



# The Fairy Tale of My Life: An Autobiography

*By Hans Christian Andersen*

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Danish poet and novelist Hans Christian Andersen is best known for the dozens of fairy tales he wrote.

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### Editorial Review

Language Notes

Text: English, Danish (translation)

From the Back Cover

Danish poet and novelist Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875) is best known for the tragic and gruesome fairy tales he wrote, including "The Emperor's New Clothes," "The Little Match-Seller," "The Little Mermaid," "The Princess and the Pea," "The Shepherdess and the Chimney-Sweep," "The Snow Queen," "The Staunch Tin Soldier," "The Ugly Duckling," "The Wild Swans," and "Thumbelina." In this genre, his sense of fantasy, descriptive power, and acute sensitivity found the medium of expression that was to immortalize his genius.

Autobiography was an obsession for Andersen. At age 25, he embarked on a trip, and left instructions for the publication of his first autobiographical sketch should he fail to return alive. In 1855, at age 50, he wrote his first official autobiography; in 1863, he continued his life story.

By turns vain and humble, bitter and celebratory, this self-portrait gives ample evidence of his extraordinary gifts as a storyteller, as he depicts the poverty of his provincial childhood; his wide travels, from Portugal to Turkey; his friendships and lively encounters with Kierkegaard, Dickens, Hugo, the Brothers Grimm, Balzac, and Liszt; and the international celebrity of his later years. His autobiography also provides insights into the sources of many of his most famous tales. This highly readable and revealing account of the inner and public life of a literary genius will appeal to anyone who ever delighted in Andersen's fairy tales.

About the Author

Hans Christian Andersen was a Danish fairy tale writer and poet who is most noted for his Fairy Tales, including the enduring children's stories The Snow Queen, The Little Mermaid, Thumbelina, and The Ugly Duckling. Through his youth Andersen worked as a weaver's apprentice and actor before turning to writing. Andersen's works have been translated into more than 150 languages and have inspired countless films, plays, and ballets. Although Andersen died in 1875, the anniversary of his birthday (June 2) continues to be celebrated each year as International Children's Book Day.

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**Manda Perez:**

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