



## **A Bear's Bride**

*Shari L. Tapscott*

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# A Bear's Bride

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**Don't judge a prince by his fur.**

After her father threatens to marry her to a dull farmer, free-spirited Sophie runs away from the only home she's ever known and sets off into the world, seeking adventure and romance. But instead of excitement, she finds a forlorn castle and the solitary prince who lives there.

For twenty years, Henri has been shrouded in mystery and speculation. He's a legend, a nightmare, a blight upon his fair kingdom. Though Sophie knows it would be wiser to return home, she's inexplicably drawn to the man of shadows.

But it doesn't take Sophie long to realize that falling for the cursed prince might prove to be more of an adventure than she ever bargained for...

*A Bear's Bride is a romantic fairy tale novella. It can be read on its own but is more fun when read as a part of the Entwined Tales, a series of interconnected fairy tales by six different authors. Each story follows the adventures of one of seven children from the same family as they seek out their own happily ever afters in spite of their reluctant fairy-godfather.*

## Recommended Reading Order

*A Goose Girl* by K M Shea

*An Unnatural Beanstalk* by Brittany Fichter

*A Bear's Bride* by Shari L Tapscott

*A Beautiful Curse* by Kenley Davidson

*A Little Mermaid* by Aya Ling

*An Inconvenient Princess* by Melanie Cellier

## A Bear's Bride Details

Date : Published February 19th 2018

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Genre : Fantasy, Romance, Fairy Tales, Fairy Tale Retellings, Magic

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# From Reader Review A Bear's Bride for online ebook

## Leah Feltner says

Typically, I find it hard to connect with characters in a novella but that is not the case with this story. Right from the get go, I liked Sophia's spunky personality and I also immediately liked Henri...because, let's be honest, what's not to like? ;) Shari Tapscott always knows how to get the chemistry between the two main characters just right. I found myself smiling, laughing and was totally entranced in their story.

I liked this fairy tale because it's not as common as some of the others, even though, it has some similarities to Beauty and the Beast.

It was also fun to have the stories connected through Sophia's family and Mortimer...can't wait to read the rest of the Entwined Tales!

P.S. If this is your first book by this author, do yourself a favor and go read all her other books! I promise you won't regret it! She writes the best swoon worthy, clean, and entertaining stories!

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## Bethany says

[ K.M SHEA'S Snow Queen now being my absolute favorite. Which I love even more than the original. (hide spoiler)]

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## Morgan says

Okay, this... was DARLING.

The "Entwined Tales" are books taking place in the same fairytale continent, but with different main characters AND written by a different author for each -how clever! The amount of work the lady writers had to put in to make sure their story timelines and characters matched up must have been many, but worth it from a reader perspective.

"A Bear's Bride (Entwined Tales Book 3)" stars Sophie, the third-born daughter, right before two sets of twins stealing the coveted baby-of-the-family spot. She has a fairy blessing (curse) from their family godfather, but she's in an even bigger predicament as she finds herself in an unknown land with a choice to make concerning a mystery, a curse, a bear, and a bunch of directions about east and west.

This tale is a very clever retelling of the Norse fairytale, "East of the Sun, West of the Moon". I'm not familiar with the original (prior to reading, that is), so I simply researched a smidge on Wikipedia to have a vague idea. I was pleasantly surprised to see many connections from the original tale to Shari L. Tapscott's retelling! She added her own characters and names, made it tie in smoothly with the overarching Entwined Tale, and it was FUNNY.

Most books have a few memorable lines or quirky characters, "A Bear's Bride" has Sophie and Henri and Mortimer and more who are all hilarious, witty, sweet, and grow throughout the tale. This was a delightful

read -definitely my favorite from Entwined Tales thus far!- and I can't wait to discover more from both this fairy tale ("East of the Sun, West of the Moon") and from Shari L. Tapscott!

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### **Allison says**

4.5 stars.

