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Parents and children love to play "question" games: Would you eat spaghetti made with gummy worms? Would you wear your clothes backwards all day? Sometimes the answer is "yes" and sometimes it's "no"--but the fun is in the asking. Gifted writer and educator Esme Raji Codell has writtten a book that incorporates fractured fairy tales with this kind of parent-child interplay to create a pitch-perfect combination of bedtime read-aloud and fairytales that will delight children and parents!

## Fairly Fairy Tales Details

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Author : Esmé Raji Codell , Elisa Chavarri (Illustrator)

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# From Reader Review Fairly Fairy Tales for online ebook

## Caren says

I really like this book, but my caveat would be that, despite the very bright pictures and very few words, it really is not a pre-K book. The child would have to know the original fairy tales to be able to join in the fun of the book and, in my experience, very young children often have not been exposed to many of these stories yet. (I had trouble sharing "Interrupting Chicken" with preschoolers for just this very reason.) It would probably work quite well with kindergarten and up.

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## Ina says

This book didn't grab me right away, but by the time I read it at today's storytime, it had grown on me and it was certainly a big hit with my toddler audience. I wasn't sure the text format, ask a couple of questions about a well known fairy tale with answers (Straw? Yes. Sticks? Yes. Bricks? Yes.) and then throw in a question that doesn't belong - "Solar Panels?" No. Then say, well, maybe and turn the page for a whole new take on that fairytale - colorfully illustrated and filled with humor. The kids loved it. They had a great time guessing the fairytale, and saying no...and then anticipating the "maybe" version of the story. There was a great response to this creative book. Great giggles and participation!

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## Katie Fitzgerald says

Fairly Fairy Tales explores what might happen if just one new and interesting element was introduced to each of several well-known fairy tales. As a little boy gets ready for bed, he and his mother review the standard components to each tale - sticks, straw, and bricks; red hood, wolf, and grandma; cow, beanstalk and giant - affirming that each one belongs. Then Mom suggests something new - solar panels for the three pigs, shampoo for Little Red Riding Hood, and spaghetti for Jack and the Giant up the beanstalk. Noooo! says the little boy, but then thinks it over. Well, maybe.

Brightly colored two-page spreads depict the newly imagined fairy tales, and almost entirely without words, manage to tell a whole new story. The characters from Red Riding Hood are shown doing each other's hair and makeup in a salon. Cinderella and her prince dance beneath a disco ball while the fairy godmother and ugly stepsisters look on. Mama Bear and Papa Bear curl up on the couch and watch TV with Goldilocks while Baby Bear scowls in disgust. There is much to look at in each illustration, so that even children who don't read yet will be able to understand what is going on, and how each of the characters might feel.

I wasn't crazy about the idea of television as a way to bring a family together, and I wasn't sure the bedtime sequences at the start and end of the book were necessary, but these are minor flaws, and I thought everything else was very well done. The conversational format of the text, in particular, works well, and the repetition of "Noooo!" and "Well, maybe," invites the child to participate in reading the story, which makes it equally great for story time and one-on-one reading. I'd definitely recommend this book to kids who know their fairy tales well, and I think it would also make a great introduction to those tales for kids who haven't heard them all yet.

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## **Barbara says**

In this charming picture book, a mother prepares her child for bedtime with a kiss, a drink of water, and a story or two. Of course, children are rarely ready for bed, and she paves the way with pieces of six commonly read fairy tales. Each snippet has an unexpected twist; for instance, who would associate solar panels with the story of The Three Little Pigs--and yet, an eco-minded wolf might. Some of the possibilities are really, really strange, but young children familiar with the original versions would delight in pointing out the things that don't fit--and then seeing how they might fit, after all. The digitally prepared illustrations pulse with life, alternating a double page spread with four simple images with a double-page spread whose images fill the page. This one would be a wonderful read aloud but might not be the best choice when trying to lull someone to sleep.

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## **Ashlin Edmisten says**

Probably the best thing about this book is the illustrations. They are incredible and fascinating.

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## **Katy says**

Esme Raji Codell's book, *Fairly Fairy Tales*, begins when a child receives a kiss goodnight, a glass of water, and a good selection of fairy tales. Oh no!! It's bedtime! What follows is a parade of fairy tale stories with a twist. Little Red Riding Hood with shampoo? Jack and the Beanstalk with Spaghetti? Cinderella with a disco ball? Well, maybe. Illustrations showing how fairy tales could have ended are imaginative and fun. This book has great potential as a read-aloud because of the patterns and predictability of the story text. Children will chime in with, 'Well, maybe' or 'No' as they discover the twists of each tale. The surprise elements to each story will appeal to young children, though not all may know what a disco ball is.

