



Wishing Stars: Space Opera Fairytales

Nenia Campbell

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Magic and science combine in this anthology of futuristic fairytales, ballads, and lyrical poetry. Contains five retellings:

Deep Blue Nightmare

Clockwork Roses

Quantum Diamond

Iceheart

Blood of My Blood.

Wishing Stars: Space Opera Fairytales Details

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Author : Nenia Campbell

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From Reader Review *Wishing Stars: Space Opera Fairytales* for online ebook

Angela says

NENIA, YOU SPEED WRITER.

Stuti (Turmeric isn't your friend. It will fly your ship says

I've read multiple novels of Campbell's by now and if one thing is consistent in them, it's the addictive writing. I remember last year, a day before my tests, when I got hooked onto her and read three books of hers in two consecutive days. Be there plot holes, lacking characters, poor world-building, her books incite you to keep going on and on and on. But *Wishing Stars: Space Opera* takes the cake.

Maybe it's the beautiful cover manipulating/altering my thinks, or the book's imager itself, but whenever I think of the prose in *Wishing Stars: Space Opera*, I'm reminded of diamonds, wet with dew. For some fucking inane reason. I feel so much like a manga character when presented with overwhelmingly decadent food, or when trying to be super cute to overshadow their mistakes. You know, they pucker their lips and wriggle their hips? (Just when you want a gif, you can't find one.)

Of course there are other things I must expound upon. Firstly, as of Feb 14 2014, the day I got this book from Amazon, the book needs a thorough editing. There were way too many errors and inconsistencies for readers- who might not be as stubborn as me- to enjoy.

For one, in the first story: **Deep Blue Nightmare**, the alien creature our protagonist meets is referred to as 'he' although she isn't sure of his sex, I don't particularly minds this as I used to nowadays; but later he is 'it and its', then 'he and his' again for the rest of the story, if I remember correctly. (In between he tells her he is a male of his species.)

And then in the story, **Quantum Diamond**, the MC is charged with making a highly destructive and complex weapon with one revolution of the sun. He gets 24 hours. Pardon me but doesn't one revolution entail at least 365 days here on Earth? I get that this is a space opera fairytale, ergo set on some obscure planet far away in the universe, but this planet must have had one hell of a speed, or it had to have been helluva close to the sun.

There are also a few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes that I didn't highlight, but would like to see corrected.

In regards to the stories, there is a dollop of creativity amongst them. All the stories besides **Deep Blue Nightmare** were fantastically unique in their setting as well as telling. **Deep Blue Nightmare**, by contrast, was a straightforward story, a retelling in a new land, rather spaceship, but constituting nothing surprising.

The one story whose characters, whose plot I failed to grasp was **Iceheart**. IMO, the writing was most awe-inspiring in this particular story but the characters voices were boring. And it was also vague enough to confuse me at times.

Quantum Diamond's protagonist was one who had the most vivid character portrayed in the entire composition of stories, and it's especially intriguing because his character and history and expectations of future were built in a very short story. I absolutely loved the atmosphere and desperation, but at the end, I was disappointed because it led up to such a chase, but ended very anti-climatically.

Clockwork Roses and **Iceheart** were two stories that lived up to the phantom expectations I had hurriedly made in light of what little I had read in the previous stories. And these two were lovely. One was exciting, while the other terrified me. There was a point in *Iceheart*, an action I felt like criticizing because I couldn't wrap my head around any of it, nor what came after, but I just can't. It seemed to me that this was just being brushed off, but the ending established that nothing was being condoned or excused, it was just following the fucked up way of life, that people disappear and wrongs aren't always righted.

The poems were so. fucking. evocative and lyrical and scary. WHY WHY DID THEY HAVE TO END? There's a fucking ballad in here. It's short but it's a fucking, scary ballad(too short) and it shouldn't have ended, nor the other poems. RAGEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!!!

Exhibit A:

*(So be careful what you wish for,
When you wish upon a star,
For the many hearts' desires
Tend to find you where you are)*

Exhibit B:

*Below the water there's no sound,
And those that struggle always drown.*

*But, oh, my love;
You look so pretty while you drown.*

No more glimpses for you guys now; discover them gems on your own. Plus this book is too short(engaging my BANKAI because RAGE) to give too much away. MORE.

