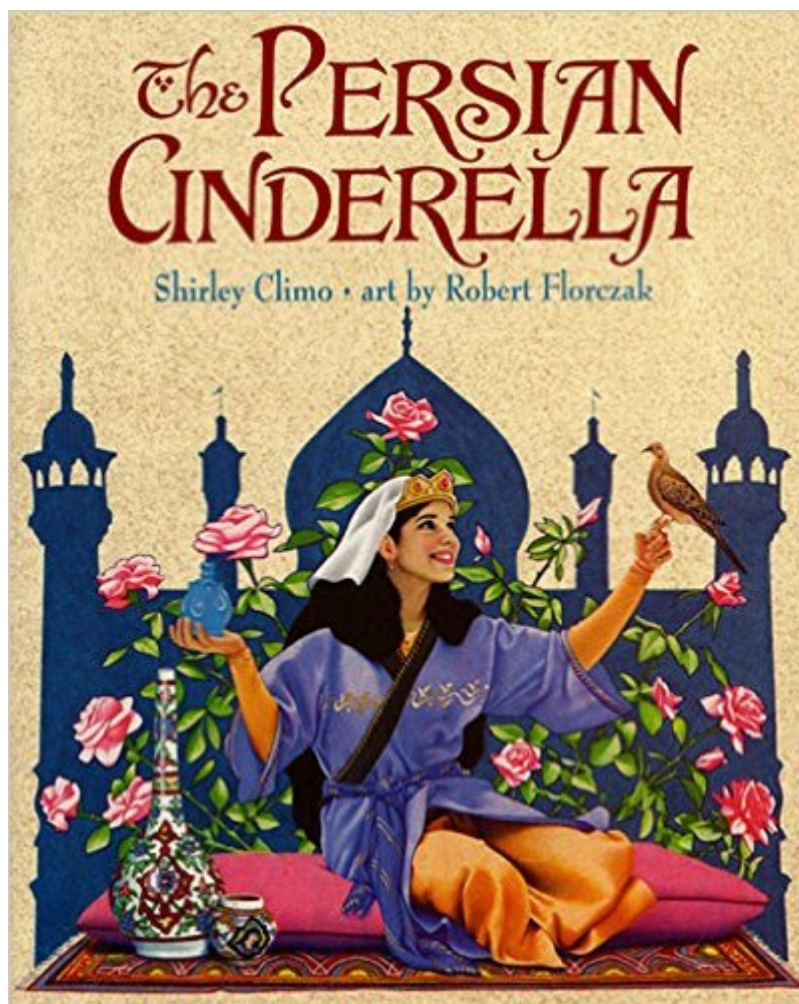


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# The Persian Cinderella



## Synopsis

In this jewel-like version of a classic story, popular folklorist Shirley Climo tells the tale of Settareh, the Persian Cinderella. Magic enables Settareh to outsmart two jealous stepsisters and win the heart of a prince. But where most Cinderella stories end, poor Sattareh's troubles are only beginning! The unexpected plot twists will enchant readers as they rediscover the familiar tale in the lush setting of long-ago Persia. Shirley Climo's authentic details bring the story to life, and Robert Florczak's stunning paintings echo the vibrant colors and motifs of an ancient land. 01-02 TX Bluebonnet Award Masterlist

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (August 7, 2001)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0064438537

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #41,949 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #54 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural #1578 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

What attracted me most to this book was the clever combination of pictures and paintings. Mr. Florczak seems to have combined Persian models and some photographs, then added his own magic touch to create such beautiful images that are feast for the eyes. As an educator, I know that many people associate Cinderella with Walt Disney--not Brothers Grimm. Ms. Climo shows us the rags to riches of the same characters in different cultures. This one is particularly fascinating because the story does not end as we are accustomed to presume. Yes the girl gets to see her prince at the New Year party but as we know Scheherazade's stories are filled with twist and turns of events like

the designs on a Persian carpet. Ms. Climo's art is to tell the story as a native. Here she is the Scheherazade. The Persian Cinderella is fun for those kids who already know the Disney's version. The story goes beyond the Ball. I liked the Korean Cinderella too. Ms. Climo is as articulate as a Korean grandma and we are little kids too fascinated by the tale to care for a rice cake. I think the Persian Cinderella is a wonderful read, and since it's produced so beautifully, it's a great gift for any kid ages 2 to 92.

The Persian Cinderella is a welcome addition to this classic "rags to riches" tale. Most impressive are Florczak's paintings which absolutely leap off the page (contrary to Mr. March, there are no photographs in this book, Florczak's paintings are simply so detailed and lifelike that they are occasionally mistaken for photography). I cannot recommend this book more highly.

Lovely Iranian ancient story. A great edition to any child's collection

As one of the models used in the book (Settareh herself!!) I now had my own children to whom to read this story. Though clearly the book has different meaning to them since mommy is the princess in the book, it is a wonderful book to teach culture and that stories can be different in different parts of the world. When I was teaching 3rd grade, I used this book also... along with the Korean, and "cowboy" versions when discussing diversity! A wonderful tool for that as well as sharing Persian culture.

"The Persian Cinderella" as written by Shirley Climo captures the rich traditions of the Persians and the colorful illustrations by artist Robert Florczak are vivid and beautiful. Here, the main character is Settareh, who having lost her mother at birth is at the mercy of her stepmother and stepsisters and other female relatives who all live together in the women's quarters. When Settareh is given a gold coin by her father to purchase special clothes for the new year or No Ruz, Settareh eagerly goes shopping together with the other ladies. But instead of spending money on clothes, Settareh purchases some food, gives alms, and finally buys a broken blue jug. To her amazement, Settareh finds a pari or fairy inhabiting the jug, and her smallest wishes are realized. With the pari's help, Settareh is able to dress magnificently for the No Ruz festivities at the palace and catches the eye of the Prince himself. Will Settareh and the prince find happiness or will the conniving and jealous stepsisters find a way to rob Settareh of happiness? The story is compelling and interesting - in fact, this is such a well-written story that it will not only appeal to young children but older children and

adults as well. The author provides fascinating insights into the Persian culture of old, e.g. the separate living quarters for men and women, the celebration of the No Ruz festival, and also the elaborate costumes worn by the people, especially during important celebrations. This is a wonderful addition to the Cinderella lore.

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I loved this book. And better yet, my 5 year old daughter sat spell-bound, her face inches from the pages, as I read this to her. As I finished the last page, she said, "Let's read it again!" Especially wonderful if, like my daughter, your child is of Iranian heritage. The illustrations are gorgeous and the story magical.

This book is incredibly well worded, and very descriptive. Even without the stunning pictures, the words paint a clear and beautiful image in your head. I remember, this book was in my elementary school library, and I absolutely adored it. We were only allowed to check out two books at a time, and more than half the time, this book was one of the two I chose. Even to this day, I hold the record for having checked it out the most times. It's a wonderful story and it sticks to the basic Cinderella tale while being unique and imaginative. I completely recommend this book, no doubt.

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