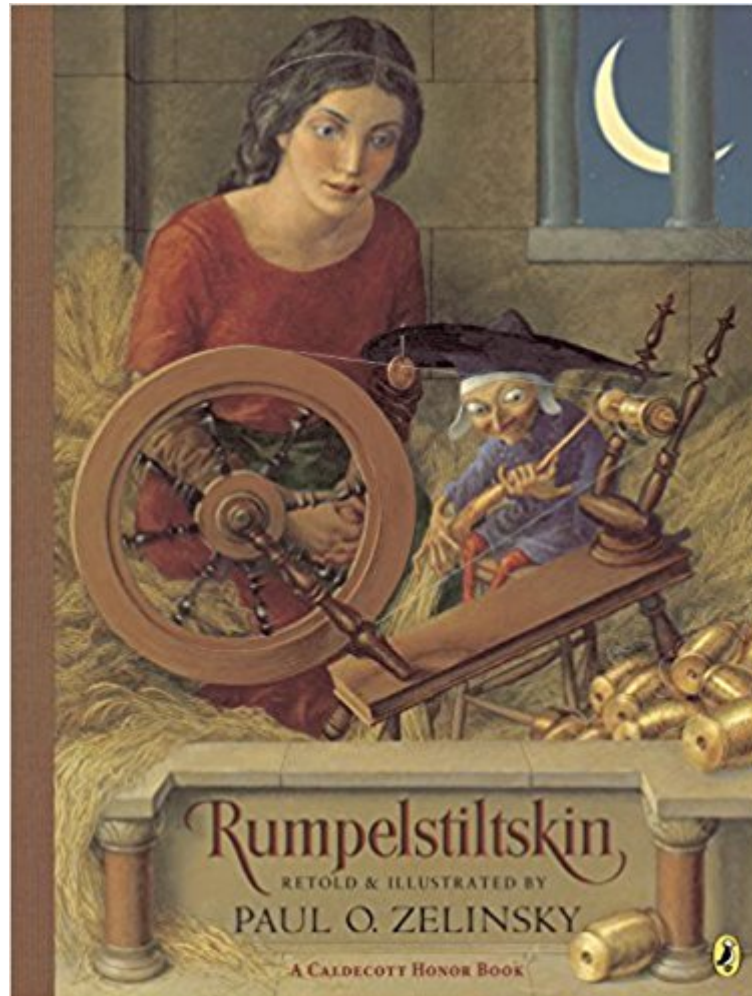




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Rumpelstiltskin



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Synopsis

Richly hued oil paintings complement a story simply and gracefully told. "Children...love the story for its mystery, and its familiarity. Adults will find that, like most classic fairy tales, this one rewards periodic rethinking." --New York Times Book Review "Zelinsky's smooth retelling and glowing pictures cast the story in a new and beautiful light." -- School Library Journal

Book Information

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Paul O. Zelinsky, 1998 Caldecott medalist for *Rapunzel*, also has three Caldecott Honor Books under his belt: *Hansel and Gretel*, *Swamp Angel*, and this fine edition of *Rumpelstiltskin*. Zelinsky's oil paintings are perfectly suited to the strange saga of the little man with the secret name who knows how to spin straw into gold. The golden light infusing the late medieval setting subtly reinforces the theme. The visual characterization of Rumpelstiltskin is a triumph: an odd elfin man with bulbous eyes, a gigantic, flat black hat, impossibly skinny arms and legs, and long, pointed black shoes. This *Rumpelstiltskin* is not scary or horrid, but rather mischievous and weird. When the young queen finally guesses his name, and thus is able to keep her baby, he flies off on his huge cooking spoon (with a pout), true to the Grimms's 1819 version of the story. (Zelinsky provides notes on his text in the back of the book, indicating his careful research into various editions of the original Grimm tale.) Zelinsky's retelling is straightforward and smooth, with only a few lines of text

on each page to complement the truly magnificent full-page illustrations. A delightful book worth its weight in gold! (Ages 3 to 7) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

One of the most exquisite picture books of the season, Zelinsky's *Rumpelstiltskin* will have strong appeal for children and for adult picture-book collectors alike. The artist has illustrated numerous award-winners, including *Hansel and Gretel* (a Caldecott Honor Book) and *The Story of Mrs. Lovewright and Purrless Her Cat* (a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year). Here Zelinsky has retold the narrative himself; he has captured the magic and frightening wonder of the tale while incorporating elements from a number of 19th century Grimm versions. The spare story flows beautifully, and the illustrations are extraordinary. Incredibly detailed full-color paintings show the influence of careful study of styles and techniques of European portrait and landscape painters. In *Hansel and Gretel*, the tale's dark side was communicated principally through Zelinsky's depiction of a powerful and frightening background. But here the interior scenes—sheaves and heaps of straw, and baskets of empty spindles, with rooms suddenly full of golden thread—carry the story. The little man *Rumpelstiltskin* is by turns mysterious, comforting, devious, furious and pathetic. And Zelinsky shows dramatically the love that the miller's daughter has for her child, and the terror she feels when she realizes she may have to give him up. *Rumpelstiltskin* is a tour de force by an immensely talented artist. Zelinsky is that rare practitioner who can create sophisticated work that adults will marvel at, and that children will joyfully embrace. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

One of my favorite fairy tales. Read it with lots of innocence in your voice for the poor Miller's daughter. And read her father as the "fool" he is, wanting to impress the king with his bragging. The role of the king is not developed here, except to say he is a very greedy man. The little man who saves the life of the future queen and is then foiled in his scheme to take her babe is drawn in a most delightful manner. He's more laughable than sinister. In the version I heard as a child he stomped his feet so hard and spun around so much in his anger that he augered himself in the ground. In this version he rides out of the window on a wooden kitchen spoon which was both humorous and pathetic. Zelinsky's art is wonderful and plentiful. Kids will love this picture book. Mine did.

This gets 5 stars because of all the childhood memories it brings. When I was a child my father would buy me a Classics Illustrated comic book now and then. I LOVED them and read them over

and over. I have thought of them often and never expected to ever lay eyes on them again..what a thrill to find the e comic on for \$1.99..I bought my 2 favorites, (Rapunzel & Rumpelstiltskin)..because I purchased 2, I received a .99 "gift"..so both comics (containing all those priceless memories for me) were \$3.00. Of course comics have come so far, the illustrations in these comics are so rough. But the stories are there in a simple to understand language. I loved these as a child. They bring back a flood of memories and emotions for me now. Can't really be objective.

I bought this book to give to an elderly gentleman in his 90's, who had been asking how the story of Rumpelstiltskin went--because he had forgotten. The smile that came across his face when I showed him what I had for him, just thrilled my heart. For days he was thanking me--over and over again--for his book. He said he will pass this book on to his son, who has one of his own beloved storybooks from his early childhood. The artwork in this book is absolutely stunning--it almost made me want to buy it for myself! It took me right back to my own childhood, and to my favorite--the beautiful and romantic Mediaeval castle! I would say this book is definately a collector's item.

This is a well-known story that I grew up hearing. I love the illustrator's work in this book! His detail is amazing. I not only own this book, but have also given it as gifts.

A classic. We love it.

Classic book worth to add to your collection

My girls loved the illustrations in this book. Well, all but Rumpelstiltskin himself, he really looked a little creepy. Overall and great collection to our Grimm's Fairy Tale re-tellings!

Love

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