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## **Tina Bartholoma says**

The humor here is in the details. Each fairy tale is told on one page with just three questions; "porridge? yes. chair? yes. bed? yes., then the new element is added "television? noooo." with a full spread on the next page to show the modern possibilities "well, maybe."

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## **Shannon says**

You would think that for someone looking to SHAKE UP traditional fairy tales, especially if that person made a name for herself by bragging about how rad she was at teaching in a diverse school, that that author and her Peruvian illustrator might want to include, you know, not just white kids in their book.

You know I'm not the world's biggest Esme Raji Codell fan, and this book is significantly better than *Sing a*

Song of Tuna Fish (but not as good as Sahara Special). The art is bright and detailed, but it's nothing amazing. And really? When the three little pigs put solar panels on their roof, do we need to perpetuate the myth that the only people who would celebrate are Rastafarians and hippies with flowers in their hair? Step up your game, ladies.

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### **Marcie says**

This is a very simple story that takes the well-known components of a traditional fairy tale ("Cow? Yes. Beanstalk? Yes. Giant? Yes.") and adds in an unusual and modern twist. ("Spaghetti? NOOOOO!") There is no real plot to the book or sense of continuity between the tales, and the text is so simple that it is boring for an adult to read. However, the kids loved to chime in with the "yes" and "no" parts, and they certainly enjoyed seeing how the fairy tale was twisted. However, quite a few of the twists were beyond my 3 and 5 year old's comprehension, like solar panels, disco balls, and even a beauty parlor. Having to explain these things took away from reading the story. The best part of this book was the beautiful and funny pictures; we especially loved the Italian restaurant scene.

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### **Matthew says**

If you're looking for a quick, simple read that goes through a number of classic fairy tales without dragging them out to even remotely full-length, this is the book for you. Basically lacking any kind of feasible plot, the book dives right into the most basic spare details of each fairy tale with a simple, repetitive scaffold. It's not because the author doesn't know what she's doing though. In fact, the writer most assuredly knows exactly what she's doing. She's writing a simple, interactive fairy tale introduction that invites participation and response all without boring the audience to sleep. In my case, this is just what I was looking for and it was done very well.

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### **Meg Bell says**

This would be a really fun book to use with a Fair Tale literature study. My students are learning to write Fairy Tales, so this would also be good to get their wheels moving in a different direction with the characters agreeing and opposing and then fantasizing what the story would be like if something else happened instead of what really did happen in all of the classic tales. I thought it was cute book for the purpose of teaching and reinforcing the classic fairy tale elements...

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### **Emmalee Nelson says**

An adorable bed time story *Fairly Fairy Tales*, runs through things you find in a fairy tale story such as, a cow, a beanstalk, and a giant. Then it throws in something unexpected like spaghetti. Does spaghetti go in the story of Jack and the beanstalk? Noooooooooo! Well maybe... What would the story be like if there was spaghetti in it?

This is an excellent way to open kids minds up to the possibilities. What would you add to your favorite

bedtime story? The young readers could write their own fairly fairy tales or draw a picture of what it would look like.

Codell, E. R. (2011). *Fairly fairy tales*. New York, NY: Aladdin.

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## **Marcie says**

I liked this enough to share it with a second grade studying fairy tales. It was fun to see them take the elements from it and think about what other fairy tales could benefit from the "yes, yes, no...Well, maybe?" treatment. I paired it with Jean Little (1990) *Once Upon a Golden Apple* which I have read to Kindergarten for years. It might also go nicely with *Each Peach Pear Plum* (

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## **Leslie says**

Most picture book stories about bedtime have similar ingredients:

Kiss? Yes.

Water? Yes.

Bedtime? NOOOOO!

The kid does not want to go to bed.

What if we add a new ingredient to old fairytales? Like solar panels to *The Three Little Pigs*, or disco to *Cinderella*. Natalya and I would have had so much fun with this picture book when she was small, because like the boy in the book, she would have taken back the "Nooooo!" and said, "Well, maybe," too.

For a new imagination of the story using Codell's suggested spin, Chavarri illustrates colorful and active double-page scenes for the reader to revisit the classic tales. Going, big, bold, and deceptively simple, Codell and Chavarri are fun and funny—and really smart.

The boy comes to rethink that "Nooooo!" to the question of bedtime, with a "maybe" that changes the age-old story and is willing to entertain possibilities. The boy (and reader) can get excited about story time and opportunities to dream.

L (omphaloskepsis)

<http://contemplatrix.wordpress.com/20...>

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## **Pam says**

Adds some elements that don't belong on each page. Great to use to search clues and solve problems.

