

Book as Mirror, Mirror as Book: The Significance of the Looking-glass in Contemporary Revisions of Fairy Tales.

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Abstract:

Several scholars such as Luce Irigaray and Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar have done excellent, detailed work in which mirrors in literature can serve as entities hostile to women in general and to the female protagonist in particular. This article argues here that in contemporary revisions of fairy tales, the mirror reflects women's fantasies, experiences, and desires under conditions often hostile to their expression. In short, mirrors are specifically stories of female fantasy, desire, and transformation. I examine the relationship between mirrors, fantastic literature, and reality, using a few key fairy tales by Angela Carter, Tanith Lee, and Terry Pratchett to argue that mirrors are a form of fantastic tale closely identified with female and creativity.

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