who wants her dead will stop at nothing to be the most beautiful woman in the land. A poisoned apple seems to send Snow White to her death, but true love brings her back, and good once again prevails. Paul Heins's graceful words and Trina Schart Hyman's expressive artwork create a dramatic retelling of this classic tale, filled with movement and passion that will enchant readers of all ages.

Book Information

Age Range: 4 and up

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Young Readers; Trina Hyman & Paul Heins version!!!!!!! edition (September 30, 1979)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316354511

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Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.1 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,228,530 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Collections #86 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European #1136 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Customer Reviews

I found a copy of this version of Snow White in the school library in Japan where I was teaching, and took it home to read to my boys. Later, I photographed the pages and showed slides to my Japanese students, using these illustrations to explain the surface, psychological, and spiritual meaning of the Grimm's stories. Of Grimm illustrators, I think Hyman is best, and while her illustrations of Rapunzel, Living Water, etc, are wonderful, this is her most inspired work. First of all, the paintings take my breath away. Unlike the Disney figures, one can understand why the Mirror on the Wall thought these two ladies beautiful, and why the prince fell in love with Snow White! Hyman uses light brilliantly, beautifully, and with subtlety. Wow! My students liked them, too. Also, Hyman seems to be one of those rare souls who picks up on the spiritual level of the Grimm tale. None of

the other reviewers has mentioned the allegorical nature of Snow White, and I don't want to ruin the story for anyone. But if this interests you, pay close attention to numbers, temptations, candles, the mirror, especially the final mirror image, and the face of the King's Son. Hyman has drawn so subtly that it is possible to entirely overlook this quality and thoroughly enjoy her art, as an atheist may enjoy, say, the Chronicles of Narnia. Nor am I even sure she was a Christian. But she may have picked up on something intended by the Brothers Grimm. (For details, see Ronald Murphy's *The Owl, the Raven, and the Dove: The Religious Meaning of the Grimm's Magic Fairy Tales*. Or see my upcoming article in *Books and Culture*, "How the Brothers Grimm Overthrew the Evil Empire.") Lay all that aside, though, and this is still one of the most lovely children's books I have ever read.

author, *Jesus and the Religions of Man*

This is the well-known story of a princess whose evil stepmother tries to have her killed. The huntsmen could not go through with it and tells Snow White to run away. When she does she finds herself in the company of seven small men. They live in a house very happily until the queen finds that Snow White is not dead. She finds Snow White and tricks her into eating a poisoned apple. Snow White dies. She is awoken from her death by the kiss of a prince and they live happily ever after. The reason I enjoyed this version of Snow White more than others that I have read was that it was not as much of a fairy tale story and more of a darker approach to it. The seven dwarfs, for example, are not shown as happy little creatures that sing and dance all day long. They are merely shown as small, kind men. The illustrations in this book are so beautiful even though they are not the bright colors that would usually go along with this story.

Parents looking for a good edition of "Snow White" need look no further than this one by Paul Heins and Trina Schart Hyman. One day a beautiful, yet proud and arrogant, queen stands before her magic mirror and asks: "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is most beautiful in the land?" Instead of replying as usual that she is the beautifullest, the mirror informs the queen that her stepdaughter, Snow White, has now surpassed her in beauty. Driven by envy and anger, the queen orders a hunter to take the girl into the woods to be killed. He decides to spare her life and presents the liver and lungs of a boar to the queen instead of Snow White's. Meanwhile Snow White takes shelter in the house of the seven dwarfs. The scene when the dwarfs return home is reminiscent of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" with the dwarfs asking "Who has taken some of my bread?", "Who has been using my little fork?", and discovering the girl asleep in one of the beds. They allow her to stay. When the queen discovers Snow White is still alive, she tries to get rid of her in a variety of

ways: bodice laces that cut one's breath, a poisoned comb and finally a poisoned apple. The fairy tale obviously has a happy ending. There are two scenes in the tale that parents or children might find disturbing. One is when the queen cooks and eats the liver and lungs, thinking they are Snow White's. Second, at the end, when the wicked queen is made to dance in red hot shoes until she falls dead. Other than that the story is well told and the illustrations are magnificent---detailed with rich and vivid colors. I especially liked the one where the queen, disguised as a peddler, is tying Snow White's bodice laces. A wonderful story to add to your child's collection.

I read this book when I was seven years old and have never forgotten it. Having been raised with Disney, I had never known what a real fairy tale was . . . at least, not the original tales. This book tells the story the way it ought to be told. I think that I can honestly say that this book started me on my love of fantasy novels and folk literature.

While Nancy Eckholm Burkert's meticulous, cool, elegant "Snow White" set a standard for illustrations of this classic fairy tale, Trina Schart Hyman's vision should also have a place on any collector's bookshelf: her sensuous, often shadowy, almost cinematic imagery still evokes the spirit of the story, even though her Snow White and the stepmother are perhaps more "contemporary" in appearance. (Though certainly not, as Kirkus reviews worded it, "Disney paper dolls.") After all, even though illustrators like to use period costumes and settings, fairy tales are not history lessons. It's too bad the first edition of this book is no longer available, as I would have loved a copy with the original cover of Snow White and the seven dwarfs in a snowy landscape. I don't know whether the formatting of the text in that edition is the same, but the hard-edged white blocks of text cutting into the illustrations did not integrate well with the lush images. Nevertheless I am happy to own this book.

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