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# Once Upon A Curse: 17 Dark Faerie Tales



## Synopsis

#1 Bestseller in Fantasy Anthologies and Dark Fantasy! Seventeen magical stories from NY Times and USA Today bestsellers and award-winning authors that will entice you to the darker side of faerie tales. More Grimm than Disney, in this collection you'll find twists on Snow White, Hansel & Gretel, Rumpelstiltskin, The Snow Queen, Cinderella, The Pied Piper, Alice in Wonderland, and Red Riding Hood, plus new tales paying homage to the old traditions. Shadows cannot exist without light, however, and you'll find enough happily-ever-afters to lift your spirits in this anthology full of adventure, dark powers, and ultimately the enduring power of true love.

YARROW, STURDY AND BRIGHT by Devon Monk – "Sweet music cannot hide a wicked heart"

FAE HORSE by Anthea Sharp – "Faerie bargains can grant any desire, but be careful what you wish for."

THE QUEEN OF FROST AND DARKNESS by Christine Pope - Her heart is the only thing colder than a Russian winter

BONES by Yasmine Galenorn - Sometimes, your most cherished dream can turn out to be a nightmare.

MAGIC AFTER MIDNIGHT by C. Gockel – "The Wicked Stepmother is about to meet her match"

DANCE WITH THE DEVIL by Donna Augustine - When the devil makes a deal with a dancer, he gets more than he bargained for.

NO GIFT OF WORDS by Annie Bellet - Never steal from a witch...

THE GRIM BROTHER by Audrey Faye – "Not all walks in the wood end well"

BEAST INSIDE BEAUTY by Danielle Monsch - Happily Ever After ain't guaranteed when Once Upon a Time is here.

FAESCORNED by Jenna Elizabeth Johnson - The Morrigan, Celtic goddess of war and strife, must relive a painful memory that reminds her of what she can never have.

DRAWN TO THE BRINK by Tara Maya - Sajiana's job is to hunt down monsters brought alive from paintings. She never expected to meet one so handsome... or to need his help.

THE VARIANCE COURT by Alexia Purdy - Anna, a struggling college student, discovers a mysterious ring that turns her quiet life chaotic when the ring's magic doesn't do what it's told.

THE MORRIGAN by Phaedra Weldon – "A young man discovers he has leprechaun blood" and is wanted by dark faerie forces.

ALICE by Julia Crane - A twisted tale of Alice and Wonderland. Facing madness and an ominous prophecy, Alice chooses to follow her heart despite knowing her world is about to change forever.

STILL RED by Sabrina Locke – "When the Hunters come, can there be any escape?"

THE FINAL STRAW by Jennifer Blackstream - To banish a gold-spinning demon, first you must guess his name...

THE UNICORN HUNTER by Alethea Kontis – "Only Snow White knows what really happened in the forest"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Witches and warriors, demons and darkness, brave women and true love, and a vampiric take on a classic fairy tale—*it's* all here in this boxed set, and more besides. Because many of the stories have layers to them that remind us of other stories and folk tales and ballads, like the silver dagger Yarrow carries in the collection's opening story, *Yarrow Sturdy and Bright*, by Devon Monk. This is a fierce, feminist take on *The Pied Piper*, and it sets the tone for the stories that follow. The stories run the gamut from reimagined Celtic folklore like Anthea Sharp's *Fae Horse*, a wild ride on a Nightmare to Christine Pope's lyrical Russian take on *The Snow Queen*. C. Gockel's urban fantastic version of Cinderella features a wildly sympathetic stepmother, a *stepsister* who's a 15-year-old gay kid exploring his own fabulousity, and a whiny *princess* whose diva antics are consistently amusing. Audrey Faye's *The Grim Brother* has one of the best openings in the book, *Some say children can't be evil. I know differently. I stand here, looking at the fresh mound of earth in front of my sister's gravestone, and know that I have buried evil in consecrated ground. For a priest, there is no greater sin.* No reader on the planet is going to stop reading there. Faye goes on to tell a haunting version of a familiar tale that is beautifully crafted and so elegantly simple that it feels like you've always

known this version of the story, that this is the only one that tells the truth. And thereâ€™s a lovely little character Easter egg thrown in for good measure. Another story of noteâ€”this is a really strong collection, so these are just my favoritesâ€”is Jennifer Blackstreamâ€™s version of Rumpelstiltskin, â€œThe Final Straw.

This anthology was a real pleasure, I liked most of the stories and the variety was awesome. No story was like another, all of them were special and I couldn't say which one was my favorite. I will write a short review for every story in time but all in all the book was more than worth the price I paid and not only did I enjoy the authors I already knew but found some more to put on my favorite list! The first story, YARROW, STURDY AND BRIGHT by Devon Monk, sucked me right in. A girl who needs to save her sweetheart by killing the villain who threatens her village. Who wouldn't want to read how she succeeds? Quite some fairytales are woven in the suspenseful story, a quick but intense read. FAE HORSE by Anthea Sharp, shows again a woman who is ready to sacrifice everything for her love. On the run for her own life all she thinks about is him. But will there be a HEA? THE QUEEN OF FROST AND DARKNESS by Christine Pope wasn't quite my taste. Too sophisticated, too offish somehow, I didn't really feel with the characters but in itself this was very well written. BONES by Yasmine Galenorn is a very dark and tragic story about death who is drawn to life, so much so that it overrules everything. The ending was such a tearjerker but still somehow beautiful. MAGIC AFTER MIDNIGHT by C. Gockel made me laugh out loud (Cindy is such a brat!) and cry a bit and all in all enjoy the story very much. Such a special spin and such a beautiful tale! DANCE WITH THE DEVIL by Donna Augustine shows us that even the devil can't plan how things go. I adored the end, not wanting to say too much I'll leave it at that.

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