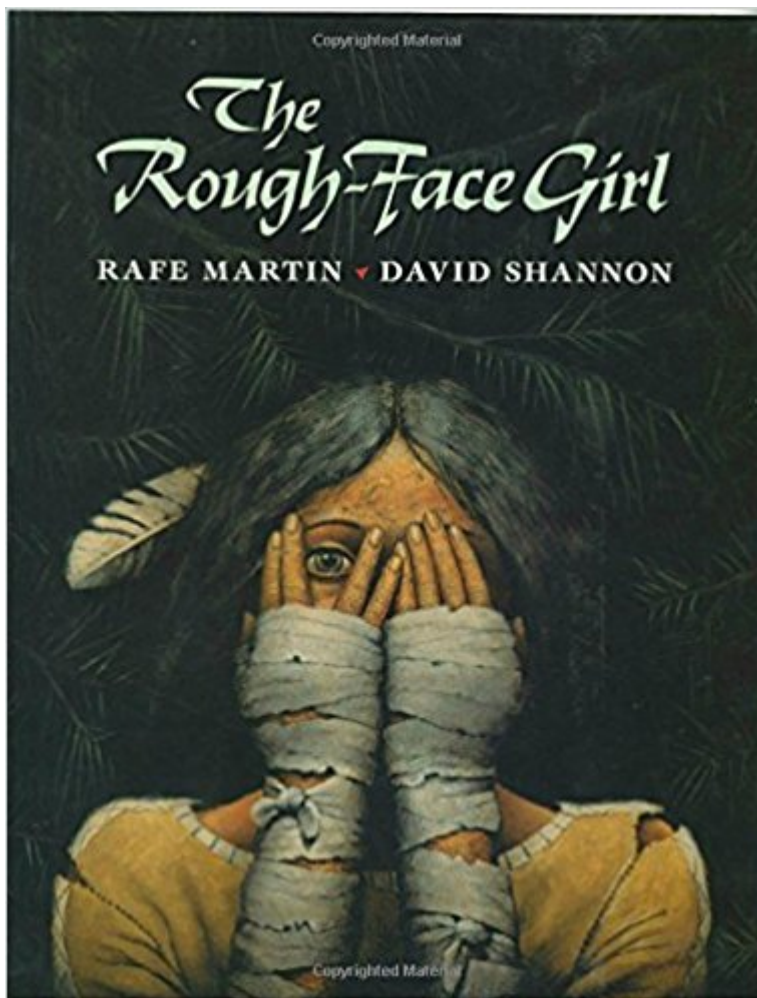


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The Rough-Face Girl



Synopsis

From Algonquin Indian folklore comes one of the most haunting, powerful versions of the Cinderella tale ever told. In a village by the shores of Lake Ontario lived an invisible being. All the young women wanted to marry him because he was rich, powerful, and supposedly very handsome. But to marry the invisible being the women had to prove to his sister that they had "seen" him. And none had been able to get past the sister's stern, all-knowing gaze. Then came the Rough-Face girl, scarred from working by the fire. Could she succeed where her beautiful, cruel sisters had failed?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD540L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reissue edition (April 13, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698116267

ISBN-13: 978-0698116269

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.1 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 136 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,737 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #6 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans #12 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

In this Algonquin Indian version of the Cinderella story, two domineering sisters set out to marry the "rich, powerful, and supposedly handsome" Invisible Being, first having to prove that they can see him. They cannot, but their mistreated younger sister the Rough-Face Girl--so called because the sparks from the fire have scarred her skin--can, for she sees his "sweet yet awesome face" all around her. He then appears to her, reveals her true hidden beauty and marries her. Shannon (*How Many Spots Does a Leopard Have?*) paints powerful, stylized figures and stirring landscapes, heightening their impact with varied use of mist, shadows and darkness. His meticulous research is evident in intricate details of native dress and lodging. In places, though, he struggles with the

