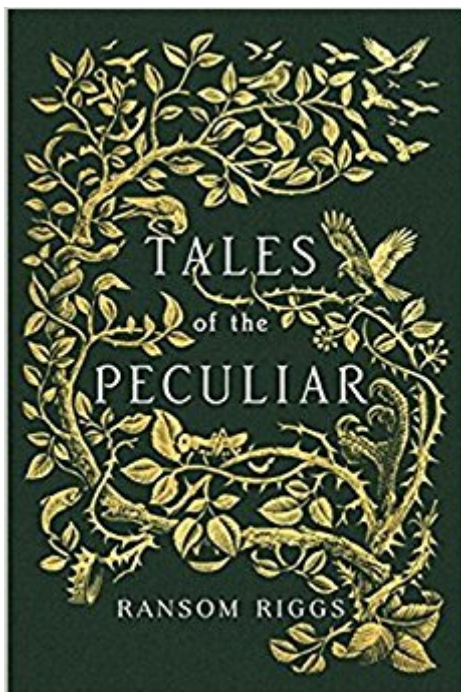


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# Tales Of The Peculiar



## Synopsis

A companion to the New York Times bestselling *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, now a major motion picture directed by Tim Burton. Before *Miss Peregrine* gave them a home, the story of peculiars was written in the *Tales*. Wealthy cannibals who dine on the discarded limbs of peculiars. A fork-tongued princess. These are but a few of the truly brilliant stories in *Tales of the Peculiar*—the collection of fairy tales known to hide information about the peculiar world, including clues to the locations of time loops first introduced by Ransom Riggs in his #1 bestselling *Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children* series. Riggs now invites you to share his secrets of peculiar history, with a collection of original stories in this deluxe volume of *Tales of the Peculiar*, as collected and annotated by Millard Nullings, ward of *Miss Peregrine* and scholar of all things peculiar. Featuring stunning illustrations from world-renowned woodcut artist Andrew Davidson this compelling and truly peculiar anthology is the perfect gift for not only fans, but for all booklovers. A perfect gift, reminiscent of classic bookmaking, this beautifully packaged volume features full-page woodcut illustrations, gold foil stamping, a ribbon, and removable back sticker. “[These tales] embody gentle, empowering messages: accept yourself and others; celebrate difference and oddity; never lose your sense of wonder.”—*Financial Times* “With a Victorian style for writing and a capacity for subtle humor, the tales read as cautionary fables, rich with peril and phantasy, and will be enjoyed by teens and adults alike.”—*GeekDad.com*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Gr 6 Up **•** Riggs gives fans of his "Miss Peregrine" trilogy a history lesson of sorts in 10 short stories that provide a glimpse into the fascinating past of peculiars and Peculiardom. These fables seem familiar yet completely new, touching on themes and subjects that populate classic myths and legends. For example, the famous phrase no man is an island, entire of itself takes on a completely different meaning for one peculiar. The tales are presented as written records of known stories passed down from generation to generation, collected and presented by Millard Nullings, Esq., EdD, MBCh (one of Miss Peregrine's children from the original books), with footnotes that fill in historical details. The pieces predate the use of photography, so instead of employing the intriguing and mysterious found photographs featured in past works, Riggs relies on beautifully detailed illustrations that capture another time and place. The stories center on characters who are different, who don't fit in, who aren't accepted by those around them, and who overcome these challenges and come to embrace who they truly are. **VERDICT** For fans of the past books, this volume will provide new insight into many of the events in Peculiar history. It is also a perfect gateway for new readers to enter the world Riggs has created. **Recommended for all libraries.**  
**•** Billy Parrott, New York Public Library

**•** "[These tales] embody gentle, empowering messages: accept yourself and others; celebrate difference and oddity; never lose your sense of wonder."  
**•** Financial Times **•** "With a Victorian style for writing and a capacity for subtle humor, the tales read as cautionary fables, rich with peril and phantasy, and will be enjoyed by teens and adults alike."  
**•** GeekDad.com Praise for the bestselling Miss Peregrine's series: "A tense, moving, and wondrously strange first novel. The photographs and text work together brilliantly to create an unforgettable story."  
**•** John Green, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Looking for Alaska* "Readers searching for the next Harry Potter may want to visit Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children."  
**•** CNN "With its *X-Men: First Class*-meets-time-travel story line, David Lynchian imagery, and rich, eerie detail, it's no wonder *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* has been snapped up by Twentieth Century Fox. B+"  
**•** Entertainment Weekly "'Peculiar' doesn't even begin to cover it. Riggs' chilling, wondrous novel is already headed to the movies."  
**•** People "[A] thrilling, Tim Burton-esque tale with haunting photographs."  
**•** USA Today **•** Pop Candy

One way you can tell that you're reading a good fantasy series is that there's a whole world of other stories outside the main one. Such is the case of "Tales of the Peculiar," which expands the world of "peculiar people" featured in the Miss Peregrine's Children series. Rather than a true sequel or prequel, Ransom Riggs spins up long-ago-and-far-away tales of peculiars throughout history, which feel a bit like lost fables or fairy tales. Except way, way, way more twisted, amusing and sometimes gruesome. Among the peculiars examined in the book are:

- \*A village of peculiars with a very specific ability, who are visited by a wealthy band of law-abiding cannibals, who have a very odd proposition for them.
- \*A princess who finds that her serpentine peculiarity makes it hard for her to get a husband. Will her father's cruelty and a lack of a prince ruin her life, or will she be able to forge a new one on her own terms?
- \*The tale of the first ymbryne, a young goshawk with the odd tendency to turn into a human. As she tries to find a place in the human world, she discovers the peculiars -- and the powers she can use to protect them.
- \*A girl who pulls threadlike nightmares out of people's ears, only to discover that nightmares never actually go away.... and they can get mean.
- \*Zheng tries to distance himself from the legacy of his sea-mad father, until suddenly grass grows on his feet, seaweed from his armpits, and he starts sweating sand. And what he learns of his father's fate is stranger than he could imagine.
- \*And stories of birds in a cathedral, a woman who speaks to ghosts, a young boy with a heart too large for his body, a young man who can control the currents of the sea, and a fairy tale of "once upon a peculiar time" where a giant is cursed by a witch.

"Tales of the Peculiar" is the kind of book that one can imagine Miss Peregrine having on her bookshelf. It's mostly stories of a fairy-tale-ish nature where a peculiar runs across some kind of disastrous scenario -- sometimes it's intolerant normal humans, or other peculiars, or just their own nature -- and eventually discovers their own special place in the world. And with that style of storytelling, Riggs also writes the various short stories in a different style as well. Most of the stories are introduced with some variant of "Once..." or "There was...", and presented in a more distant way, especially since the tales are occasionally interrupted by an editor's note. But he includes plenty of striking emotional scenes and dialogue ("she was gripped by a sudden wild happiness"). The peculiarities are so varied and sometimes bizarre, ranging from X-Man-esque superpowers to involuntary cannibalism to changing into inhuman forms, that the story possibilities are almost limitless. And in the long-ago-and-far-away settings (medieval kingdoms, Irish villages, enchanted forests, imperial China, the American frontier), Riggs also incorporates an unapologetically macabre aesthetic. I mean, the first story in the collection involves wealthy cannibals, and other stories include amputation, nightmare-monsters, venom-spitting and a guy turning into a giant weeping

slug. "Tales of the Peculiar" is a pleasant accompaniment to the Miss Peregrine series -- and though rather different in style, the imaginative stories of peculiar people are pretty entertaining.

Combining the long-standing history of fairy tales with the world of peculiars that Ransom Riggs developed in the Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children series, Tales of the Peculiar shares the lore specific to peculiar life through several short stories that entertain and educate. The production of the physical book is quite stunning and is reminiscent of many tomes of fairy tales (trust me I have quite the collection of such books). The art contained within the pages and on the covers are captivating and further evoke the fairy tale nature of this collection of peculiar lore. The tales included in this collection utilize aspects of fairy tales us unpeculiars recognize while elaborating on them to make them tales unique to the peculiar world. I also enjoyed how the anthology was edited by Millard Nullings, as he is a connecting peculiar character from the main series, and it fits with his character well to cultivate such a collection. Overall, I'd give it a 4.5 out of 5 stars.

First of all, this book is absolutely stunning- the cover, the spine, the endpapers, the full page illustrations as well as the smaller ones, the fonts used- I loved everything! The attached ribbon bookmark was also a lovely touch. Second, this collection was absolutely everything I was hoping for. It was like an Aesop's Fairy Tales collection for Peculiars. I loved every single one of the stories! I wish there were more!! Third, I loved the illustrations from Andrew Davidson. Each one was wonderfully done and very fitting for the story they preceded. Fourth, just the detail that was put into this book was perfect. I loved that it was "put together" and annotated by Millard Nullings. I thought that his forward was very Lemony Snicket-esque (which I loved). And I really enjoyed the first edition notice!! I would highly recommend this book for any Miss Peregrine fan.

Tales of the Peculiar by Ransom Riggs This short book contains an assortment of short stories referenced multiple times in the series, "The Tales." Millard Nullings has taken his favorite stories and compiled them into a book with a few of his own footnotes and annotations. This book gives a new glimpse into the world of the Peculiar and all the legends that surround them. These stories have to do with their beginnings as well as why certain things are the way they are, in the world of the Peculiar as well as in the lives of normals. The stories were all really short and quick reads. They are perfect for reading when you are waiting on something because of how the stories are broken up. I enjoyed being able to learn about the history of the Peculiars and Millard's notes made them all

the better. Each story begins with a sketch depicting a character or something important from the legend. While these aren't the photographs that are customary in the series, the sketches are outstanding and give a good focal break between the stories. The style of writing in the legends is similar to that of the series, and that consistency makes it easy to read these stories and be able to understand things better. I enjoyed reading this book as a way to wrap up my reading from the series, even though you could read it at any time during the series.

This was a gift for my niece. She is an avid reader and loved this book. It is remarkably well made. The book is bound elegantly and is truly a beautiful addition to a library in the classic sense. It puts e-books to shame. I also purchased the set which captures the essence and feel of a more artful time in book publishing. The photographs that are added in the set (this book I'm reviewing was bought separately) are a wonderful touch; my niece and her cousins were entranced by them. I did not read the series, but she loved them so much that she created a thank you note with drawings of her favorite characters. I highly recommend this book and looking into the accompanying series set.

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