

From the Editors

Marvels & Tales Editors

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FROM THE EDITORS

This issue brings together essays that focus on gender, sexuality, race, the environment, and adaptation. Several articles deal with different aspects of gender and sexuality, broadening our knowledge about the scope of female agency in fairy tales penned by the French women writers of the 1690s, asking us to reread familiar tales like “Rumpelstiltskin” through new, queer eyes, and foregrounding questions about teenage sexuality in more recent fairy-tale texts. In a period in which the Black Lives Matter movement and the environment are at the forefront of our concerns, it is important to look at the ways in which fairy tales can be used to approach the traumatic history of the Middle Passage and the threat of a postapocalyptic world. As this issue makes clear, adaptations of tales can take many forms as they enter into new contexts within and across cultures.

We are happy to include an original tale by Australian writer Kirstyn McDermott, and translations of tales by an important French woman writer from the nineteenth century, on the one hand, and a twenty-first-century Chinese master storyteller, on the other. The original tale and the translations present different perspectives on, by, and about women and tale traditions, taking us from female collaboration and a woman writer’s distrust of the marvelous to a female spirit who seeks to repay a worthy man for his goodness.