

Fractured Fairy Tales

By Elizabeth Klein

Tutoring children before and after school allows me a glimpse into what they are studying without having to teach in the classroom. One of the subjects that my high school students are treating is fractured fairy tales. It's a type of story that sells big on Hollywood screens and adults as well as children love to watch them.

The most recent one is Puss in Boots, which I am itching to see. Other successful fractured fairy tales are Tangled (Rapunzel), Hoodwinked (Little Red Riding Hood) and of course, Shrek. The four Shrek movies incorporate anything and everything that is fairy tale or nursery rhyme into its stories.

The concept of fracturing a traditional fairy tale involves distorting the original story in some way. Often the fractured version includes lots of humour and a modern spin on an orthodox plot.

In telling you all that, there is a correlation in the traditional fairy tale and the journey a person embarks on when he or she accepts Christ into their life. In Revelations 1:6 we are told that Jesus, through His sacrifice, “...*has made us kings and priests to His God and Father...*” If Jesus made us kings, could I be so bold as to point out that we are part of God's royal family, and therefore we are like *princes* and *princesses*?

The main fairy tale characters often begin in the lowest positions, like Cinderella and Snow White. After considerable hardships where they overcome wicked witches, bad fairies or evil stepmothers (synonymous with Satan and his demons), they rise to the position of prince or princess when they marry into the royal household. Then they live happily ever after.

When you examine the Christian's life, they've all started off in that lowest of low position when they were still Gentiles. Ephesians 1:12 tells us "*that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*"

Yet it also offers hope in that: "*But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ*" verse 13. Most traditional fairy tales have a happy ending and the Bible is full of wonderful promises that ensure a Christian's life will end happily because he or she is betrothed to the King's Son.

As Christians we, too, look forward to a better future in a better place, that of the beloved Son's Kingdom. In John 14: 2, 3 Jesus makes a profound promise: "*In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*"

Fairy tales are fractured because there are very few 'happily ever afters' in a world of rising divorce rates and suicides. Families everywhere are fractured instead of whole, as God designed them to be. Sadly, even in marriages there are very few happily ever afters.

Living in Christ ensures that our lives will end happily *forever after*. The fairy tale princess or prince looked forward to an *enchanted* life, but we live a *blessed* one both here and in the one to come. Isn't that the best tale of all?