

Provisional

The Sister Who Ate Her Brothers: And Other Gruesome Tales

Jen Campbell, Illustrated by Adam de Souza

Fourteen of the most gruesome fairy tales from around the world are re-told for contemporary readers and restored to their original, grisly versions.

Suitable for ages 9+

86 illustrations

24.0 x 17.2 cm

120pp

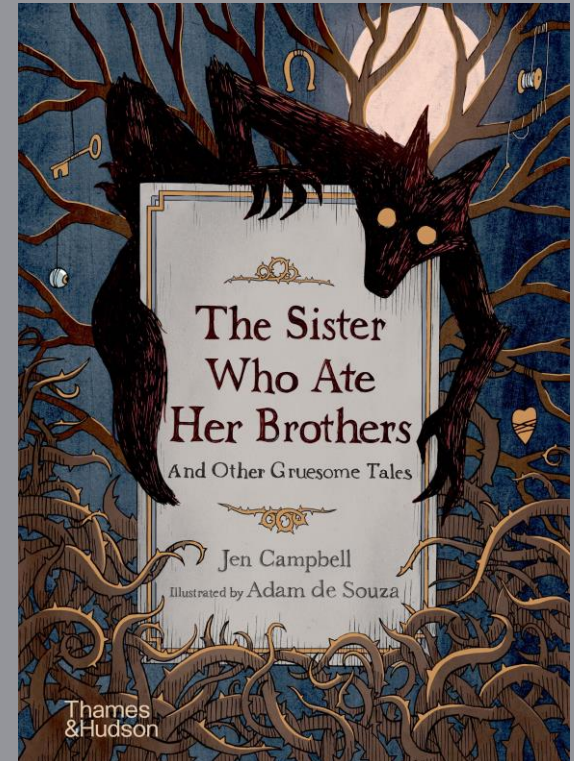
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BIC Horror and ghost stories, chillers (Children's/Teenage)

PLC

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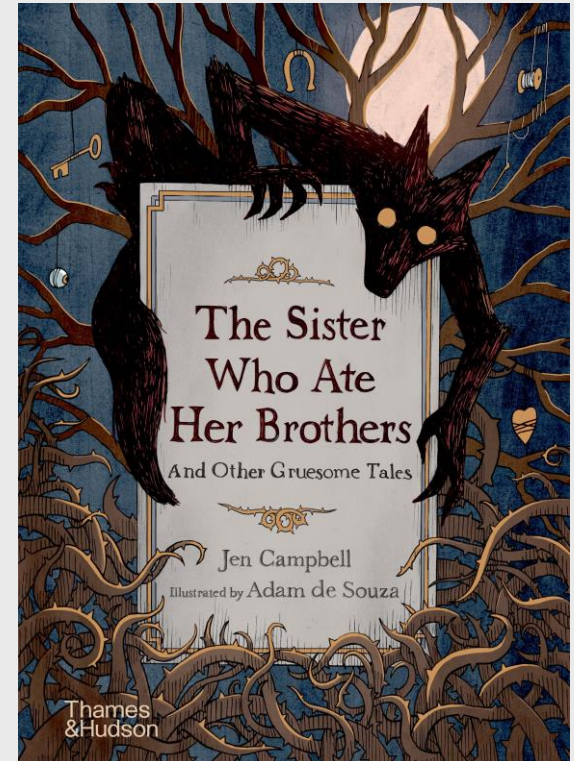


A4

Book

Key Sales Points

- Edgy, creepy and definitely disturbing, these re-tellings strip away centuries of Disneyfication of fairy tales and take them back to their gory beginnings.
- At the same time, these stories have been updated for a modern audience with the addition of queer characters and positive representation of disfigurement and disability.
- Written by award-winning author Jen Campbell, who lectures on the history of fairy tales and whose book vlog has over 57,000 YouTube subscribers.
- The perfect Halloween gift for Neil Gaiman, Cornelia Funke and Philip Pullman, as well as *Stranger Things* addicts.



The Souls Trapped Under the Ocean

IRELAND



There was once a man who fell in love with a merman. The merman breathed life into his veins and fed him food from the deep.

Every Wednesday, the merman invited the man to his home at the bottom of the sea.

It was dusted with salt and glowed in every colour. Lights bobbed in lobster pots along all the walls.

‘What do you keep in those pots?’ the man signed one day.

