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Stories from the Silk Road

By Cherry Gilchrist



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Grade 2-4-Gilchrist has clearly done substantial research for this collection of folktales from countries along the ancient trade route. She has uncovered so much information to supplement the folklore that she includes an introduction; a character called the "Spirit of the Silk Road," whose two-page spiels preface each individual story; and two pages of facts at the end of the book. The result is a collection of seven tales, somewhat weighted down by the burden of explanatory matter. The stories themselves are unusual enough that libraries with large folklore collections or with a strong interest in Asia may want to purchase this title. A few of the selections are reminiscent of European or American variants. "Clever Ashik" is similar to the riddle-solving "Clever Gretchen" and the wish-granting "Magic Saddlebag" is like Jack's magic tablecloth in "Jack and the Northwest Wind." Other tales are more culture specific, such as "Monkey and the River Dragon" from China or "A Rainbow in Silk" from Uzbekistan. Gilchrist's writing is bland, showing little variation as she moves from people to people. Mistry's gouache paintings illuminate the costumes, architecture, and terrain along the way. An additional purchase.

Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY

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From [Booklist](#)

In seven stories, the lively Spirit of the Silk Road takes readers through the culture, history, and folklore of the ancient trade route that stretched from China to Persia and was used from 200 B.C. to the fourteenth century. The retellings, from humorous to creepy, feature an assortment of kind and vengeful gods, spirits, animals, and human travelers. "Clever Ashik" illustrates how cultures adapt and recreate familiar stories; "The Magic Saddlebag," a morality tale, shows the rewards of generosity and kindness; "The Enchanted Garden" presents a nightmarish experience resulting from greed. The conversational tone of the tellings evokes a tourist's sight-seeing expedition, with brightly colored, intricately patterned illustrations of exotic places and characters providing visuals and context. An introduction gives general background about the Silk Road and traded goods; endpaper maps detail the route. A "Did You Know?" facts section and source notes are appended. This will be a good resource for storytellers, particularly those wanting material for international story times, and for individuals interested in Asian folklore. *Shelle Rosenfeld*

From Kirkus Reviews

The intriguing tales retold in this enchanting book are memorable mainly because of the exotic watercolors on every page. Gilchrist records the folklore about dragons, demons, goddesses, spirits, and camels handed down through the ages along the ancient trade route between East and West from Tehran in Persia to Lanzhou in China commonly known as the Silk Road. In "The Bride with the Horse's Head," a mother who promises her daughter's hand in marriage to the person who rescues her husband from robbers, then learns that the rescuer is a horse who wants his prize. Among the stories are "Monkey and the River Dragon," "White Cloud Fairy," and "The Enchanted Garden," while short pieces "The Jade Gate," "Demons and Dragons of the Taklamakon," "The Splendors of Samarkand," etc. give a sense of the places along the Silk Road. (Fiction/folklore. 8-12) -- Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alex Thayer:

The book *Stories from the Silk Road* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *Stories from the Silk Road* to be your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like available and read a publication *Stories from the Silk Road*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this guide?

Brent Cook:

This *Stories from the Silk Road* are generally reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The key reason why of this *Stories from the Silk Road* can be one of many great books you must have is giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed you actually with information that might be will shock your before knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this *Stories from the Silk Road* giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day exercise. So , let's have it appreciate reading.

Sheila Gallagher:

The book untitled *Stories from the Silk Road* contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy way. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice study.

Fred Musso:

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