





FAIRY TALES  
GONE BAD  
**CREEPING  
BEAUTY**

Joseph Coelho

*Illustrated by*  
Freya Hartas



WALKER  
BOOKS

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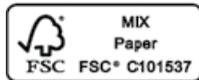
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*For the child reading this in a library ...  
can you hear that bubbling sound?  
That's the sound of new stories forming! – J.C.*

*In loving memory of Inky and Dracula,  
who are now in catty heaven, sleeping and  
creeping for all eternity. – F.H.*





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## PROLOGUE

# The Librarian



What's that noise?

Oh, it's you!

My lovely wretched readers.

Have you come to hear some  
festering fables?

Some noxious narratives?

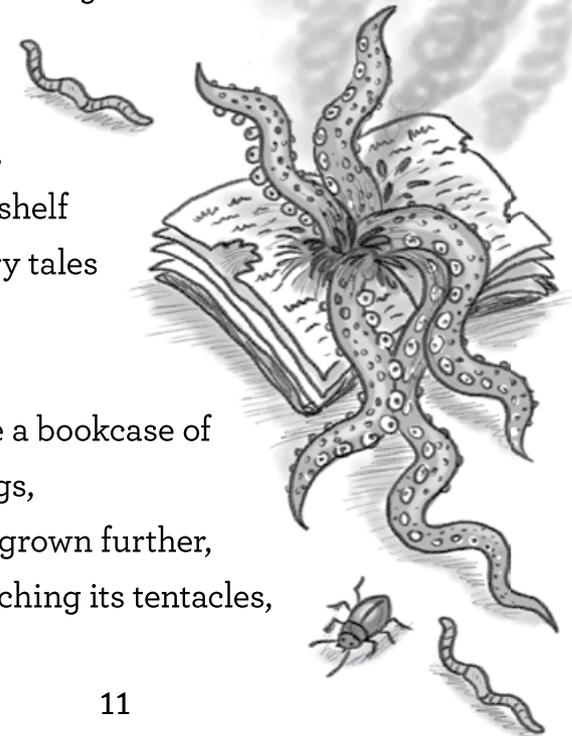
Well, you've come to the right place  
for I am The Librarian  
of Fairy Tales Gone Bad.

I discovered some neglected  
tomes at the back of the library  
some time ago.

They started off occupying  
just one lonely shelf  
of books left unread,  
unflicked through,  
un-perused for so long  
that the tales within them

had become  
mouldy with changes,  
sprouting new characters,  
new twists and turns,  
blooming with new beginnings  
and middlings  
and endings,  
becoming something else,  
becoming something ... BAD.

But since then,  
my one lonely shelf  
of frothing fairy tales  
has grown,  
has spread.  
First it became a bookcase of  
rancid retellings,  
but now it has grown further,  
bit by bit, stretching its tentacles,



taking over the entire library,  
changing the very fabric of the building.

I have spent days  
lost amongst the aisles  
of The Library of Fairy Tales Gone Bad.  
In the astronomy section  
I discovered a horrid version

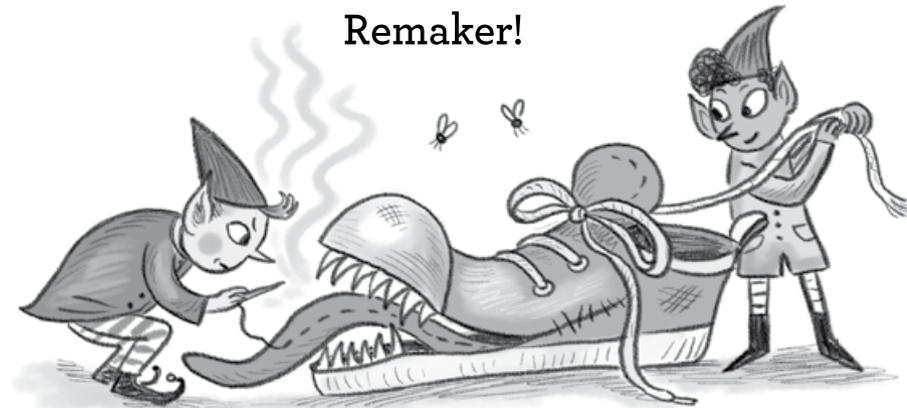
of *Hansel and Gretel* ...  
**Hansel and Gretel  
and the Space-Witch!**



In the biology section  
I found a purulent version  
of *Puss in Boots* ...  
**Octopus in Boots!**



And in the fashion section  
I found a whiffy version  
of *The Elves and the Shoemaker* ...  
**The Elves and the Sweaty Trainer  
Remaker!**



But in the botanical section  
I found something altogether  
shocking and frightening...  
A story of fairy godmothers  
and creeping vines,  
of magical transformations,  
and visions and signs!

This is the tale of ...

# CREEPING BEAUTY.

