The Works of George MacDonald

Short Stories

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Books of Short Stories

Various compilations of MacDonald’s short stories exist. The hard cover books available from Johannesen Printing & Publishing are reproductions of editions published during MacDonald’s lifetime or, in the case of The Portent and Other Stories, shortly after his death. While some publishers have classified The Wise Woman as a short story, we have, like Johannesen Printing & Publishing, classified it as a (short) novel.

Stories for Young Readers and Adults

A number of MacDonald’s short stories—often classified as “fairy tales”—are equally for young readers and adults. These would include all of the stories listed in The Light Princess and Other Fairy Tales, below, as well as Photogen and Nycteris. Novels suitable for young readers are listed in the Novels PDF.

Johannesen Printing & Publishing:

Hand bound cloth cover editions

The Light Princess and Other Fairy Tales

Originally published between 1860 and 1890; reproduced from the 1893 edition by G.P. Putnam’s Sons, New York, with photolithography.

Contents:

1. The Light Princess
2. The Giant’s Heart (also known as Tell Us a Story)
3. The Shadows
4. Cross Purposes
5. The Golden Key
6. The Carasoy
7. Little Daylight
The Portent and Other Stories

Originally published between 1854 and 1871; reproduced from the 1909 edition of Fisher Unwin, London.

Contents:
1. The Portent
2. The Cruel Painter
3. The Castle
4. The Wow O’ Rivven
5. The Broken Swords
6. The Gray Wolf
7. Uncle Cornelius: His Story

Stephen Archer and Other Tales

Originally published in 1883; reproduced from the 1900 edition of Routledge, New York with photolithography.

Contents:
1. Stephen Archer
2. The Gifts of the Child Christ
3. The History of Photogen and Nycteris
   (also known as The Day Boy and The Night Girl)
4. The Butcher’s Bills
5. Port in a Storm
6. If I Had a Father
Adela Cathcart

Originally published in three volumes in 1864. Reproduced from the 1864 first edition of Hurst & Blackett, London. Adela Cathcart is a compilation of short stories in the guise of a novel about story-telling, and weaves in the following tales and songs (poems), many of which are included in the anthologies above:

Contents

1. The Christmas Dinner
2. The Light Princess
3. The Bell
4. The School Master's Story (also known as Birth, Dreaming, and Death)
5. Song (poems)
6. The Curate and His Wife
7. The Shadows
8. The Evening at the Curate (poems)
9. Percy and His Mother (poems)
10. The Broken Swords
11. My Uncle Peter
12. The Giant's Heart
13. A Child's Holiday (poem and story)
14. The Cruel Painter
15. The Castle

Paperback Editions

Many paperback editions exist; below are a sampling of some available from Amazon.

The Golden Key and Other Stories

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
Contains The Golden Key; The History of Photogen and Nycteris; The Shadows; and The Gifts of the Child Christ

The Light Princess and Other Stories

Contains The Light Princess; The Giant's Heart; The Carasoy; Port in a Storm; and Papa's Story (A Scot's Christmas Story).
The Gray Wolf and Other Stories

Contains The Gray Wolf; The Cruel Painter; The Broken Swords; The Wow O’Rivven, Uncle Cornelius, His Story; The Butcher’s Bills; and Birth, Dreaming, Death.

The Complete Fairy Tales

Penguin Classics

Contains The Light Princess; The Shadows; The Giant’s Heart; Cross Purposes; The Golden Key; The Carasoyn; The Wise Woman, or The Lost Princess: A Double Story; The History of Photogen and Nycteris: A Day and Night Märchen; and, excerpted from At the Back of the North Wind: Little Daylight; Nanny’s Dream; and Diamond’s Dream.

Dealings With the Fairies

Murdock Publishing Company

Illustrations by Arthur Hughes and Kathy Harestad

Contains The Light Princess; The Giant’s Heart; The Shadows; Cross Purposes; and The Golden Key.

Short Stories in Alphabetical Order:

Articles, Videos, & Stage Productions

Cross Purposes

Some Linguistic Moves in the Carroll-MacDonald “Literary Game”
by Fernando Soto
North Wind Archives

What’s in a Name? Clues to Understanding MacDonald’s Fairy Story “Cross Purposes”
by Marie K. Hammond
Inklings Forever; Volume VI, Taylor University 2008 Colloquium
The Cruel Painter

‘The Cruel Painter’ as a Rewriting of the Shelley-Godwin Triangle
by Jennifer Koopman
North Wind Archive

The Earlier Visions of Teufelsbürt (Allegretto),
inspired by MacDonald’s short story, The Cruel Painter. (mp3 file)
From Three Tableaux from George MacDonald, musical composition by John Craton, scored for alto recorder, mandolin, and violoncello

The Giant’s Heart
See “Tell Us a Story”

The Golden Key

Coming from Pegana Press, fourth quarter of 2015
Letter press edition with original illustrations by Charles Sandwyck. Thoughts from Pegana’s Mike Tortorello and sample pages can be found on the Pegana Press page of Bookseller Central.

