



## Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls

By Jane Yolen

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**Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls** By Jane Yolen

These thirteen folktales have one thing in common: brainy, brawny, brave heroines--and not one damsel in distress! From Bradamante, the fierce female medieval knight, to Li Chi, the Chinese girl who slays a dreaded serpent and saves her town, these heroines use their cunning, wisdom, and strength to succeed.

Drawing from diverse cultures around the world, renowned author Jane Yolen celebrates the smart, strong, and sassy heroines of legend and lore in a collection that will encourage bravery in every girl.

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## Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls By Jane Yolen Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-This collection of folktales from around the world presents a range of tales that all feature strong women. While the majority of stories (7 out of 13) are European in origin, most are relatively unfamiliar. Only four of the tales, "Atalanta the Huntress," "Fitcher's Bird" (a Bluebeard/Mr. Fox variant), "Burd Janet" (a Tam Lin variant), and "Molly Whuppie," are likely to be recognized by readers. Yolen's retellings are consistently engaging and well written, whether she is dealing with the history of the White River Sioux in "Brave Woman Counts Coup" or "Nana Miriam," a culture hero of the Songhai of Niger. Ample source notes and explanations of Yolen's additions and changes are included as is a thorough bibliography. Unfortunately, the cover painting of a buxom girl on a ship seems much more suited to a "damsel in distress" collection than to these stories that eschew the helpless female. However, the interior illustrations are better.

*Ellen A. Greever, University of New Orleans, LA*

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From [Booklist](#)

The title says it all: this is a spirited collection with a lively pace. Yolen's introduction, written as an open letter to her daughter and granddaughters, and her notes and bibliography frame the collection well. Like a bezel that holds a gem, her beginning and ending pieces remind us that girls know how to be heroes (but that boys need to know it, too) and that every time and culture has stories of female heroes that need to be heard again and again. So Yolen tells tales that may be familiar--among them, Germany's "Fitcher's Bird," related to "Mr. Fox and Bluebeard," in which the young Erna saves herself and her sisters from the clutches of an evil wizard. Other tales will be less well known: in a tale from Romania, Mizilca serves in the sultan's army in her sick father's place; and in a tale from Argentina, Maldonada's kindness to a puma and its cubs saves her. The stories sing and soar in Yolen's supple language, and each is contained enough for a read-aloud. Illustrations not available in galley. *GraceAnne A. DeCandido*

### Review

This collection of folktales from around the world presents a range of tales that all feature strong women. . . . Yolen's retellings are consistently engaging and well written."

—*School Library Journal*

"This is a spirited collection with a lively pace. . . . The stories sing and soar in Yolen's supple language, and each is contained enough for a read-aloud."

—*Booklist*

"What a treasure! Jane Yolen has retold these stories in the energetic, lucid, and poetic style that characterizes her writing and has brought her legions of fans. Her fresh and invigorating takes on these timeless tales of nonpareil heroes make this book a must for anyone interested in folklore, women's studies, and the very best of storytelling."

—Robert D. San Souci

"*Not One Damsel in Distress* glows with intelligence yet is eminently readable. It's hard to imagine any young woman opening this book and not finding something of herself—or the self she would like to be—in its pages. . . . Their stories are a chronicle of feminine strength, steadfastness, and resourcefulness through

the ages and around the world. Carefully researched, delightfully told, this collection might well become a classic.”

—Joseph Bruchac

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lois Maestas:**

The book *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem with the subject. If you can make studying a book *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls* to be your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open up and read a book *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this book?

#### **Craig Chivers:**

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even restricted. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside former life are challenging be find than now's taking seriously which one works to believe or which one often the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls* as the daily resource information.

#### **Donald Mobley:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls* it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

#### **Leroy Moore:**

The book untitled *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls* contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy approach. The language is very clear to see all

the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author will take you in the new time of literary works. You can read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can available their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice read.

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