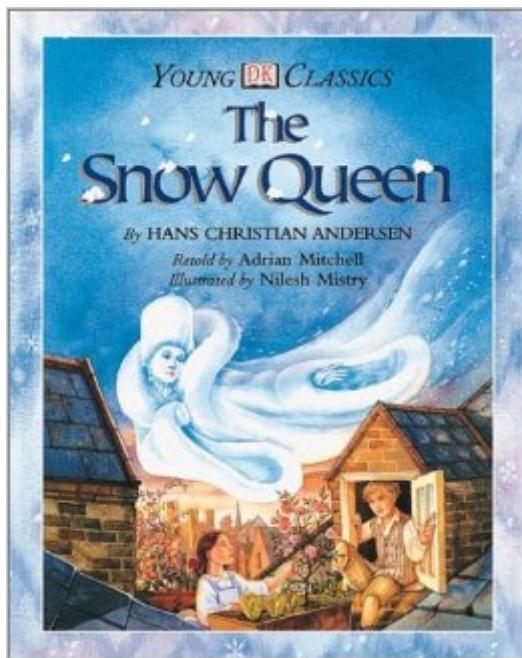


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# The Snow Queen (Dorling Kindersley Young Classics)



## **Synopsis**

One of the best loved of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales, this retelling of The Snow Queen is both delightful and accessible. "The driver stood up, in a coat and hat of purest snow. She was a woman, tall and glittering. She was the Snow Queen." When splinters of glass enter Kai's eyes and heart, his world changes from beauty to ugliness. Kidnapped by the cruel Snow Queen, Kai seems lost forever. But when Gerda sets out on a thrilling quest to find her friend, she brings with her all the love Kai needs to thaw his heart. This Young Classics edition explores the real and the imaginary world of The Snow Queen. Photography sets the scene without intruding on the story, and brings The Snow Queen to life for a new generation of children.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 6 and up

Series: Dorling Kindersley Young Classics

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Publisher: DK CHILDREN (March 15, 2001)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

Hans Christian Andersen is one of the most famous writers of fairy tales. The Snow Queen is one of the longest tales and one of his best known. He would listen to folk and fairy tales as a child and when he grew up, he wrote some of these stories in his own words. Anderson began writing The Snow Queen on December 5, 1844 and it was published sixteen days later in book form! His fairy tales made him famous and the stories have been translated into more than 100 languages and some have been made into films, like the Little Mermaid. Nilesh Mistry is one of my favorite illustrators. He was born in Bombay and moved to London, England in 1975. His books include The Illustrated Book of Fairy Tales and Aladdin. I simply want to own every book he illustrates! In the

story of The Snow Queen, you will find illustrations and photography that shows the settings of the original book. This classic is again brought to life, yet never so beautifully as with Nilesh Mistry's art. Kai is whirled away by the icily beautiful Snow Queen. His playmate Gerda sets out to find him and encounters many adventures in his quest. This is a story I remember very well, yet I had to imagine the pictures in my own mind as a child. In this book, she looks hauntingly similar to how I pictured her as a child. "The driver stood up, in a coat and hat of purest snow. She was a woman, tall and glittering. She was the Snow Queen." The story begins with a story about the Devil who laughed at his own cleverness. He creates a mirror that sets people against one another by making people see the ugly side of things. If a splinter of glass from the mirror ever entered a person's eye, their heart would become a lump of solid ice. (quite a lesson there to be sure!)

Note: The version of The Snow Queen that I am reviewing is from an early 1900's book of Andersen's Fairy Tales that I have - thus, the "original" version. The Snow Queen, a fairy tale by celebrated children's writer Hans Christian Andersen, is a light, somewhat interesting make-believe story. This work, like most of Andersen's other pieces, brings magical happenings into "real life" and is not set in a mystical land. The story begins with the account of a wicked goblin who makes a mirror which makes everything pretty look awful. While using this mirror one day he accidentally drops it, and it breaks into many tiny pieces which scatter all over the world. If anyone should get a piece of the glass in his eye, everything would look terrible; and if the shard penetrated to his heart, the organ would soon turn into a lump of ice. The next thing that we see in the story is a little boy named Kay and a little girl named Gerda playing together in a rose garden. They are best friends, and they both adore each other. However, two of the shards of glass from the goblin's mirror that were floating about in the air get into Kay's eye, and one of them goes straight to his heart, which will now soon turn to a lump of ice. Kay suddenly perceives Gerda, the roses, and other things as looking dreadful. After this he does not like to play with Gerda anymore, and prefers to be by himself. One day as he is riding his sledge, he meets up with the icy Snow Queen who is riding along in her own sledge. He follows her back to her palace, which is all pure ice. The Snow Queen then gives him a word puzzle to solve, saying that if he could find the word "eternity" that he would be free to leave her palace.

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