

THE TALES OF
BEEDLE
THE BARD



J.K. ROWLING

BLOOMSBURY

Praise for J.K. Rowling's

THE TALES OF
BEEBLE
THE BARD

'Refreshingly original ... and surprisingly satisfying'

Sunday Times

'The five enchanting tales told with the author's
confident mixture of wit and wariness tell lessons
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Sunday Express

'The tales drip with the brash, ironic humour
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Financial Times

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'The stories are original, diverse, witty
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Books for Keeps





THE TALES OF
BEEBLE
THE BARD



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Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
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The Tales of Beedle the Bard
(Published in aid of Lumos)

The three companion volumes also available as:

The Hogwarts Library
(Published in aid of Comic Relief and Lumos)

J.K. ROWLING

THE TALES OF
BEEBLE
THE **BARD**

Translated from the original
runes by Hermione Granger

With additional notes by
Professor Albus Dumbledore



BLOOMSBURY

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LUMOS

Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.



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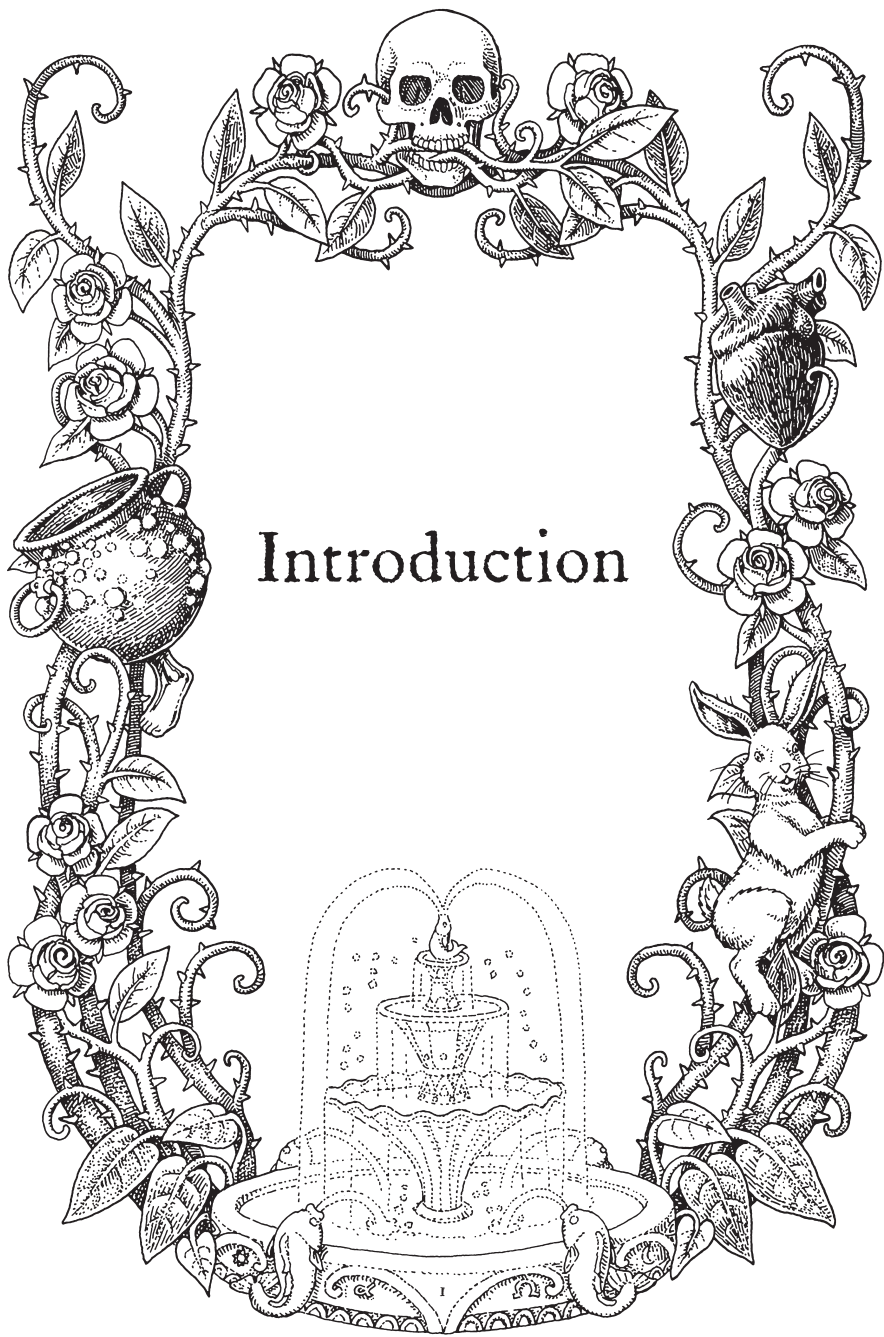