‘The souls of drowned men and women,’ the merman signed back, smiling. ‘Eat up! I’ll bring you seconds.’

The man hesitated.

He peered more closely at the lights in the pots and shivered.

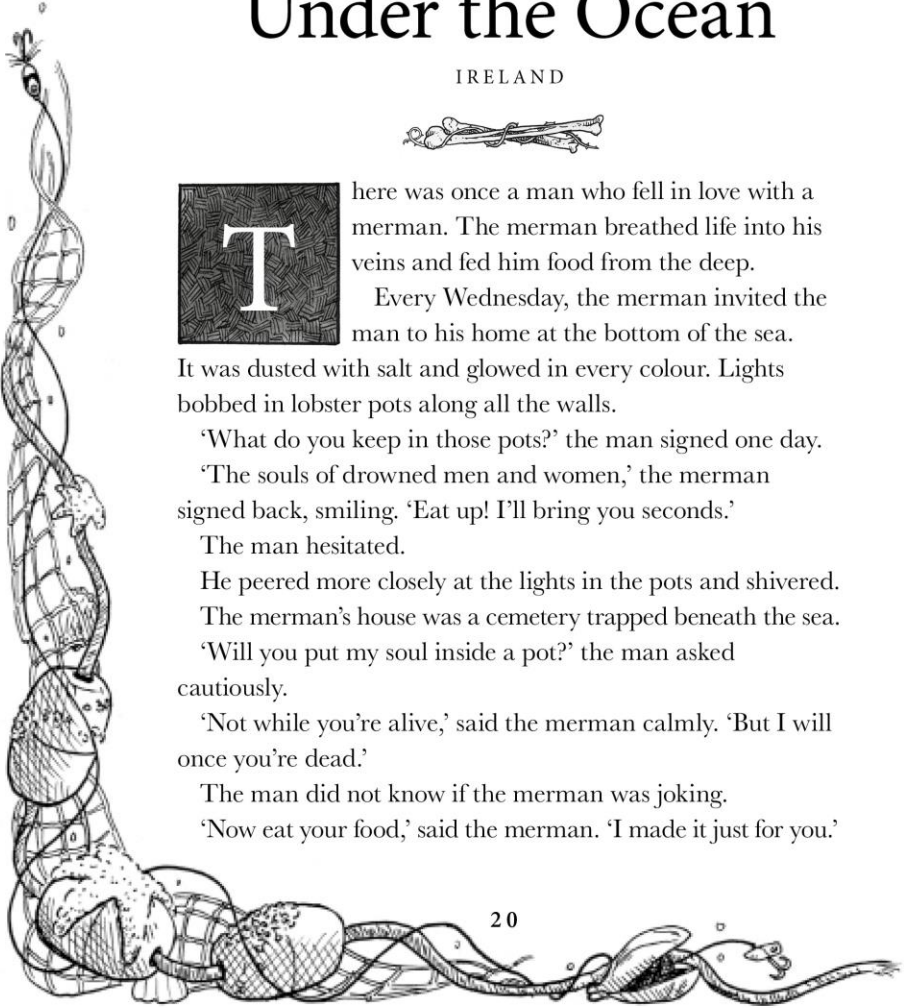
The merman’s house was a cemetery trapped beneath the sea.

‘Will you put my soul inside a pot?’ the man asked cautiously.

‘Not while you’re alive,’ said the merman calmly. ‘But I will once you’re dead.’

The man did not know if the merman was joking.

‘Now eat your food,’ said the merman. ‘I made it just for you.’



