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The Singing Bones

Art Inspired by Grimms' Fairy Tales

by Shaun Tan

Published by Walker Studio

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The Singing Bones

ART INSPIRED BY GRIMMS' FAIRY TALES

SHAUN TAN

FOREWORD BY
NEIL GAIMAN

INTRODUCED BY
JACK ZIPES

WALKER STUDIO

First published in Great Britain 2016 by Walker Studio,
an imprint of Walker Books Ltd
87 Vauxhall Walk, London SE11 5HJ

First published in Australia 2015 by Allen & Unwin

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

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Text abridged and adapted from translations of Grimms' fairy tales © Jack Zipes
Foreword text © 2016 Neil Gaiman

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This book has been typeset in Gill Sans

Printed in China

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data: a catalogue record
for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-4063-7066-9
Limited Edition: ISBN 978-1-4063-7408-7

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• PLATE I •

THE FROG KING

'Oh yes,' said the Princess, 'I'll promise you anything you want if only you'll bring back my precious golden ball from the bottom of the well!' However, she thought, What nonsense that stupid frog talks! He just sits in the water croaking with the rest of the frogs. How can he expect a human being to accept him as a companion?'



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• PLATE 2 •

THE COMPANIONSHIP OF THE CAT AND THE MOUSE

When the cat and mouse arrived at the church where the pot of fat was kept, the mouse was shocked to find it empty. 'Now I know what really happened when you went to be a godfather to all those kittens!' cried the mouse. 'Some friend you turned out to be!'

'Don't you dare say another word,' warned the cat.

'It was you who – '

Before the mouse could finish, the cat jumped on her and gobbled her up. That's just the way of the world.



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• PLATE 3 •

HANSEL AND GRETEL

The roof was made of cake, and it tasted so good that Hansel ripped off a large piece and pulled it down, while Gretel pushed out a round piece of the sugar windowpane, sat, and ate it with great relish. Suddenly the door opened, and a very old woman leaning on a crutch came slinking out of the house. Hansel and Gretel were so tremendously frightened that they dropped what they had in their hands. But the old woman wagged her head and said, 'Well now, dear children, who brought you here? Just come inside and stay with me. Nobody's going to harm you.'



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• PLATE 4 •

LITTLE RED CAP

'Oh, Grandmother, what big ears you have!'

'The better to hear you with.'

'Oh, Grandmother, what big hands you have!'

'The better to grab you with.'

'Oh, Grandmother, what a terribly big mouth you have!'

'The better to eat you with!'