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Introduction



THE TALES OF BEEDLE THE BARD is a collection of stories written for young wizards and witches. They have been popular bedtime reading for centuries, with the result that the Hopping Pot and the Fountain of Fair Fortune are as familiar to many of the students at Hogwarts as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty are to Muggle (non-magical) children.

Beedle's stories resemble our fairy tales in many respects; for instance, virtue is usually rewarded and wickedness punished. However, there is one very obvious difference. In Muggle fairy tales, magic tends to lie at the root of the hero or heroine's

troubles – the wicked witch has poisoned the apple, or put the princess into a hundred years’ sleep, or turned the prince into a hideous beast. In *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*, on the other hand, we meet heroes and heroines who can perform magic themselves, and yet find it just as hard to solve their problems as we do. Beedle’s stories have helped generations of wizarding parents to explain this painful fact of life to their young children: that magic causes as much trouble as it cures.

Another notable difference between these fables and their Muggle counterparts is that Beedle’s witches are much more active in seeking their fortunes than our fairy-tale heroines. Asha, Altheda, Amata and Babbitty Rabbitty are all witches who take their fate into their own hands, rather than taking a prolonged nap or waiting for someone to return a lost shoe. The exception to this rule – the unnamed maiden of ‘The Warlock’s Hairy Heart’ – acts more like our idea of a storybook princess, but there is no ‘happily ever after’ at the end of her tale.

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Beedle the Bard lived in the fifteenth century and much of his life remains shrouded in mystery. We know that he was born in Yorkshire, and the only surviving woodcut shows that he had an exceptionally luxuriant beard. If his stories accurately reflect his opinions, he rather liked Muggles, whom he regarded as ignorant rather than malevolent; he mistrusted Dark Magic, and he believed that the worst excesses of wizardkind sprang from the all-too-human traits of cruelty, apathy or arrogant misapplication of their own talents. The heroes and heroines who triumph in his stories are not those with the most powerful magic, but rather those who demonstrate the most kindness, common sense and ingenuity.

One modern-day wizard who held very similar views was, of course, Professor Albus Percival Wulfric Brian Dumbledore, Order of Merlin, First Class, Headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Supreme Mugwump of the International Confederation of Wizards, and Chief Warlock of the Wizengamot. This similarity of outlook notwithstanding, it was a surprise to discover a set of notes on

The Tales of Beedle the Bard among the many papers that Dumbledore left in his will to the Hogwarts Archives. Whether this commentary was written for his own satisfaction, or for future publication, we shall never know; however, we have been graciously granted permission by Professor Minerva McGonagall, now Headmistress of Hogwarts, to print Professor Dumbledore's notes here, alongside a brand new translation of the tales by Hermione Granger. We hope that Professor Dumbledore's insights, which include observations on wizarding history, personal reminiscences and enlightening information on key elements of each story, will help a new generation of both wizarding and Muggle readers appreciate *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*. It is the belief of all who knew him personally that Professor Dumbledore would have been delighted to lend his support to this project, given that all royalties are to be donated to Lumos, a charity which works to benefit children in desperate need of a voice.

