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White As Snow (Fairy Tales)

By Tanith Lee



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Once upon a time there was a mirror. . . .

So begins this dark, unusual retelling of the story of Snow White by the writer reviewers have called "the Angela Carter of the fantasy field"?a whole novel based on a beloved story, turning it into a dark and sensual drama full of myth and magic.

Arpazia is the aging queen who paces the halls of a warlord's palace. Cold as winter, she has only one passion?for the mysterious hunter who courts the outlawed old gods of the woodland. Coira is the princess raised in the shadow of her mother's hatred. Avoided by both her parents and half forgotten by her father's court, she grows into womanhood alone . . . until the mirror speaks, and blood is spilled, and the forest claims her.

The tragic myth of the goddess Demeter and her daughter, Persephone, stolen by the king of the underworld, is woven together with the tale of Snow White to create a powerful story of mothers and daughters and the blood that binds them together, for good or ill. Black queen. White maid. Royal huntsman. Seven little folk who live in the forest. Come inside, sit by the fire, and listen to this fairy tale as you've never heard it told before.

Once upon a time there was a mirror, and a girl as white as snow. . . .



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

After a hiatus of some years, the Fairy Tale series of novels by various authors, edited by Terri Windling, has made a welcome return. The first post-hiatus book is fantasist extraordinaire Tanith Lee's *White as Snow*, a retelling of *Snow White* darkly intertwined with the myth of Demeter and Persephone. If you're familiar with both Lee, winner of the August Derleth Award and several World Fantasy Awards, and Windling, also winner of several World Fantasy Awards, and the premier fantasy editor of modern times, then you would expect *White as Snow* to be a terrific novel. And you would be right.

In an alternate-history medieval Europe, the noble maiden Arpazia, raised in an isolated castle, finds herself the captive of the conquering general-king Draco. The only remnant of her former life is an exotic glass mirror possessed of witchy powers. She feels no connection to Coira, daughter of her forced marriage to the brutal Draco. She becomes the lover of a woodsman, Klytemno, who embodies the divine Hunter King in pagan rituals. Then Klytemno requires her to send her black-haired, snow-pale daughter Coira into the woods as a sacrifice.... --Cynthia Ward

From Publishers Weekly

Horror and fantasy veteran Lee, author of such adult fairy tale collections as Red as Blood and Forests of the Night, offers an enticingly dark and seductive reworking of "Snow White" that echoes the macabre ambience of the Brothers Grimm. Drawing on the sex and violence implicit in the original fairy tale, Lee gives a modern, introspective angle to the classic story. The evil queen, Arpazia, first appears as an innocent princess of 14, who is terrified when Draco, a rising new leader, conquers her father's castle and rapes her. Soon after he has her sister, Lilca, hanged because Lilca betrayed the castle. Draco forces Arpazia to travel with him and his barbaric army. She later bears him a girl, Candacis, whom she immediately shuns as an incarnation of evil, mumbling death spells as the infant tries to suckle her. Lee casts the evil queen in a sympathetic light, depicting her as a tortured soul who in later years begins to question her dark fate. With its melancholy shading, Lee's new twist on an old tale is sure to engage fans of dark fantasy. (Dec. 7) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"A true masterpiece." ?Interzone

"Particularly fine." ?Locus

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carolyn Livingston:

With other case, little individuals like to read book White As Snow (Fairy Tales). You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. Given that we know about how is important a new book White As Snow (Fairy Tales). You can add expertise and of course you can around the world by the book. Absolutely right, because from book you can understand everything! From your country until foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple factor until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we are able to open

a book or even searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You may use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's read.

James Miguel:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be change about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which you should start with. This White As Snow (Fairy Tales) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Jerry Blair:

Now a day people that Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not require people to be aware of each data they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this White As Snow (Fairy Tales) book since this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Tyler Dean:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them household or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book White As Snow (Fairy Tales) it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

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