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The Singing Bones



Synopsis

Wicked stepmothers, traitorous brothers, cunning foxes, lonely princesses: There is no mistaking the world of the Brothers Grimm and the beloved fairy tales that have captured generations of readers. Now internationally acclaimed artist Shaun Tan shows us the beautiful, terrifying, amusing, and downright peculiar heart of these tales as never before seen. With a foreword by Neil Gaiman and an introduction by renowned fairy-tale expert Jack Zipes, this stunning gallery of sculptural works will thrill and delight art lovers and fairy-tale aficionados alike.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 5 Up — Tan's latest holds a complete art exhibit within its pages of photographs and excerpts from Grimms' folktales and fairy tales. Tan has thoughtfully paired 75 of his original sculptures with paragraphs from the Brothers' familiar and obscure selections. Inspired by Inuit stone carvings and pre-Columbian clay figures, Tan's sculptures exude a fresh, naive style. When combined with the texts, the seemingly simple sculptural forms become as complex as the tales they represent. With a foreword by Neil Gaiman and commentary by folklore scholar Jack Zipes, this volume is a first of its kind contribution to the genre. Since each piece provides only a snippet of the accompanying story, the book follows up with summaries of the fairy tales and suggestions for

further reading. Younger audiences may be frustrated by the vague texts chosen to illustrate the sculptures. In fact, the book's entire concept may be too esoteric for anyone preferring elaborate decoration and happily-ever-after endings. However, the images, rendered from air-dry clay, papier-mâché, paint, and found objects from nature, are, by turns, fanciful, gruesome, and thought provoking. The book is expertly minimalist, providing potential opportunities for discussion of story elements, art appreciation, and philosophy for a wide age range. VERDICT A unique addition to special and robust folktale and fairy-tale and/or art collections. — Jane Miller, Nashville Public Library

Praise for *The Singing Bones* "[Tan's] starkly lit sculptures... have a look reminiscent of Inuit art; they appear simplified and smoothed by many hands. Their scale is hard to gauge. They seem simultaneously monumental and small enough to tuck in a pocket, like Japanese netsuke." -- New York Times Book Review * "Although readers can only see Tan's remarkable artistry in two dimensions, the figures exert an almost primal force. Rather than simply represent what happens in these stories, these pieces embody their power." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review * "These inscrutable, unsettling sculptures demand that viewers connect art and tale, examining their own reactions to the darkest impulses and glimpses of light within the book -- and themselves." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review * "Almost any person with a bit of understanding about folk and fairy tales can pick this up and find it powerful, amusing, disturbing, and cool, but older readers who take the time to dive into the essays by Gaiman, Zipes, and Tan will get the most out of this thoughtful, creative collection." -- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review * "A stunning, eerie addition to fairy tale and folklore collections." -- Booklist, starred review "The artist's personal afterword and note on his medium and process, inspired by and stylistically reflective of Inuit stone carvings and pre-Columbian clay figurines, along with some suggestions for further reading, complete this thoughtful compendium." -- Horn Book Magazine "The Singing Bones will appeal to fans of history and art, as well as lovers of fantasy and fairytales. Reluctant readers and skimmers will like the short excerpts. Unlike any other, this is not your average fairytale book." -- VOYA Praise for *The Arrival* A New York Times Best Illustrated Book * "Filled with both subtlety and grandeur, the book is a unique work that not only fulfills but also expands the potential of its form." -- Booklist, starred review * "An unashamed paean to the immigrant's spirit, tenacity and guts, perfectly crafted for maximum effect." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review * "Few will remain unaffected by this timeless stunner." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review Praise for *Tales from Outer Suburbia* A New York Times Best Illustrated Book * "The thoughtful and engaged reader will

take from these stories an experience as deep and profound as with anything he has ever read." -- Booklist, starred review * "Graphic-novel and text enthusiasts alike will be drawn to this breathtaking combination of words and images." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Tan's work overflows with human warmth and childlike wonder." -- New York Times Praise for Lost & Found: Three by Shaun Tan * "These stories representing the visionary work of a master storyteller, illustrator, and designer who cares deeply about his message deserve a place in almost every collection." --Booklist, starred review "Shaun Tan rocks my retinas... The book is gorgeously designed, the stories are evocative and mysterious, and every page of Tan's paintings -- I can't bring myself to call them mere illustrations -- commands long moments of study." -- Cleveland Plain Dealer Praise for The Bird King: An Artist's Notebook * "The sharing of unfinished work is a generous gesture, and the collection is a treasure trove for any young artist who wants to know more about how ideas are captured on paper." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review * "Unmistakable are his flawless craftsmanship, his organically industrial yet timeless aesthetic, and his lyrically haunting style and tone... A powerful springboard for the imagination." -- Booklist, starred review Praise for Rules of Summer * "As always, the swirl of emotion that Tan's artwork kicks up lingers long after the book is closed." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review * "Sumptuous and sincere -- this title is a winner." -- School Library Journal, starred review "Visually fascinating." -- New York Times

thank you for publishing it, thank you Tan for existing! Great fast service, state as described

Shaun Tan has done it again. Wonderful, magical book!

Really wonderful stories, some I wished were longer but it's a book of short stories. Amazing art, and dark and original stories!

Excellent

Wonderful art from a great artist. I have all of Shaun's books, they are all worth viewing and enjoying.

Shaun is an incredible talent!

I love this book. It is absolutely beautiful and the stories are classic.

Such a beautiful spooky book. Amazing art.

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