It seems only right to make one small, additional comment on Professor Dumbledore's notes. As far as

INTRODUCTION

we can tell, the notes were completed around eighteen months before the tragic events that took place at the top of Hogwarts' Astronomy Tower. Those familiar with the history of the most recent wizarding war (everyone who has read all seven volumes on the life of Harry Potter, for instance) will be aware that Professor Dumbledore reveals a little less than he knows – or suspects – about the final story in this book. The reason for any omission lies, perhaps, in what Dumbledore said about truth, many years ago, to his favourite and most famous pupil:

'It is a beautiful and terrible thing, and should therefore be treated with great caution.'

Whether we agree with him or not, we can perhaps excuse Professor Dumbledore for wishing to protect future readers from the temptations to which he himself had fallen prey, and for which he paid so terrible a price.

JK Rowling

2008

A Note on the Footnotes

Professor Dumbledore appears to have been writing for a wizarding audience, so I have occasionally inserted an explanation of a term or fact that might need clarification for Muggle readers.

JKR





Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

A MESSAGE FROM GEORGETTE MULHEIR, CEO, LUMOS

Lumos (noun; lu-mos):

- 1. A spell to create light, also known as the Wand-Lighting Charm. (Origin: the Harry Potter series)*
- 2. A nonprofit working to end the institutionalisation of children.*

It all started with a photograph.

When J.K. Rowling saw the black-and-white image of a small boy – isolated, locked away from the world, away from his family and placed in an institution – she couldn't look away.

Now multiply that boy by eight million.

That's how many children there are worldwide who spend their early years in these residential institutions –

essentially orphanages. Only these children aren't orphans; they are loved and wanted by their families. But they're born into poverty, or with a disability, or they're from an ethnic minority, in a place where no support is offered.

What we at Lumos have discovered and put into practice is revolutionary: it is less expensive and more successful to shut orphanages and instead redirect their funds towards community-based solutions that support children in their homes, where they belong.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Over the past decades, orphanages have become the default response for many a vulnerable child and family. Often it is the only option offered to desperate parents. And the impact is devastating and profoundly affects their chances in life.

Research shows they are at a greater risk of being trafficked and of suffering from various forms of abuse and neglect. Further, as adults they struggle to cope in the outside world.

LIGHTING A PATH TOWARDS REAL CHANGE

For our world to prosper, we need to make sure all children don't just survive, but thrive. Lumos focuses on the key

ingredient that offers children the *emotional* sustenance they require: the individual love and care provided by parents.

Research into the early brain development of infants shows that it is the individual attention, responsiveness, and stimulation provided by consistent parenting – and the consequent attachment formed between child and parent – that helps the brain grow and develop. In essence, the bond between parent and child is the root from which all success, all well-being, grows.

Although orphanages are established with the best of intentions, no matter how hard the care staff try, they cannot replicate a family. There are too few staff caring for too many children, leaving them alone for hours without stimulation – or even simple human contact.

Thankfully, this is an entirely solvable problem. Many countries around the world have moved away from looking after children in orphanages and, instead, provide a range of supports that make it possible to keep children in families included in their communities.

A GLOBAL ORGANISATION

Our work has helped achieve a tipping point in the European

region: the European Union and other big donors now understand that orphanages are not the answer and have redirected their funds towards community-based services.

Placing children with their families where they belong is no longer a question of if, but rather when and how.

But across the world, many countries still use orphanages to ostensibly meet the needs of vulnerable children. Lumos is helping to lead a global effort to reverse this trend. By implementing programmes that demonstrate how effective the Lumos model is and by influencing the world's decision-makers to support children in families and not orphanages, we'll see the changes we've made in Europe filter through the rest of the world.

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Changing the status quo will take time, political and public will, and a concerted effort to challenge the disconnect between the perception of orphanages and their reality:

- Orphanages are not full of orphans – they are filled with children who have loving families but just need support.

- Many are not benign or necessary places for children in adversity.
- They do not provide the best outcomes for children.
- They are not the most cost-effective solution.

By buying this unique and special book, you are helping Lumos to make sure that, by 2050, no more children live in institutions around the world, and together, we can consign orphanages to the history books, where they belong.

Together, we can refocus the world's efforts towards supporting children and families where they live, in their own homes and communities.

Together, we can cast a bit of light to cut through the darkness.

Together, we are Lumos.

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