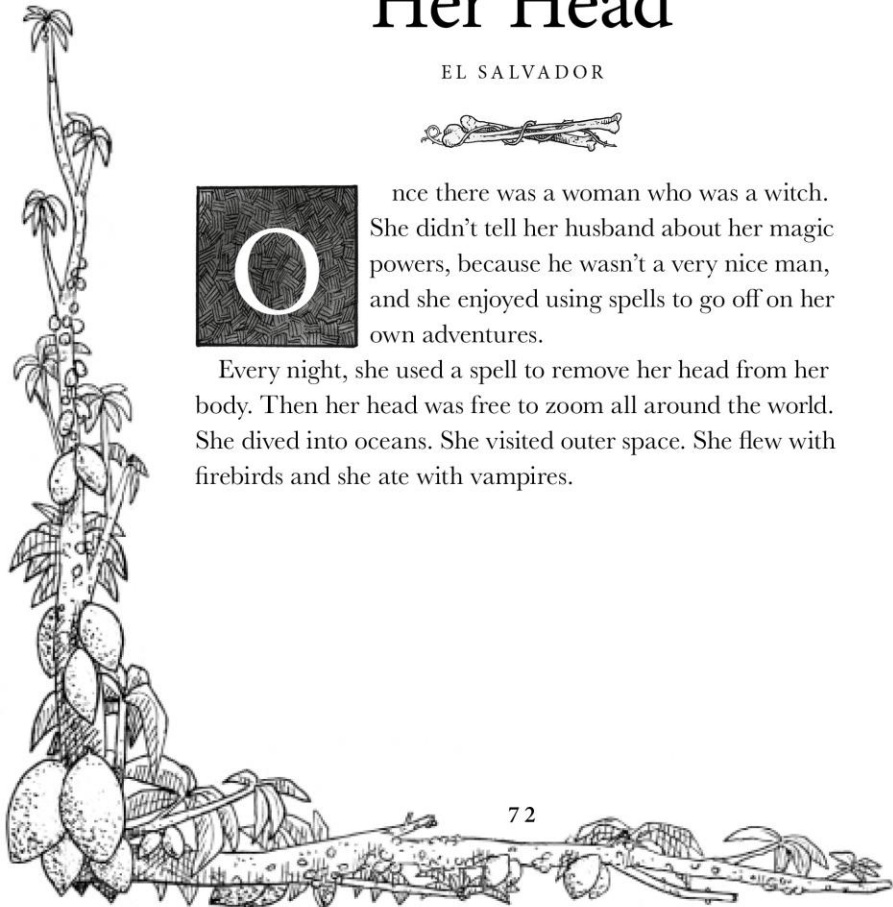
The Wife Who Could Remove Her Head

EL SALVADOR



Once there was a woman who was a witch. She didn't tell her husband about her magic powers, because he wasn't a very nice man, and she enjoyed using spells to go off on her own adventures.

Every night, she used a spell to remove her head from her body. Then her head was free to zoom all around the world. She dived into oceans. She visited outer space. She flew with firebirds and she ate with vampires.



The Man Who Hunted Children

SOUTH AFRICA



Once there were two children. Their parents had died long ago, so they were used to looking after themselves. They took it in turns to do the chores and they bolted their door at night.

One day, rumours flew around their village. People said there was a man on the prowl who hunted children. They said he took them away in sacks and feasted upon their flesh.

‘We must be careful,’ said the sister. ‘Brother, when you come back home, sing this song outside so I know it is you.’

She sang a song for him to memorise. It would have been a good idea, if the man who hunted children had not been right outside their house, listening to every word.

When the brother went to the market, the man came up to their door and knocked softly upon it.

‘Sister, it is I!’ he croaked. ‘Let me sing you our song.’

He sang it in a deep, deep voice that resembled a lion.



The Adults Who Lost Their Organs

GERMAN



There were once three butchers who were called away to war. It was their job to operate on soldiers, to sew wounds and to bandage limbs. They called themselves the Butcher Surgeons. The first was the height of two broomsticks. The second was the daughter of a witch. The third had a beard shaped like a tree.

One night, after a particularly violent battle, the Butcher Surgeons were looking for somewhere to sleep. They swaggered into a small village and knocked on the door of an inn.

‘We want a room.’ They grinned. ‘But we don’t have any money.’

The innkeeper laughed nastily. ‘Then you can sleep on the streets! You can’t stay here.’

‘Ahhh, but what about a different kind of payment?’ They leaned over the threshold. ‘What about a magic trick?’

‘Magic?’ the innkeeper snorted. ‘There’s no such thing!’ The Butcher Surgeons looked at him with pity.



