



The Girl Wakes: Stories

Carmen Lau , Christina Collins (Illustrator)

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Dark, strange, lyrical, and full of frustrated desire and whimsy, Carmen Lau's debut collection of stories paints a vivid picture of femininity in the clutches of fantasy, reflecting the brutality of growing up a girl and challenging readers to rethink fairy tales as they've always known them. Within, you'll find a tender heart, a painful core, and a paradoxically disastrous and beautiful coming-of-age of every and any girl, told through fairy tales that mirror real life and are at once contemporary and timeless. Joining the ranks of Angela Carter, Kate Bernheimer, and Allyse Near, Lau weaves tales of a girl who is too fantastical to be real and too real to be fantasy.

"A beautifully vicious first collection of retrofitted fairy tales, with whip-smart swerves, darkly funny moments, and razor-sharp language. Like Angela Carter meets *Let the Right One In* with a dash of Lady Vengeance tossed in for good measure."

—Brian Evenson, author of *Windeye* and ALA-RUSA Award-winner *Last Days*

The Girl Wakes: Stories Details

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Author : Carmen Lau , Christina Collins (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Girl Wakes: Stories for online ebook

Tara says

Lau is a very talented writer. Able to bend the traditional fairy tale plot into complex narratives that make modern statements on feminism, childhood, relationships, and the basic vulnerability of all humans. Filled with queens, and wolves, and knives, and spoons, all of these short stories, no matter how brief, have something important to say. Beautifully produced as well with a unique dingbat for each story, which gives the book more of a fairy tale feel.

Jennifer says

I love these stories! They are dark, surreal, mythic, and, at times, grotesque. Lau knows how to use her sentence structure to create a sense of unease.

Melody says

As confusing as this book was, I loved it!!

Tabitha Blankenbiller says

A coming-of-age story told in mesmerizing layers of tall tales, fantasies and horror stories. This collection is unlike any I've picked up, and creates a whole portrait of adolescent longing, dark romance and long-simmering, terrifying desire. Lau breaks through with this collection as a writer who will enchant and horrify in turns, reminiscent of Matt Bell in "In The House Upon the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods."

Leah Angstman says

You can find the book here.

I am the editor of this collection of short stories, but let me tell you why I chose, edited, and published it: Carmen Lau's writing is at once delicate and biting, soft and brutal, demure and harsh, and she masters that juxtaposition in a way that few others can. This is not just a book of fairy tales; it is a true book of issues, from feminism to coming-of-age to schizophrenia to bullying to body stereotypes to coming-out to familial problems to society's ideas of right and wrong, all told with the veil of the once-upon-a-time narrative that allows for distancing and objectivity in lieu of overemotional sentimentalism, while still maintaining a warmth to the prose that is just fantastic. Carmen Lau has captured the voice and the style uniquely and perfectly, and is sure to be a name to look out for in the crosshairs of fantasy and literary fiction.

Beachesnbooks says

Loved this. Review to come.

Steph Post says

Gutsy and startling. Reading *The Girl Wakes* is like slipping into a dark dream. These weaving, interconnected stories explore the true, violent and uncompromising nature of the girl in the fairytale. An absolutely gorgeous collection. And the illustrations are brilliant!

Eric says

I blurbed this book, and mean every word: “Haunting and beautiful, Carmen Lau’s collection reads like a fever-dream of all your familiar childhood tales. These stories are at once contemporary and timeless, intertwining modernity and the world of the ever-after with deliriously powerful prose. Readers may need a trail of breadcrumbs or a ball of twine to find their way back to reality—*The Girl Wakes* is mesmerizing.”