This has been my favorite of the Entwined Tales thus far, a retelling of East of the Sun, West of the Moon. Sophie's father thinks that marrying her off will steady his carefree, mischievous and impulsive third daughter now that the two eldest are wed and settled. However, Sophie isn't interested in being tied forever to someone she doesn't love. So she runs away to seek an adventure (did I mention she's impulsive?), but she makes the mistake of calling on the family's grouchy fairy godfather for assistance. In a blink she's been transported to the neighboring mountain kingdom where its troll-cursed prince has been looking for a wife. I liked best how mismatched Sophie and Henri eventually come to balance each other--he's the steady anchor, and she's the sparkling push.

The premise of the Entwined Tales books reminds me of Alethea Kontis's Woodcutter Sisters books, which also has various fairy tales happening to one big family. So if you're liking these books, you should look for those as well.

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

I love reading books by Shari Tapscott. She's one of my favorites not only because she knows how to write great characters and fun adventure into her stories but because her books can be read and enjoyed by teenagers and adults alike.

This novella is part of a collection of stories, each written by a different author. I haven't read any of the other novellas but what a fun idea! Each book is based on a character from the same family.

Fairy tale re-tellings are fun and this is a good one! I read through it quickly and enjoyed it very much.

I really wish this was a full length novel. I would have loved to have seen and felt more of the character's personalities and growing attraction over a longer period of time. I felt like I had a pretty good handle on Sophie, but Henri? I would have liked to have known him better. Shari Tapscott has spoiled me with full length novels and I know how her stories go. I just wanted more! And that is a very good sign. ?

Content: Clean

- I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Coralie says**

This is the third book in the Entwined Tales series. It is a retelling of East of the Sun, West of the Moon. And, for once, I don't actually know this fairy tale! (Shocker, I know!) So saying, I had no idea what to expect and cannot comment on how Tapscott handled the original fairy tale in her plot. Though, I did enjoy this plot. I was intrigued and am very interested in further discovering the fairy tale and other retellings of it.

At first, it kind of gave me Beauty and the Beast vibes, but then it took on a role all its own. I really liked the MCs. Sophie was a lot of fun and her interactions with Mortimer were actually very touching. Oh, but Henri. I would have loved some Henri pov. I fell hard for this guy. Loved him! I liked the trolls. I liked Peter and his relationship with Sophie. I liked how everything was sorted in the end and I just plain ol' liked this story! Found one glaring grammatical boo boo, but it was well-written otherwise. It was in first person present tense, which I personally find the most difficult way to write a story. Tapscott handled this very well, in my opinion, and I commend her for that. A quick read. On I go to book four!

No foul language. Clean romance. No graphic violence.

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### **Fifi says**

I usually don't read book series out of order but when Shari Tapscott offered arc copies of her novella I just couldn't say no! I've been excited about the Entwined series as soon as I heard about it; all my favorite indie fairytale authors are involved! (And let's be real, indie authors write the best fairytales).

Shari Tapscott is so good at painting this fairytale world that I would love to live in. Of course, I already knew from Pippa of Lauramore that Shari writes the exact type of fairytale I like to read/mentally live vicarious in but this also didn't disappoint. East of the sun, west of the moon is admittedly one of my least favorite fairytales so I wasn't too thrilled about the fact that the retelling was for this one, but I ended up loving this novella. This was retold in a clever and creative way. There's even a MAP at the beginning. I'm always a slut for maps in fairytale books!

Y'all, fairytales are my THING. I was so in my element throughout this entire novella. I mentally live in a fairytale world similar to the setting of these books and reading fairytale books like these are the only time I truly feel at home. Fairytales are so underrated, there need to be more books like this in this genre, it's so under appreciated. Thank God for indie fairytale authors like Shari Tapscott!

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### **Ru4repeat says**

I'll confess I had to research the underlying story this one was based upon because I wasn't familiar with it. I absolutely love and approve of the author's take on it! I Appreciate that while it was romantic and the characters were married, we weren't forced to endure any passionate bedroom scenes. On a steaminess level this didn't go beyond a warm PG.