Coming from Eerdmans in fall of 2016
New edition with over forty-five scratchboard illustrations by Ruth Sanderson. We have created a page dedicated to samples of Ruth’s illustrations and her essay, Unlocking Wonder in the Golden Key.

The Golden Key (song)
song by Jeff Johnson
from his album Through The Door

North Wind Archives articles on The Golden Key
‘Down the Winding Stair’: Victorian Popular Science and Deep Time in ‘The Golden Key’
by Geoffrey Reiter
'Not to Hide but to Show': 'The Golden Key'
by Colin Manlove

Beasts and Monsters in MacDonald's Fairy Stories
by Dieter Petzold

George MacDonald's Sources for 'The Golden Key'
by Hugh P. O'Connor

Knowing God 'Other-wise': The Wise Old Woman Archetype
by Katharine Bubel

The Progressive Key: A Study of Bunyan's Influence in MacDonald's 'The Golden Key'
by Kirstin Jeffrey

The Ultimate Rite of Passage: Death and Beyond in 'The Golden Key' and At the Back of the North Wind
by Marilyn Pemberton

Unearthing Ancient Sources in MacDonald's 'The Golden Key'
by Fernando Soto

The Gray Wolf

The Gray Wolf
Discussion of The Gray Wolf
by Mr. Pond

The Gray Wolf, for solo mandarin, composition
Inspired by MacDonald's short story of the same name
by John Craton
If I had a Father

“Divinity: Shakespearean Influence in the Drama of George MacDonald”
by Barbara Amell.
Wingfold: Winter 2006
For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com

The Light Princess

George MacDonald and the Light Princess by Bob Trexler
The Golden Key, website of the George MacDonald Society
by Bob Trexler

Articles from the North Wind Archives
A Royal Pain: The Comic Spirit in George MacDonald’s ‘The Light Princess’
by Greg Levonian

Antigravity: Matter and the Imagination in MacDonald and Early Science Fiction
by Elmar Schenkel

Arthur Hughes’ Illustrations for George MacDonald's Gutta Percha Willie: Parallels and Contrasts with ‘The Light Princess’
by John Docherty

George MacDonald Then and Now: The Case of ‘The Light Princess’
by Roderick McGillis

Language, Ideology, and Fairy Tales: George MacDonald's Fairy Tales as a Social Critique of Victorian Norms
by Osama Jarrar

Reading Scripture in Crisis: The Victorian Crisis of Faith and MacDonald's Response to Coleridge
by Gisela Kreglinger
London's National Theatre Production of The Light Princess
by Tori Amos and Samuel Adamson

The Little Girl That Had No Tongue

Articles from the North Wind Archives
'The Little Girl That Had No Tongue': A Short Story by George MacDonald
by Barbara Amell

Photogen and Nycteris (The Day Boy and the Night Girl)

Articles from the Northwind Archives
'Travelling Beastward': An Ecocritical Reading of George MacDonald's Fairy Tales
by Björn Sundmark

Bridge over the River Why: The Imagination as a Way to Meaning
by Kerry Dearborn

Language, Ideology, and Fairy Tales: George MacDonald's Fairy Tales as a Social
Critique
by Osama Jarrar

1882 review of The Gifts of the Child Christ and Other Tales
Emphasis on "Photogyn and Nycteris"
Wingfold: Spring 2015
For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com

The Portent

Articles from the Northwind Archive
Endings and Meanings: A Study of The Portent
by Rebecca Thomas Ankeny
George MacDonald's The Portent and Colin Thubron's A Cruel Madness by John Docherty

“Frederick Sandys and the legend of The Portent,” by Barbara Amell
Wingfold: Winter 1996
For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com

Henry Holbeach on The Portent (excerpt)
Wingfold: Fall 2004
For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com

1864 review;
Wingfold: Fall 2004
For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com

Passages from the original version of The Portent, 1860
Wingfold: Fall 2004
For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com

“Portent of Prejudice,” by Barbara Amell.
Wingfold: Fall 2004
For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com

Tell Us a Story (The Giant's Heart)

‘Tell Us a Story’ (or ‘The Giant's Heart’) in The Illustrated London New
by Daniel Gabelman
The North Wind Archives

The Wow o' Rivven

John McBey and the 'Wow o' Rivven' by Madge Lobban
by Madge Lobban
The North Wind Archive
Misc. Wingfold articles:

Dealings with the Fairies 1867 review
Summer 2009

For back issues of Wingfold contact Barbara Amell at b_amell@q.com