

Italian Folktales

By Italo (Selected & Retold) Calvino

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This master collection of Italian folktales takes its place alongside the great anthologies of the Brothers Grimm and other European folklorists. There has never been an Italian equivalent of Grimm' Fairy tales. The noted novelist Italo Calvino fills the void. The reader is lured into a fantastic world of clearly Italian stamp, where all creatures are capable of an infinite number of metamorphoses. Here adventurers, tricksters, kings and peasants, saints and orgres along with a host of extraordinary animals, fish and plants play their roles against the rich background of regional customs and varied history of the Italian people. Whether the tone is humorous and earthy, or playful and nonsensical, or noble and mysterious,t he drama of the embattled heroes and heroines unfolds according to the joyous logic of the imagination. The harsh realities of existence yield to beauty, purity and justice. A continuous quiver of love runs through Italian folklore, of love tested by absence or sorcery, a precarious love that unties two incompatible worlds, the natural and the supernatural. (front flap)

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