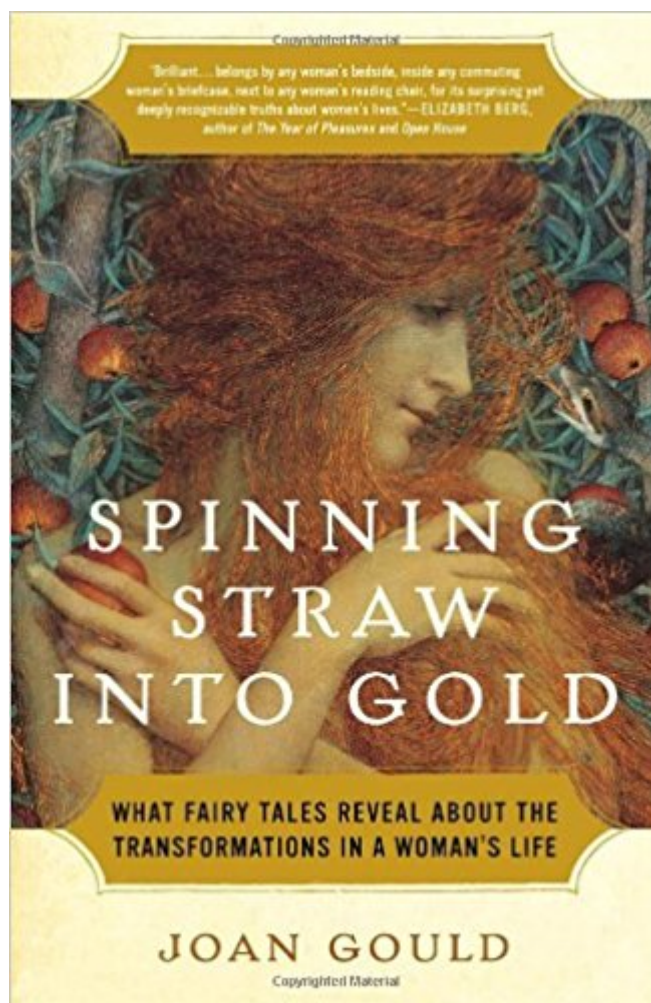


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# Spinning Straw Into Gold: What Fairy Tales Reveal About The Transformations In A Woman's Life



## Synopsis

What's your favorite fairy tale? Whether it's "Cinderella," "Beauty and the Beast," "Hansel and Gretel," or another story, your answer reveals something significant about you, your experiences, and your soul. In this penetrating book, Joan Gould brings to the surface the hidden meanings in fairy tales and myths, and illuminates what they can tell you about the stages in your own life. As Gould explores the transformations that women go through from youth to old age—leaving home and mother, the first experience of sexuality, the surprising ambivalence of marriage, the spiritual work required by menopause and aging—her keen observations will enrich your awareness of your inner life. Full of archetypal figures known to us all, *Spinning Straw into Gold* also includes stories from the lives of ordinary women that clarify the insights to be gained from the beloved tales that have been handed down from one generation to the next.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The virginal princess, the ugly stepsister, the wicked witch: through timeless fairy tales and their contemporary adaptations in films and novels, such caricatures have become deeply embedded in the collective consciousness and have helped shape society's standards for feminine beauty and behavior. Assigning them real-life counterparts, Gould examines how such stereotypes influence a woman's life as she moves from maiden to matron to crone through a comprehensive analysis of these familiar storybook characters. If Snow White, Cinderella, and Sleeping Beauty represent a

young girl's confrontation of parental authority and cultural expectations, then Rapunzel, Jane Eyre, and Scarlett O'Hara symbolize her coming-of-age, and the tales of Hansel and Gretel and Demeter and Persephone explore ways in which elderly women face their final years and eventual death. In an engaging and erudite analysis of how these metamorphoses have been informed by or reflected in our ancient myths and contemporary mores, Gould reevaluates the personas women adopt in real life and in literature. Carol HaggasCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“Brilliant . . . belongs by any woman’s bedside, inside any commuting woman’s briefcase, next to any woman’s reading chair, for its surprising yet deeply recognizable truths about women’s lives.” —Elizabeth Berg, author of *The Year of Pleasures* and *Open House* “Open Joan Gould’s lovely book anywhere and you will find something recognizable, as relevant today as when you were a child. That’s the magic of fairy tales. Be wise, be strong, and grab life like the heroes and heroines in *Spinning Straw into Gold*.” —Nancy Friday, author of *My Mother, My Self* and *My Secret Garden* “Taking the life of woman through her changes, from maiden to matron to crone, Joan Gould has written a passionate song of praise for life itself. Her book is as nourishing as the fairy tales she treats. Her inspired *Spinning Straw into Gold* rejuvenates us all.” —Robert Fagles, translator of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* “This is at once a deep yet thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable book.” —Maggie Scarf, author of *Secrets, Lies, Betrayals* and *Intimate Partners*

What a delightfully written book! As a lover of fairy tales, I found this to be both brilliantly researched and wittily penned. Gould is sterling in her observations and insights of the transformations of women. I would recommend this book to all lovers of the fairy tale as well as women in general!

I originally found this book at the library and loved it. I don't normally buy books, because I read a great deal and don't collect books. This book I had to buy because I will reread it many times so I wanted my own copy. It has provided a great depth and insight into my reading. It also has given me a better understanding of female roles in our society and culture and how we're conditioned to think and act as we do. Highly recommend.

interpretation of fairystories which is useful- especially to women , but also to men.Good start place

to why stories are useful, but how they have been changed to suit the state of the people they are told to and the social climate

I not only loved it, I bought it for several friends.

Brilliant analysis of fairy tales

I didn't want the book to end! I felt like I was in therapy. Verrey cathartic.

A wonderful and insightful book on the hidden meanings of fairy tales, interpreted for women. I read it at the library and decided it was a book I needed to own. Great for anyone interested in mythology, psychology or women studies.

This is one of the best books I have ever read. It was so good I gave my copy to my aunt to read who after reading put it perfectly, "this should be required reading for all women." I highly recommend this book.

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