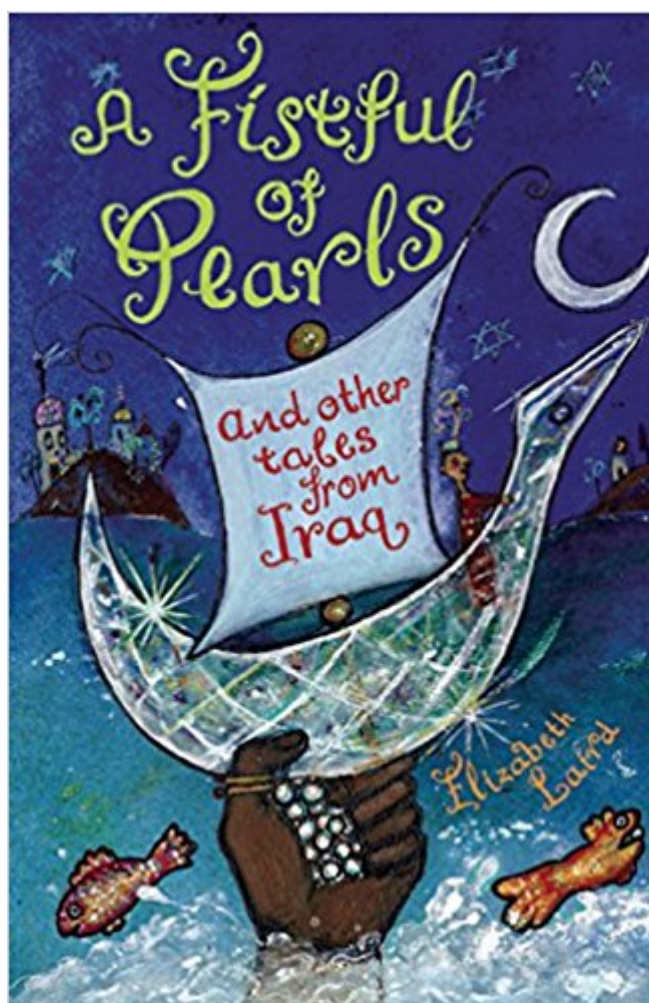


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# A Fistful Of Pearls And Other Tales From Iraq (Folktales From Around The World)



## Synopsis

Secret serpents, devilish demons, mysterious magicians - the folk tales of Iraq teem with otherworldly creatures, magic and earthy humour. Award-winning novelist Elizabeth Laird has gathered together the very best Iraqi stories during her time in the Middle East - stories ranging from thieving porcupines who get their come-uppance to the hilarious tale of the chaos caused by a handsome stranger who knocks at a house inside which lurks a marriageable daughter. Meticulously researched and elegantly retold, the stories reveal the true, traditional heart of Iraq, far removed from today's news headlines.

## Book Information

Series: Folktales from Around the World

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Frances Lincoln Children's Bks (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1845076419

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #949,906 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Collections](#) #478 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Anthologies](#) #889 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 7 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

## Customer Reviews

This delightful collection of nine Iraqi tales of varying length would be a pleasure to read aloud, with its variety of characters' voices and its clear and lively style. Laird's introduction paints a picture of Baghdad and Basra before the war, and of the simple huts and quiet villages in the countryside. Apart from being fine entertainment, these stories reveal a culture that it is a crime to destroy.

Elizabeth Laird is the author of *Red Sky in the Morning*, *The Garbage King*, *Crusade* and *Lost Riders*. She has been shortlisted five times for the Carnegie Medal. She has traveled extensively

throughout the Middle East, and her son lived for four years in Iran. She met her husband while travelling in India and they lived together in Iraq, Lebanon and Austria. Her other books for Frances Lincoln are *A Fistful of Pearls: Stories from Iraq*, *Pea Boy*, and *The Ogress and the Snake: Stories from Ethiopia*. Laird divides her time between London and Edinburgh. Shelley Fowles was born in South Africa. She is currently working on her M.A. in Illustration at the University of Brighton, specialising in folk and fairy tales. Her first book was *The Bachelor and the Bean* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

I adored this book. I bought it for my daughter and I only wish I had had it when I was a child myself. It makes magic of the mundane with a delightful sense of humour and was a captivating cultural adventure too.

I ordered this book for a class, then it turns out I dropped the class. I still kept the book because who doesn't need another book??

Very pleasant stories from Iraq that I read to my grandchildren. I lived there for a long time and it brought back good memories

For some reason, I'm getting no story about the porcupine. Overall the book wasn't bad but was lacking in areas (This is coming from a middle school student.)

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