paradox of illustrating the invisible--an eagle, tree, cloud and rainbow form the face of the Invisible Being in one disappointingly banal image. For the most part, however, the drama of these haunting illustrations--and of Martin's (Foolish Rabbit's Big Mistake) respectful retelling--produce an affecting work. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 3 Up-- Simply, in the words of an oral storyteller, Martin retells an Algonquin folktale. The youngest of three sisters is forced by the other two to sit by the fire and feed the flames, which results in the burning and scarring of her hair and skin. Desirous of marriage to an Invisible Being who lives in a huge wigwam across the village, these cruel siblings must prove to his sister that they have seen him, but they fail. The Rough-Face Girl, however, sees the Invisible Being everywhere and can answer his sister's questions correctly. Comparable in presentation to Caroline Cunningham's "The Little Scarred One" from *The Talking Stone* (Knopf, 1939; o.p.; reprinted in *Castles and Dragons*, Crowell, 1958; o.p.), but different in detail, this is a splendid read-aloud. It is the only single illustrated version available. Shannon's finely crafted full- and double-page acrylic paintings in the rich hues of the earth embody the full flavor of the story. His stunning cover portrait shows at one glance both the girl's beauty and her frightful scars. Another in the recent succession of Cinderella stories, *The Rough-Face Girl* begs for comparison with *Princess Furball* (Greenwillow, 1989), *Tattercoats* (Putnam, 1989), *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* (Lothrop, 1987), *Moss Gown* (Clarion, 1987), etc., and will provide both entertainment and a cultural lesson.- Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I first purchased this book with money I had earned when I was either in 2nd or 3rd grade, during a book faire at school. I was into buying my own books back then. I read this book with great enjoyment since it was something I had purchased with my own money. Later on in my English class (6th grade) I turned this book into a play script and had other kids volunteer and play out the story. I got an A+. Alas, the parents threw away all my stuff after I joined the military. I was really sad that among the pictures of my childhood and toys and whatnot, this book among others were lost to me. So glad for sites like . I was able to buy a brand new one. Now I am glad this is a part of my collection. This book is amazing!

This story captures the imagination and carries it into the stratosphere. The story, prose and pictures

work together so wonderfully, that I consider it a masterpiece. I personally would feel uncomfortable reading it to children under six. It is a story that any adult can relate to. That at one or more times in our lives we feel either unattractive, alienated and worse, the target of scorn. Our main character is a young, American-Indian girl. Her job for the tribe is to keep the main campfire burning. As a result, over years the floating, hot embers have begun to disfigure and her. She becomes the object of ridicule and abuse from her young peers. The author carries us into tribal legend eloquently, the imagination is hypnotized and the character and the audience are elevated into a wonderful, magical ending. This is a story you will carry well into the future. Incredibly memorable.

I remember reading this book as a child and being fascinated with the artwork and story. As an adult, I now teach art and culture to a bunch of young children every day, with each month focusing on a different culture. When Native Americans came up, I knew I had to order this book to share with them, and the children loved it.

I have been looking for this book for a long time. Many years ago I heard this enchanting tale from a Native American. In her version of the story, the nasty sisters are turned into Aspen leaves, forever to tremble when the Wind blew even the tiniest amount. This book has wonderful narration and the illustrations are striking.

Purchased for a friend. The whole family read it before passing it on. Fantastic story. Beautifully illustrated. 10/10.

This story is simple and straightforward without being "simple." Rather than being full of pious idealized cliché, or backwards, insulting generalization, the portrayal of the native story and peoples is confidently human and complex. I have no real vocabulary for describing the artwork, but it is piercing, rich, and underpins the story without making the story feel like a story-book. The Rough Face Girl offers so much to edify that the regular Cinderella myths seem bald in comparison. There is no witless prince who cannot even recognize his own true love in different clothes. Rather, this girl must pursue her perfect match by learning to value herself regardless of her many detractors and her poverty. Her strength lies in her purity, in her ability to see the eternal in the most humble commonplace things around her. She is not magically transformed into some tasty sampler BEFORE winning the "prize." Rather she presents herself as-is in self-made clothing that earns the scorn and laughter of the entire village. Her humble self-assertion is not encouraged by a fairy godmother.

Instead she is given a challenging test administered by an intimidating and discerning figure who also comes to life on the page. The emphasis is on inner beauty first, and love comes only because of the "seeing" of that inner beauty. Both man and woman see each other when others cannot "see" either of them clearly at all. The rough-faced girl is cherished in an enduring, tender way that does not reek of hollow love-at-first-sight romances. The rewards are well-deserved and are so much, much more impressive and enduring than any typical fairy tale's outcome. This book adapts well to whatever age, and as a mother I can vouch for that.

Purchased 15 or so years ago while a teacher. While the story itself was above the level of my k students, my own children really enjoyed the story with me at home. I was so pleased to find this book after having lost my first copy! I look forward to sharing the story and beautiful illustrations with my granddaughters.

Thank you, my students really enjoyed this book. It was also in great condition.

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