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The Little Match Girl (from The Naxos Audiobook 'A Family Christmas')



Synopsis

Andersen's poignant Christmastime classic is brought to life by the radiantly beautiful paintings of Caldecott Honor Book artist Rachel Isadora. Full-color illustrations. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Abridged

Publisher: Naxos Audiobooks

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Language: English

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Best Sellers Rank: #58 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Classics #450 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fiction

Customer Reviews

One reviewer here has written that "fairy tales are supposed to be happy." Why? If you stick the word "Disney" in there, then maybe the sentence is true... but in real life, fairy tales are supposed to be a vivid, even exaggerated introduction to the world of morals, virtues, faith and the fantastical, among other things. If you look at the butcher job Disney did with the original story of the Little Mermaid, you'll see what most people today are expecting when they pick up a fairy tale. In this book, unlike anything Disney has ever done, the little girl dies, peacefully, on a freezing street corner, after a short and too-brutal life, joining her grandmother in heaven because the grandmother was the only person who ever loved her and treated her with kindness. She is neglected by strangers, abused by her father, and eventually burns up all her matches trying to stay warm. So. This is a sad fairy tale. As grownups, we can get used to it. But should our kids? My feelings are mixed about whether or not this is a book that is appropriate for children. I recently did read this edition, with the wonderful, lush illustrations by Rachel Isadora, to my own big and little girls (14 and 5 - quite a spread!) to find out. Should I have used them as guinea pigs in this literary experiment? Well, I'm not so sure. Dd2 (5) seemed fine; fascinated, actually. She has been exposed to many fairy tales, but this probably stood out as one of the most vivid things she's ever been read. Perhaps because death is so unexpected in a kids' book. Should it be? On the other hand, dd1 (15) was

utterly shocked, and spent a while screaming that it was a TERRIBLE book.

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