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### **C.M. says**

This book has been my least favorite in the series thus far. It had its moments, but it never really clicked with me.

Sophie is a very forward, impulsive, and irritating pest - for once I found myself ready to agree with Mortimer! - and the Prince is about as bland and generic as they come. Romantic buildup? Blink and you'll miss it! It happens so fast and mostly off page. I doubt I'll bother to re-read this one.

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## **Jolyn says**

### **Loved this East of the Sun, West of the Moon retelling!**

This story is a sweet romance story that also has lots of adventure or is it an adventure story with a sweet romance? Sophie is a feisty young lady who is not ready to settle down but her father decides she is getting married ... tomorrow. Sophie takes drastic action and so the adventure and the romance begins.

This East of the Sun, West of the Moon retelling left out the part of the fairy tale I don't like - the mother convincing the daughter to be sneaky and light a candle at night so she can see what her husband looks like - making it one of my favorite retellings. All the other elements from the fairy tale are included. The mother and the candle wax are included also just differently and I personally like this version of the story much better than the original.

Sex - only a kiss or two

Language - no profanity, swearing

Violence - pain inflicted by villan several times, one character is killed

Religion - none

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## **Lisa Dawn says**

A Bear's Bride was a short, choppy, and mostly harmless adaptation of "East of the Sun, West of the Moon," featuring Sophie, the third oldest daughter of the fairy godfather-cursed family. The ending of An Unnatural Beanstalk in which Eva was worried that Sophie would do something rash upon learning that her father wanted to marry her off to a boring farmer led straight into the beginning of this book. In An Unnatural Beanstalk, Sophie was said to have a reputation of calling upon Mortimer, her family's bumbling fairy godfather, far more than any of her siblings. She follows suit by immediately asking him to help her get out of her arranged marriage. He transports her to the castle of a prince named Henri who gets along with her immediately, and they get married. Considering how many problems Mortimer's gifts cause Sophie's siblings in the other books, this one did a pretty sloppy job of incorporating his character. His magic never actually ends up harming Sophie, as the troll queen is the sole cause of all of her and Henri's problems.

The biggest issue I had with A Bear's Bride is its pacing. It's very sloppy. I might have forgiven it if it was one of the longer books in the series and the author wanted to keep it at novella length, but it's actually the shortest next to A Goose Girl, which was paced much better. It is also the only one that ended with a sample chapter of one of the author's other works that was completely unrelated to Entwined Tales, which felt a little self indulgent to me. The worst pacing problem is that Sophie and Henri got married less than halfway through the book, so it felt like there was absolutely no buildup to their relationship. Unlike the fairy tale, she didn't even see him as a polar bear until a decent amount of time after their wedding, which seemed weak because she already knew how handsome he was by then. You wouldn't have Beauty meet the Beast as a prince and then have him tell her "Oh, by the way, I turn into this monster sometimes, but you don't have to look at me when I'm like that because I know you like me better like this." Yet, that's exactly what this book does. Sophie already has her handsome prince and she just looks at him in his bear form later out of sheer

curiosity.

I will say that the book's one saving grace is Princess Ambrosia, the daughter of the troll queen who punishes Sophie for the unforgivable crime of kissing her own husband. It hadn't even been established at that point that they had never kissed until it became part of the plot. Ambrosia was Henri's reluctant bride and captor who was all too willing to help Sophie save him from her mother's wrath because she had no desire to marry him. She was a very comedic character, much like Davina from *A Goose Girl* and Rapunzel from *An Inconvenient Princess*, causing this book to fit the tone of the series better than *An Unnatural Beanstalk*, despite not being written as well. It was a lot of fun reading about Ambrosia's antics to get out of her arranged marriage without particularly caring about Sophie's well-being in the process. She was fun and hilarious, and I think the book would have been a lot more interesting if it had been told from her perspective. Her mother, Amara, was a pretty bland villain, but Ambrosia made it all worthwhile.

