

DAVID SHUMATE

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## *Seven Essential Fairy Tales*

Too bad your parents stopped after number five and left your life in ruins. Now you must find someone to tell you the last two. I'd recommend the gray-haired woman who once was a princess to recount her years with that belching prince. How when she finally leapt from the tower, her dress billowed out. And she drifted lightly down. If she's fond of you, she'll point you toward the corpse you must consult about the seventh fairy tale. He has a dark sense of humor. And never tells the same story twice. His plots twist and turn. They may start in Connecticut. But end in Singapore. He'll insist that the two of you act one out. He'll present you with a choice of hats. Take the plain one with the rounded top. Let him wear the one with all those purple feathers sticking out.