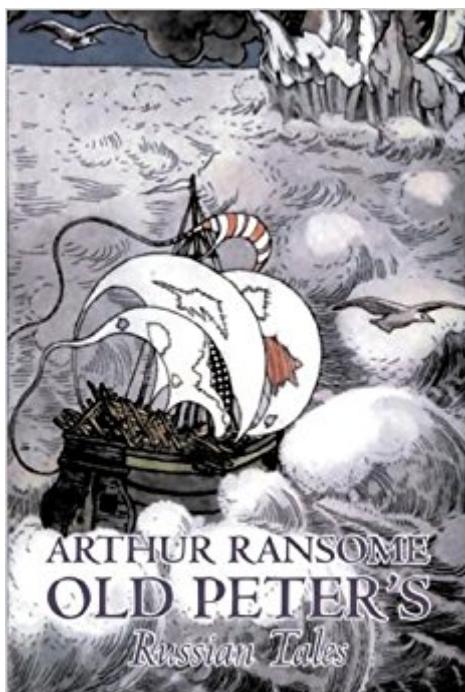


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Old Peter's Russian Tales By Arthur Ransome, Fiction, Animals - Dragons, Unicorns & Mythical



Synopsis

Old Peter's Russian Tales is a collection of twenty-one Russian folktales drawn from Ransome's time in Russia. The tales include "Baba Yaga," the story of the famous witch who lived in a house that walked on chicken feet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Arthur Michell Ransome (1884 - 1967) was an English author and journalist. He is best known for writing the Swallows and S series of children's books about the school-holiday adventures of children, mostly in the Lake District and the Norfolk Broads. Many of the books involve sailing; fishing and camping are other common subjects. The books remain popular and "Swallows and S" is the basis for a tourist industry around Windermere and Coniston Water, the two lakes Ransome adapted as his fictional North Country lake. He also wrote about the literary life of London and about Russia before, during and after the revolutions of 1917. --Wikipedia

Old Peter's Russian Tales is a collection of Russian folktales written for children. The stories are linked together by anecdotes of a grandfather and his two grandchildren, to whom he tells the tales in the book. The anecdotes are relatively short, though occasionally the grandchildren will interrupt a story to ask questions. The style of writing is geared towards children, though it stops short of being irritatingly sweet like some books I could name. This chosen style makes it a bit dull for an adult reader, though the appearance of archaic themes (such as wife-beating) means that a child should not read this book on their own. There are also not-infrequent Christian references. Because this

book was scanned before being made into a kindle book, there are a remarkable number of typo-like mistakes throughout the text. There are a few foot-notes, but the notes are in the middle of the text anyway, and a few of them are extraneous. The free kindle edition also lacks illustrations, though the captions for them (and the page numbers) are left in the text. But there IS an active table of contents, so at least there's that. Contains the following stories: The Hut in the Forest, The Tale of the Silver Saucer and the Transparent Apple, Sadko, Frost, The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship, Baba Yaga, The Cat who Became Head-Forester, Spring in the Forest, The Little Daughter of the Snow, Prince Ivan, the Witch Baby, and the Little Sister of the Sun, The Stolen Turnips, the Magic Tablecloth, the Sneezing Goat, and the Wooden Whistle, Little Master Misery, A Chapter of Fish, The Golden Fish, Who Lived in the Skull, Alenoushka and her Brother, The Fire-Bird, the Horse of Power, and the Princess Vasilissa, The Hunter and his Wife, The Three Men of Power--Evening, Midnight and Sunrise, Salt, The Christening in the Village.

This was given to me by my mother when I was a kid and I loved it then and I love it now. I think I'd already started to read Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* books at the time I got *Old Peter and he's a master storyteller*. The witch Baba Yaga, the terrifying Witch Baby who says "ate the father, ate the mother, now to eat the little brother", they can still send cold shivers up my spine. My childhood copy disappeared somewhere in my wanderings which is why I bought it afresh and fell in love with it all over again. Tony Morphett

Arthur Ransome knows and loves Russia and this book proves it. This is a charming book, very well written and full of accurate information.

This is a very charming book, one of the nicer fairy-tale books that you can share with your family. I recommend it highly.

OK, yeah, my title is a truism, but I think it applies here. If you like old-fashioned folk tales, as opposed to Disneyesque fairy tales, then you'll love this book. In other words, if you like the original Grimm tales, as opposed to the cleaned-up and defanged versions you often see nowadays, then you'll love this book. If you only let your kids read stuff where nobody is ever naughty and where nothing is really scary, then you should pass on this. Examples: One story has a bad-tempered man who hits people, and who gets his comeuppance in the end. Several stories have a traditional Russian witch, who is dangerous and not particularly nice, but who is also not altogether evil. I think I

enjoyed it more than my kids, so I only gave it 4 stars, since I think most people would buy this for a kid. Best people to buy this for: adults who like folk tales, kids 8+ if good reading skill, kids 11+ if average reading skill, parents who are sick and tired of the usual pablum they are forced to read to their kids at bedtime.

Ransome married a Russian woman 75 years before it became fashionable. This collection of Russian pre-Christian folk tales is a delight. I was very glad to find had it available.

This book arrived with no dust jacket and nothing on the cover. It was not as pictured and it was not "new" as stated. Trickery!

Many years ago my mother read the entire Swallows and series to my brothers and me. We loved it. I read the series to my children, too; they loved the series. It's too bad that the series is unavailable on Kindle, but I found Old Peter's Tales. I've never seen this in print. When I saw it on Kindle I bought it, and while I found the stories OK, they seemed overly familiar. I gave the book three stars because the stories were well told.

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