/fin

Vicky Marie says

Well this book was a pleasant surprise. I must admit, I'm strict when it comes to self-published books. My past with said books has been littered with atrocious writing and fanfictiony bs, so I'm hesitant when reading stories from indie authors. Wishing Stars has shown me that there is still hope for the self-published community. I could tell from the first page that Nenia's writing is a lot better than what I've seen in the past. I actually let out a sigh of relief after reading the first story: *Deep Blue Nightmare*. I liked all the stories, especially *Blood of My Blood*. The ending was gruesome, but it was awesome (*hehe*) The poems were also great. I've never read space opera before, but Wishing Stars has piqued my interest. I hope Nenia writes more

Mona Hanna says

I thought this collection of fairy tales for adults was quite good, quite dark and clever. I must admit I didn't guess all of the fairy tales but I guessed a few. I enjoyed Clockwork Roses and Quantum Diamond the most - Clockwork Roses was beautiful and haunting, and I liked the twist on the fairy tale with that one. Quantum Diamond made me laugh and was so quick, the dialogue and the main character's thoughts so sharp, I thought it was wonderful.

I found the short stories a good length containing just what was needed, which is so important - I'm generally not a fan of short stories because they can contain too little, or not be satisfying, but these were quite good. I didn't like the last story very much - far too dark for me, but others may like that story more than me. I do wish the poems had been interspersed throughout the book, one after each story, instead of most of them at the end. I think I would have read them more carefully had they been in between the stories, and it would have been nice to have a shift after each story to something different.

All in all I liked the book, I actually read something sci-fi which is very unlike me, and I thought it was clever. Amazing cover as well. The book could have done with a little extra editing here and there to improve the flow of how some things were told, but this wasn't a huge issue. I think the author is a very talented writer, she has a brilliant imagination, and I look forward to reading more of her books.

Renee says

So I read *Wishing Stars* for three reasons. One, because I got it for free, two, because I LOVE fairy tale retelling and three, because Nenia is a friend and I like supporting Indie Authors.

This was a novella, a short story collection full of tiny space operas. It was a fast and easy read full of interesting characters, creative beings, places and good writing.

I am not a big short story person....This collection reminds me why, while I enjoyed the stories, most ended too abruptly for me and I wanted more from each of them.

The Spoilers Ahead are only telling what fairy tale I believe is being retold. Oh and I could have done without the poems, though they were well written.

Deep Blue Nightmare

A Blue Beard retelling and quite ingenious, while I found the ending to be a bit rushed, this one finalized in a way that satisfied me.

Clockwork Roses

A really fantastic reverse gender roles Sleeping Beauty retelling. Marred only by the ending that didn't feel...finished.

Quantum Diamond

Rumpelstiltskin retelling, I think. Again, non traditional gender roles, which I like and what the guy asks to be made is quite non traditional. However this time the ending felt a bit too easy and all sewn together without enough oomp.

Iceheart

My least favorite story in this collection, though still good. I really like the author's writing, the descriptions and aliens are really unique! I have NO idea what fairy tale this is...The ending was a bit confusing.

Blood of My Blood

Snow White retelling, and SO GOOD, probably my favorite story of the book, gruesome and almost disgusting in a good way...though the rape scene I could have done without....However, again...the ending felt rushed and unfinished and I would have liked more.

Like this? Check out more at:

Marvin says

Wow! Big surprise here. I was browsing the pages of my Goodreads friends and notice Nenia was making a couple of her books free on Kindle for a few days (No. Don't tell me. I know. I'm cheap) I grabbed *Wishing Stars: Space Opera Fairytales* because the idea of melding fairy tales with modern sci-fi and fantasy seems so Angela Carter. And I adore Angela Carter. Campbell's collection include both short fiction and poetry. The poetry is quite good but I'm not really qualified to analyze it. I can't even rhyme "moon". But the short stories are very creative, each one a sci-fi retelling of a traditional fairy tale. Think the Brother Grimm meets Doc Smith. The style is old fashioned space opera which suits me fine. As for the author, she tends to mix in a few genres, like horror and romance into the space opera/fairy tale mash-up. She is also quite adept at creating aliens with real personality that actually involve the readers. Here is a rundown of the five stories.

