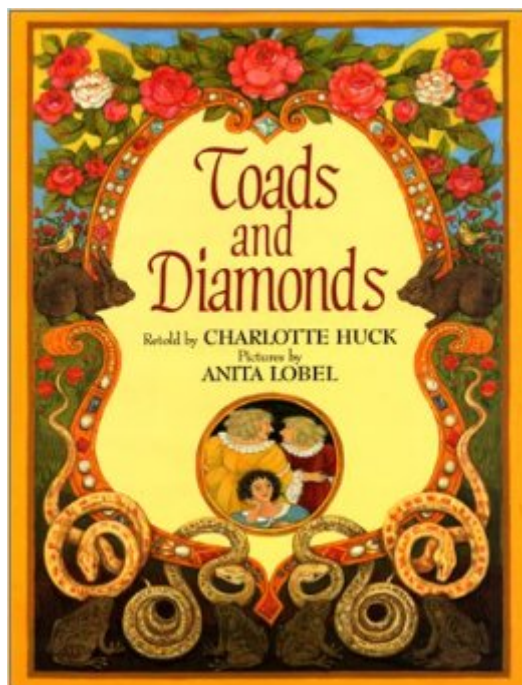


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# Toads And Diamonds



## Synopsis

Renee lives with her selfish stepmother and stepsister. She does all the housework and the chores. Her only escape from their demands is her daily walk to the spring for water. One day an old woman sitting on the bench near the spring asks for a glass of water, and Renee graciously brings her one. In thanks the old woman presents her with a gift both strange and wonderful. When the stepmother sees Renee's gift, she immediately orders her daughter, Francine, to go to the spring and return with as rich a gift. But the gift Francine receives is not what either of them had expected....The kind-and-unkind-sisters theme has long been a favorite of folklorists. In this fresh and charming version, Charlotte Huck's polished retelling and Anita Lobel's magnificent, humorous illustrations add up to a beautiful, timeless, and satisfying picture book.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Lexile Measure: AD820L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; 1st edition (September 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068813680X

ISBN-13: 978-0688136802

Product Dimensions: 12.4 x 9.5 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,388,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European](#) #316569 in [Books > Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

Lovely story for children about the power of words, but we adults can re-learn a few lessons about our speech too. Read it aloud with your children, grandchildren, or use it as a lesson in a school class. Nice illustrations to go with the text.

"Toads and Diamonds" is a wonderful retelling of a classic fairytale about two sisters. Renee is a sweet, kindhearted young girl who is oppressed and mistreated by both her stepmother and stepsister, Francine. A chance encounter with an old woman in the woods changes Renee's life and she is given a unique gift, one which arouses the envy of both her stepmother and stepsister. When

stepsister Francine is compelled to go and seek out a similar gift, the outcome is rather different. The story is well-told with a unique spin on the original tale which I felt was apt - in the original Renee's gift (the younger sister is unnamed in the original) continues for the rest of her life, but here the author has placed a limit on her gift, so that Renee is loved and respected not for her talent but for her own, sweet self. The illustrations are in bold, vivid colors and fill up the pages, a treat for the eyes. Despite its rather unusual title, "Toads and Diamonds" is a wonderful retelling of a classic tale.

Glad to find the old story that I remembered as a child. Good lesson for today's children to learn. Will read to all my grandchildren.

Wonderful...a nice journey

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