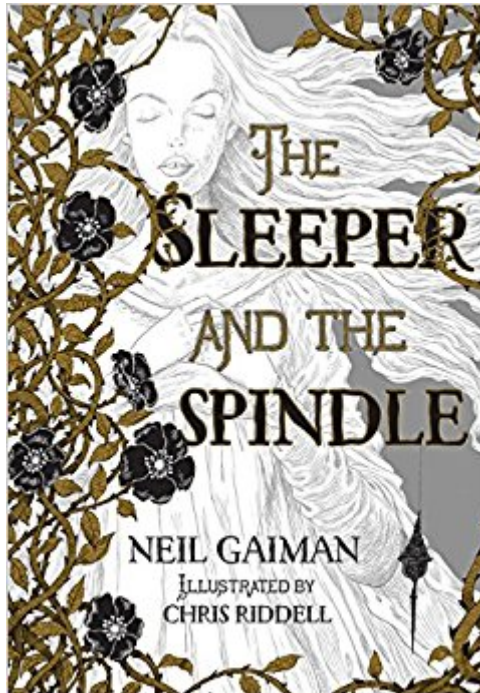




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# The Sleeper And The Spindle



## Synopsis

New York Times bestselling and Newbery and Carnegie Medal-winning author Neil Gaiman and Kate Greenaway-winning illustrator Chris Riddell have created a thrillingly reimagined fairy tale, "told in a way only Gaiman can" and featuring "stunning metallic artwork" (GeekInsider.com). The result is a beautiful and coveted edition of *The Sleeper and the Spindle* that the Guardian calls "a refreshing, much-needed twist on a classic story." In this captivating and darkly funny tale, Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell have twisted together the familiar and the new as well as the beautiful and the wicked to tell a brilliant version of Snow White's (sort of) and Sleeping Beauty's (almost) stories. This story was originally published (without illustrations) in *Rags & Bones* (Little, Brown, 2013). This is the first time it is being published as an illustrated, stand-alone edition, and the book is a beautiful work of art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Beautiful Quote Graphics for *Sleeper and the Spindle*

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Gr 7 Up [Up](#) • Snow White meets Sleeping Beauty in this fairytale mash-up where things are not what they seem. When three dwarfs learn of a sleeping plague spreading throughout the land, they alert their queen. The queen, already feeling that marriage means the end of her ability to make choices in her life, gladly postpones her wedding, grabs her sword, and sets off with the dwarfs to

get to the bottom of the magical curse. On their way, they encounter throngs of cobweb-covered sleepers. To their surprise, the slumbering masses talk in their sleep and eventually begin to lumber after them. The team forges ahead to the castle, where they find the sleeping princess and an old woman. The queen's kiss, shown in a sumptuous spread, wakes the princess. The quest turns out to be just what the queen needs to be reminded of the choices she has. Riddell's spectacularly intricate ink drawings, gilded with gold, bring Gaiman's inventive story to life. Each page is packed with marvelous details—vines claustrophobically twist everywhere and expressions convey far more emotion than the words let on. Gaiman's narrative about strength, sacrifice, choice, and identity is no simple retelling; he sends readers down one path then deliciously sends the story veering off in an unexpected direction. The only downside—the tale ends far too soon.

**VERDICT** This highly recommended visually stunning twist on two classic fairy tales will be well received by fans of graphic novels and fantasy stories.

—Amanda MacGregor, Great River Regional Library, St. Cloud, MN

“Gaiman and Riddell’s greatest [collaboration] to date.”  
(Tor.com) “Told in a way only Gaiman can—and featuring stunning metallic artwork.” (GeekInsider) “A refreshing, much-needed twist on a classic story.” (The Guardian) “Spellbindingly illustrated.” (Gaby Wood, Saturday Telegraph) “Magical, sumptuous, transporting.” (The Big Issue) “Unforgettable, unpredictable and utterly enchanting for anyone between the ages of seven and seventy.” (Amanda Craig, The New Statesman) “A genuine treat.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) “A spectacular art object...certainly a treasure.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) “Riddell’s spectacularly intricate ink drawings, gilded with gold, bring Gaiman’s inventive story to life...This highly recommended visually stunning twist on two classic fairy tales will be well received by fans of graphic novels and fantasy stories.” (School Library Journal (starred review)) “A wholly original reimagining...Riddell’s artwork is the reason a library should own this title in their collection. His details are exquisite.” (Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)) “A striking volume...thrums with malevolence and confounds our expectations...[the pictures] seem to writhe creepily on the page.” (Wall Street Journal) “Unabashedly feminist...So sonically tuned that it breathes on its own from the very first line. Adding to the wonder are Chris Riddell’s dazzling illustrations.” (New York Times Book Review)

Not a very original work. This is a simple reworking of Sleeping Beauty. The story is nicely woven, but in my opinion not worth the cost of purchase.

This defies the traditional "Sleeping Beauty" story, and leaves the reader wondering if a sequel "may" be in the offing.

Start with classic fairy tales. Add zombies. Stir in an old Twilight Zone episode and voila! This is a dud.

The Sleeper and the Spindle does not only have beautiful cover art and illustrations by Chris Riddell, but it also has an amazing non-modern fairy tale retelling of Sleeping Beauty and Snow White. It might be a good start to reading Neil Gaiman's work, I don't know depends on reading tastes. Don't the length of this story discourage a read.

Neil Gaiman joined with illustrator Chris Riddell to produce this novelette. I would have opted for a bit more text, but the illustrations (mainly black and white) are quite interesting, and I couldn't help thinking this would make a great coloring book. The figures in the pictures are just begging to be colored in. In the original 'Snow White' story there are seven dwarfs, but here we have only three. Snow White is about to marry her prince and is having second thoughts while being fitted into her wedding dress, when her old friends show up and inform her of a plague that is rapidly approaching her kingdom (Snow White is now a queen). People are falling asleep while performing their everyday chores (milking cows, waiting on tables, etc.) and nothing seems to be able to wake them. The main sleeper is a princess who was cursed into sleep 70 years ago after she pricked her finger on a spindle, so the Queen postpones her wedding and chucks her disappointed prince under the chin. She armors-up and sets out with her three height-challenged companions to wake the sleeping princess. One very modern touch is the presence of, for lack of a better term, I'll call zombies. They attempt to prevent the companions from completing their journey to the rose-bound castle. Neil Gaiman also adds a few interesting twists to his fairy-tale-combo ending, which I am honor-bound not to reveal in this review. I liked them but fans of the Disney movies might experience a few qualms.

A really nice book. Beautiful illustrations. Takes Snow White further on an unexpected path.

Would be great as part of a collection but feeling ripped off by the price. I wish I'd known how short it was before I paid so much for it.

Neil Gaiman is a master of the otherworldly. He manages to create fantastic places with just a few words. This story is a blend of fairytales, mostly Snow White and Sleeping Beauty, to which he brings a fresh perspective and produces something unforgettable. Strong female characters resonate with girls and women tired of classic damsel-in-distress stories. The illustrations are gorgeous and beautifully accented with gold foil. This is one book to treasure and hand down from generation to generation.

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