"Deep Blue Nightmare" is a retelling of Bluebeard and is suitably terrifying. Despite it's colorful aliens and a nice helping of traditional science fiction themes, it is a fairly straightforward horror tale.

"Clockwork Roses" is a version of Grimm's Briar Rose aka Sleeping Beauty with a nice gender switch. The author's talent for fantastic descriptions really stands out on this one.

"Quantum Diamond" is the most macho of the tales, even though it is based on Rumpelstiltskin, and is the one that remind me the most of Doc Smith or maybe Harry Harrison from his Stainless Steel Rat days. It's my favorite of the bunch.

"Iceheart" is the most romantic of the tales . I can't place the fairy tale it is based on. (but I bet this is the one that made you cry, am I right, Nenia?)

"Blood of my Blood", The last and somewhat weird(er) tale, asks the question; What if Snow White was a clone? It takes a close second in my best-of list for this book.

Add on the poetry and this makes for a very successful introduction to a talented writer. If it is still free...consider yourself lucky. But it is definitely worth paying for.

Jaylee says

Overall, this was a series of stories that do interesting, lovely things, but don't quite hit the mark. Many of the twists are unique and engaging, but sort of muddle out at the end. The writing is beautiful most of the time, though it edges on overdone and in need of polish.

Deep Blue Nightmare

A fun way to start off the book. Kind of quirky and odd, with the two alien races being -very- alien (one has tentacles and eats rocks?). It took me a while to figure out which fairytale this was, and it was a fantastic blend of creepy and cute.

Clockwork Roses

I really liked the concept behind this one, but the ending sort of fizzled. I liked the way she incorporated the fairytale elements and explanation for the kiss, too.

Quantum Diamond

This was my favorite in the series. The voice was strong, and it had a solid ending and good structure. I really wish I could've had this in my own sci-fi fairytale anthology *GRABBY HANDS* haha.

Iceheart

Beautifully written, interesting worldbuilding, but ... it got weird toward the end? I don't understand why things happened the way they did. And I'm not sure what fairytale this was supposed to be.

Blood of My Blood.

Another *really* awesome take on the fairy tale. Blends the Snow White from the 7 dwarves story and the one from the rose red story. Creepy and perfect. However... there's a *really* unnecessary rape scene, and the ending is odd. It deals with medical science that.... doesn't work? the way medical science is supposed to? Errrg. I really wish this could have had a better ending.

As for the poetry at the end... I'm not that into poetry? I didn't appreciate it or *not* appreciate it. So. Hahaha.

Heather *Awkward Queen and Unicorn Twin* says

I am kind of astonished at how good this was. *Wishing Stars* was much better written than the *Horrorscape* trilogy by miles.

I really enjoyed the last three stories, "Quantam Diamond," "Iceheart," and "Blood of My Blood" (I am generally a sucker for Snow White retellings). Also the poems at the end were so lovely and sinister. One of

them reminded me of this, one of my favorite poems. If the poems were stories, I imagine they'd be Angela Carter-esque.

I haven't read many space books, so I'm glad to add one more to my puny space shelf.

Louisa says

I had the privilege of reading certain bits while Nenia was still writing the stories. One sound even back then: HNNG. Beautiful, creative concept, executed lovingly.

(P.S. There are poems in this. POEMS. Mmmmmmmmmmm.)

Wart Hill says

There is so much creepy in this book.

Nenia takes familiar stories, puts them into unfamiliar settings, and weaves captivating, creepy, wonderful new fairy tales.

And the stories are just the tip of the iceberg.

Did you know that Nenia is a fantastic Poet? Because she is! I think as much as I *love* the stories, the poems were my favorite thing about this book. Seriously. So good.

Great job, Nenia!

