



The Monkey's Wedding: and Other Stories

Joan Aiken

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Joan Aiken's stories captivated readers for fifty years. They're funny, smart, gentle, and occasionally very, very scary. The stories in *The Monkey's Wedding* are collected here for the very first time and include six never before published, as well as two previously published under the pseudonym Nicholas Dee. Here you'll find the story of a village for sale . . . or is the village itself the story? There's an English vicar who declares on his deathbed that he might have lived an entirely different life. After his death, a large, black, argumentative cat makes an appearance. . . .

This hugely imaginative collection of incongruous, light, and unexpected stories features Shelley Jackson's spooky and eyecatching cover painting inspired by the story "A Mermaid Too Many" and includes introductions by Joan Aiken as well by her daughter, Lizza Aiken.

Praise for Joan Aiken:

"Joan Aiken's invention seemed inexhaustible, her high spirits a blessing, her sheer storytelling zest a phenomenon. She was a literary treasure, and her books will continue to delight for many years to come."-- Philip Pullman

"Aiken writes with the genius of a born storyteller, with mother wit expanded and embellished by civilized learning, and with the brilliance of an avenging angel."--*The New Yorker*

Best known for *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, **Joan Aiken** (1924-2004) wrote over a hundred books and won the *Guardian* and Edgar Allan Poe awards. After her first husband's death, she supported her family by copyediting at *Argosy* magazine and an advertising agency before turning to fiction. She went on to write for *Vogue*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Vanity Fair*, *Argosy*, *Women's Own*, and many others. Visit her online at: joanaiken.com.

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Paul Tirrell:

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