



The Frog Prince: A Fairy Tale for Consenting Adults

By Stephen Mitchell

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In this brilliant jewel of a book, the best-selling author of *Tao Te Ching: A New English Version* expands and deepens the classic fairy tale in the most surprising and delightful ways, giving new emphasis to its message of the transcendent power of love.

The Frog Prince tells the story of a meditative frog's love for a rebellious princess, how she came to love him in spite of herself, and how her refusal to compromise helped him become who he truly was. This is a magical book that moves (amphibiously) from story to meditation and back, from the outrageous to the philosophical to the silly to the sublime. Profound, touching, written in prose as lively and unpredictable as a dream, **The Frog Prince** tickles the mind, opens the heart, and holds up a mirror to the soul.

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The Frog Prince: A Fairy Tale for Consenting Adults By Stephen Mitchell Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The prolific author of popular adaptations of world classics (Tao Te Ching), translator (Rilke's Letters to a Young Poet) and commentator on religious texts (The Gospel According to Jesus), Mitchell here puts his talents to a slighter test with a modern retelling of the fairy tale "The Frog Prince." The story is familiar: a princess drops her golden ball down a well, a besotted frog rescues it and, in return, the princess promises to love the frog and let him eat from her plate, drink from her cup and sleep in her bed. Though the princess comes to regret her promise, the frog persists, and after a series of trials, he turns into a handsome prince. Mitchell's adaptation drapes this skeleton tale (which he calls the "Condensed Version") in philosophical asides and spiritual insights. Setting the story in an alternate 16th century plagued with Unusual Phenomena ("Magic was afoot everywhere. Things were getting out of hand"), in a castle on the river Loire, the author conjures up some inspired fantastic scenarios, particularly when he writes about magic as if it were historical reality. But his frequent digressions sometimes seem intended to stretch the narrative ("What makes a woman fall in love with a frog? Many women, since time immemorial, staring up at the bedroom ceiling in the dead middle of the night, have asked themselves the same question"), and references to the Tao Te Ching and the tenets of Eastern religions are incongruous. Insubstantial though it may be, however, the tale is gracefully told, and sympathetic readers will find it an appealing tribute to the original. 5-city author tour. (Nov.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Famed for his fine translations of the Hebrew scriptures and the German poet Rilke, Mitchell has lately turned to a unique combination of fiction and commentary. His second work, after *Meetings with the Archangel* (1998), in this mode retells a familiar fairy tale to emphasize its parablistic qualities. In a small French kingdom near the end of the Renaissance, one of the dreaded and by then infrequent "Unusual Phenomena" --the bases of the stories of talking animals that pepper the period's literature--occurs. A princess drops a gold ball in a well, from which a male frog emerges to address her in perfect French. They strike a bargain: should the frog retrieve the ball, the princess will love and befriend him and allow him to eat from her plate, drink from her cup, and sleep in her bed--in effect, marry him. She agrees because she has already begun to love him and feels certain he is an enchanted prince. He retrieves the ball, and things develop toward the happy ending of the "Condensed Version," as Mitchell refers to the common, six-minute bedtime story redaction of what he expands into a psychological and philosophical novella. Replete with amusing metaphysical explanations, such as the solemn assertion that a "hairline crack . . . in reality" was responsible for Unusual Phenomena, and droll historical ones, such as saying that only the frog could recover the ball because no person in Europe knew how to dive at that time, this is thoroughly delightful entertainment as well as a serious examination of how love can and does transform frogs and princesses alike. *Ray Olson*

From Kirkus Reviews

There are two kinds of women: those who marry princes and those who marry frogs. The frogs never become princes, but . . . a prince may very well, in the course of an ordinary marriage . . . turn into a frog. So begins this latest from translator (Neruda, Rilke, the Book of Job, etc.) and novelist Mitchell, whose first fiction was *Meetings with the Archangel* (1998), a spiritual autobiography in the manner of G.I. Gurdjieff's *Meetings with Remarkable Men*. Like Gurdjieff, as might be expected, Mitchell is his own man when it comes to writing a fable like this one, which at first glance might seem YA but quickly becomes worldly-wise, clearly

aimed only at anyone who wants to come along as he tells his story in his own self-pleasing way. It takes place after a crack in reality occurs in the 16th century and a certain princess, who resists her feelings for a frog prince, is struck . . . deeper down, beneath the level of consciousness, in the dark and fertile soil of her heart, [where] love had planted itself like a mustard seed. Mustard-seed parables are not a dime a dozen, and Mitchells is a miracle of the Now. The reader moves through it with eyes wide upon the concrete and the fantastic at once. -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Helga Lever:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the books. But also they write about the data about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to their book. One of them is this The Frog Prince: A Fairy Tale for Consenting Adults.

Carol Hughes:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled The Frog Prince: A Fairy Tale for Consenting Adults your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get before. The The Frog Prince: A Fairy Tale for Consenting Adults giving you one more experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful details for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Emma Englund:

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