Aoife says

Basically:

In more words: this was great

I love fairy-tale retellings...or rather I love the *idea* of fairy-tale retellings. In reality most end up being either too much like the original fairy tale and just changing some minor things doesn't make a very interesting re-telling or they add oh-so-clever twists that at usually is only half as clever and surprising as the author thinks it is (though if done right this can be awesome)

Wishing Stars doesn't add any twists but it's also so much more than just replacing 'princess' with 'alien' throughout the story. The Sci-Fi elements are for example used to give a backstory to Bluebeard (a really awesome one), show a reason for the whole 'kissing sleeping beauty awake'-thing (just that here a younger daughter kisses awake a prince who's not that handsome anymore...cyborgs are also involved...and dragons...I might be overusing the word awesome here) or to make the whole 'I need Snow White's heart'-

thing even more creepy.

Originally I wanted to enjoy this book for as long as possible and only read one story per day but I failed...my only complains are that Iceheart was a bit too short, I felt like I just started it and then it was already over , and Snow is a bit passive in Blood of my Blood, except for one short occasion things are only happening to her and once she has a bit of controll it's already over.

So yeah. My main complaint is IT WAS TOO SHORT! I WANT MORE!

Katherine Tobiya says

I'm not even sure how to start this review, but I just want to say I'm glad I finally got around to reading one of Nenia's books. She is such a talented and original writer and I can't wait to read some more of her work. My only issue with the stories was that the vocabulary was a bit too complicated for me, but that's my own fault for not being so smart haha. I think my favorite from the stories were Deep Blue Nightmare, Blood of my Blood and Epi (c)logue. Definitely recommend for a short, quirky read :]

Jolene says

I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves fairy tales. Even if you don't like sci-fi. I don't care for sci-fi. I'm glad it's out there for *other people*, but its just not my cup of tea. However, Fairy Tale retellings is one of my favorite genres. So when I saw this was on sale for \$0.99 I had to get it. I'm so glad I did! As with all short story collections, some stories were stronger then others. My favorite by far was Blood of My Blood and my least favorite was probably Deep Blue Nightmare (view spoiler).It was a lot of fun figuring out which tale was being told (I still can't figure out what tale Iceheart is retelling). Oh and the poems! I loved all the poems!! It's hard to say which one was my favorite, but I think I liked Balthys the Fair the best.

When it comes to paid Kindle books, I'm a hard sale. Even if it is only \$0.99. I don't like that I can only lend them once (if that). There are very few authors I enjoyed enough that I'm actually willing to buy their books in Kindle format. If Nenia ever writes another fairy tale book, I will buy it as soon as she loads it to Amazon.

NENIA, PLEASE WRITE MORE FAIRY TALES!!! :D

Anna K?avi?a says

3.5

*[...]I hear you beg me to your aid,
What cause is there to be afraid?
We'll live forever, you and I,
—But first, my love, you have to die.*

*Below the water there's no sound,
And those that struggle always drown.*

*But, oh, my love;
You look so pretty while you drown.*

Five fairy tale retellings: *Deep Blue Nightmare*, *Clockwork Roses*, *Quantum Diamond*, *Iceheart* and *Blood of My Blood*, an epilogue, and five original poems.

Pleasantly, surprised for gender swap in one of the fairy tales, and for including a homosexual hero in another.

And poems were awesome, I really liked them.

art by JesCallie

Joana says

*Come closer, my dears, let me give you a warning,
Of the fate that befalls those who stay out past morning,
In the darkest hours before the dawn,
When witches roam and demons spawn,
And children die with spirit gone,
Magicked away in the gloaming.*

In *Wishing Stars* we have bound up together retold fairy tales and some original poems.

I haven't read much sci-fi, which it's kind of odd since I do love it in TV shows and movies (Dr Who, anyone?)! But I'm always up to engage in new stories, even more if I love how the "authors voice".

Anyway, so we have 5 retelling of fairy tales, each one in space and involving Aliens. Now, how cool is that?

You'll get an unique take on those familiar stories! Now I won't tell much about each story because that would ruin the experience of trying to figure it which tale is it :D

I can say that I had 2 favorites among them : **Deep Blue Nightmare** and **Blood of My Blood** ! It got me hooked and enthralled in it... and are by far the creepiest of them all,ahah.

And the poems?

I loved them! I wish I could write like that *sigh

Here it's an excerpt of one of my favorites:

The thing is with the short stories and the poems, you'll want more!

My final thought about this one?