Even though *A Bear's Bride* was my least favorite of the *Entwined Tales*, I wouldn't say it was an unpleasant read. It was just bland and held little substance. It kept up with the tone of the overall series, despite working with an unpopular fairy tale and making little use of Mortimer's bumbling. It could have been more enjoyable if the pacing were better and it had stayed closer to the source material with Sophie not knowing what Henri looked like as a man. I would only recommend this book to hardcore fairy tale fanatics or completionists who want to read every book in the *Entwined Tales* series. Otherwise, it's safe to skip over this one.

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### **Erin \*Proud Book Hoarder\* says**

Surprisingly funny and cute. I've found a new fairy-tale series on KU, yay!

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### **Cindy Thomas says**

Summary:

Sophia is the feisty middle child of a farmer. She longs for excitement and adventure, but her father wants her to settle down and marry. She is determined to rebel against him.

When her original plan to marry her friend, and her father's foe, goes awry she decides to run away. With no further plans, she soon realizes that she will need help.

Sophia calls upon her family's fairy godfather, Mortimer. The problem with Mortimer is that he doesn't care for Sophia. She asks him for help, but Mortimer has a plan of his own.

Sophia is swiftly transported from her home in Astoria to the land of Briadell where she is introduced to Henri. Mortimer tells her that Henri will solve both of their problems.

Sophia finds herself placed right in the middle of a decades old curse, a bear and scheming trolls, but there is something so irresistible about Henri. Will fate give them the blessing of happily ever after? Or will Sophia remain lost and longing for more?

My thoughts:

I really enjoy a good fairy tale retelling. I have enjoyed many and this one is now added to my list of faves.



To be quite honest, I have never heard of the Norwegian fairy tale East of the Sun, West of the Moon. I think this made it even more fun for me! I love to learn!

The plot kept me interested and was well written with a good mix of adventure and romance. I highly recommend it. I read this first in the series and it read well as a stand alone. I have read there is a recommended order, I will let you know my further thoughts once I've read more in the series.

[www.readmorelivehappy.com](http://www.readmorelivehappy.com)

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## **Darque Dreamer says**

A Bear's Bride is astoundingly addictive! It's emotional and heart pounding and so hard to resist! For those who love faerie tales with creative twists, this one is for you!

Oh! I loved, loved, loved this one, so much! It may have taken the place of my favorite in the series so far. It was intense and emotional and full of humor and surprise!

I loved that I had never heard of the original tale before, but that Shari made it feel so familiar and inviting. The story picked back up in the familiar world of the Entwined Tales without skipping a beat. It was whimsical and magical and full of fun humor!

Having never read the original tale, I quickly looked it up upon finishing Shari's retelling. It honestly made me love her version even more. She made the tale more fascinating, and gave reason to some of the unexplained aspects of East of the Sun and West of the Moon. She kept a lot of the original aspects to entice those who love the tale, but also added her own spin on things to make it fresh and more entertaining.

This was my first read from Shari, and it certainly won't be my last. I loved her elegant, captivating writing style. I loved her imaginative twists on a classic tale, and I loved the life she brought to her characters and story.

I enjoyed the sweet, faerie tale romance that grew between Henri and Sophie. I loved Sophie's wit and fierce spirit. I found Henri alluring and chivalrous, and I enjoyed the twists thrown in to the story with the troll princess, and the faeries that Sophie encountered on her journey to save Henri from the troll queen's grasps.

For being a novella, A Bear's Bride really packed a punch! It was romantic, humorous, and magical. It was charming, witty, and a little edgy! If you haven't started reading the Entwined Tales series, I don't know what you are waiting for!

Thank you to the author for providing me with this free e-copy in exchange for my honest review and as part of my Faerie Tale Friday post.

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## **April says**

Loved it!

A fun and enchanting read! Sophia is absolutely delightful; she had me chuckling and grinning most of the way through. I enjoyed Tapscott's retelling of the classic and cannot imagine anyone not adoring this tale!

A sweet, adventurous tale!

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