The Husband Who Cheated Death

EGYPT

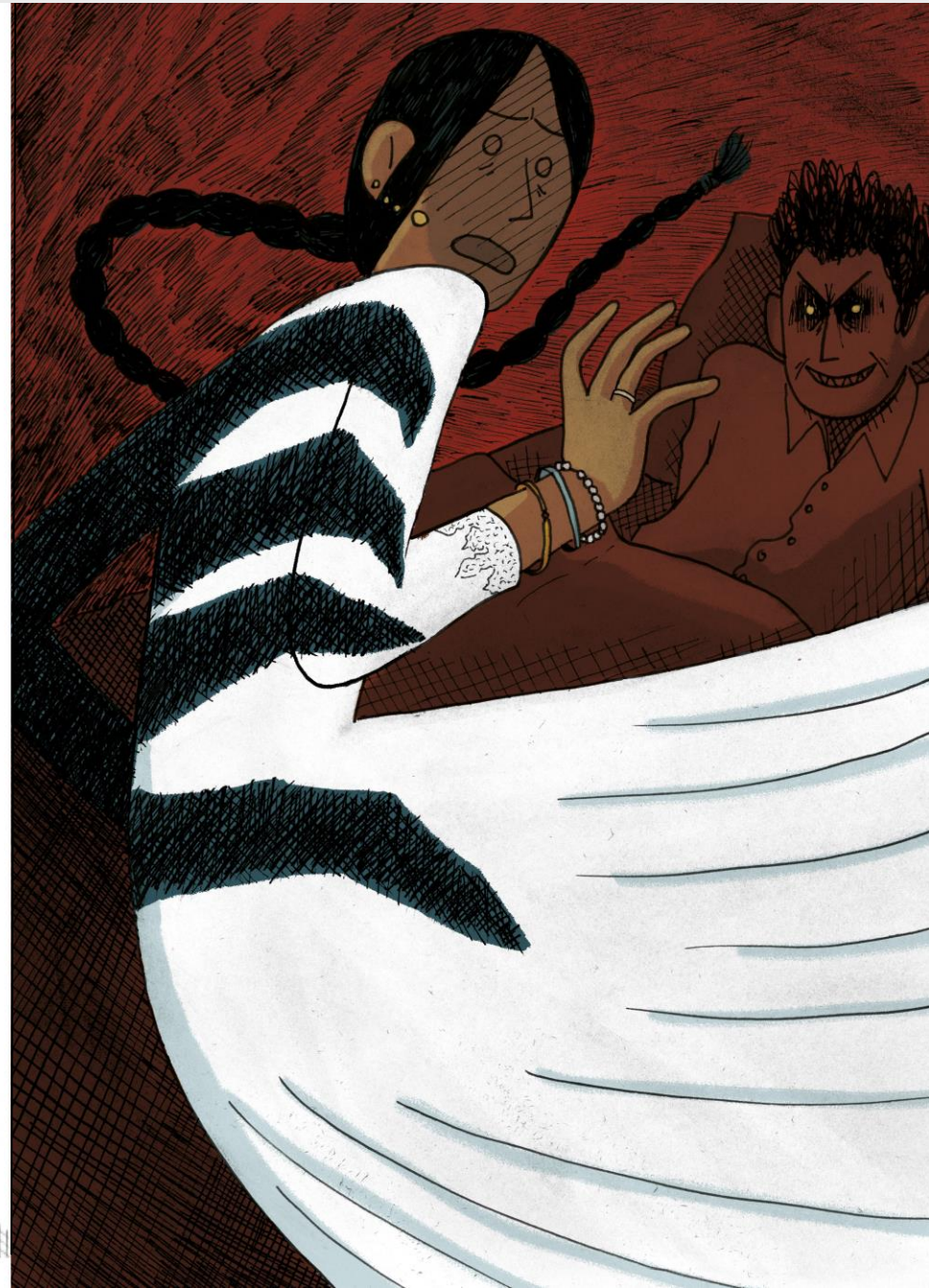


There was once a man who felt very ill, so he gathered his family and friends around him. 'Dearest wife,' he said, taking her hand. 'Will you please put on your wedding dress? Will you wear your silver shoes? And will you put gold in your hair?'

'Of course,' she said, smiling sadly, and she began to do all of these things at once. 'Is this because you want to remember our wedding day before you die?'

'No,' said the husband slyly. 'It is because they say that Death takes the best of us. So I'm hoping he will take you instead.'

And, with that, Death appeared and whisked the wife away.



The Son of Seven Mothers

INDIA



There was once a king who wanted a child. He married one woman, then another, but still no child came. When the king had seven wives but no children, he wandered through the hills in frustration. As the sun began to set, a woman emerged from the trees. She smelled like a tiger, and her voice seemed to purr.

‘Listen,’ she said softly. ‘I can tell you want a child. If you marry me and throw away your other wives, I promise you will have a son.’

The king was hypnotised.

He married the woman at once, and she became queen.

The king’s seven wives were thrown into a deep well in the palace gardens. It was dank and full of echoes, like a galaxy in the ground.

