



# Tales In Firelight And Shadow

*Alexis Brooks de Vita*

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## **Tales In Firelight And Shadow** Alexis Brooks de Vita

Tales in Firelight and Shadow is a collection of short stories by well-known and fresh new writers of fantasy, speculative and science fiction, retelling folktales from many lands and cultures. Award-winning authors present challenging new twists on familiar tales: James Morrow's museum curator and his university professor daughter discover the ultimate answer to the human condition; Mary Turzillo's talking cat rats on a legendary illusionist; and Tenea D. Johnson's fairies deal with the dream dolls of nightmare.

Writers testing the speculative waters with their risk-taking styles captivate and enchant us: an adventurous young professional tries out a new eatery, with disastrous results; a haunted lake binds the horrors of the slaveholding past to the land's future; a boy steals what a Scottish fairy has no intention of parting with. A lonely girl in a beachside shack yearns for a mermaid godmother's gifts. Shadowy stalkers haunt forests and dreams.

Emerging novelists delight us with old tales never before told like this: Jason Parent's Salem shyster outsmarts his own self; Patricia Stoltey's ogre is not at all what—or who—we think; Christina St. Clair's loving wife on the ultimate spiritual quest seems to have gone horribly astray; and A.J. Maguire's scientist alone on the moon with her husband and the man she truly loves must come up with the courage to choose if and how she will survive. We discover that fairytales and urban legends are the stuff of personal memory.

The folktales gathered and retold in Tales in Firelight and Shadow answer the oldest of our questions: “Why is my world as it is, and how can I find my way through it?” For, if folktales exorcize the pain of lessons learned over many lifetimes, then in this world of fairy, flame and chaos, enchantment—we realize with a start—is the only reality. We dream so that we may open our eyes.

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