



# Fatima the Spinner and the Tent

By Idries Shah

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## Fatima the Spinner and the Tent By Idries Shah

Fatima is a young woman whose life seems beset by one disaster after another. Setting forth on a journey from her home in the West, she shipwrecked and cast ashore alone near Alexandria. Adopted by a family of weavers, and beginning to prosper in her new life, she is captured and made to work making masts. Undertaking a journey to sell the masts, her ship is wrecked off the coast of China. It is only here that Fatima finally realizes that what seemed to be disasters were really essential steps towards realizing her eventual fulfillment. A story of wisdom and depth, ideal as a bedtime story, it helps children understand the need for perseverance to reach their goals. This Teaching-Story is well known in Greek folklore, but this version is attributed to the Sheikh Mohamed Jamaludin of Adrianople (modern-day Edirne in Turkey) who died in 1750. This book is filled with wonderful illustrations by Natasha Delmar. Taught to paint by her father, the celebrated classic Chinese painter Ng Yi-Ching, she captures Fatima's adventures with a wealth of detail and color. Using Middle Eastern and Chinese design, Delmar transports readers into the exotic worlds of Fatima's travels, in a way delightful to both young and old.

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## **Fatima the Spinner and the Tent By Idries Shah Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2-8—Shah first published this version of an 18th-century Turkish tale in his *Tales of the Dervishes* (Penguin, 1993). It is the story of Fatima, daughter of a prosperous spinner, who is involved in three disasters. When a shipwreck leaves her washed up on a beach, she is taken in by a family of weavers. She learns their trade, only to be captured by slavers, who sell her to a mast-builder. Entrusted to accompany a cargo to market, the girl survives another shipwreck off the coast of China, where she is welcomed by townspeople as the female stranger of legend who would make a tent for the Emperor. She is delivered to the palace, where she uses her skills to complete the task by spinning flax into ropes; weaving some sturdy cloth; and carving tent poles, finally realizing her wish for happiness. The story fulfills the requisites of a folktale—a strong main character, three misfortunes, the completion of a seemingly impossible task, and the granting of a wish. Delmar's finely detailed paintings incorporate a variety of Middle Eastern and Chinese designs, both within the pictures and in borders surrounding text boxes. Several spreads are panoramas that have amazing depth. An endpaper map shows the path of Fatima's travels. Although some aspects of the plot are weaker than the protagonist's strength of character, children will relate to the positive lesson about making the best of one's misfortunes.—*Susan Scheps, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH*

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From [Booklist](#)

Retold by the late Afghan author Shah, this folktale has been beautifully illustrated by Delmar in richly colored, highly detailed pictures that evoke the story's Sufi traditions. With her father, Fatima starts off on a sea voyage in search of a husband. When her father dies in a shipwreck near Alexandria, a family of weavers takes her in and teaches her its craft. Then she is captured by slavers; she survives once again, and learns to build masts. After several other disasters, she settles in China, where she teaches the people all she has learned and also finds love and happiness. The words and pictures stay true to the story's roots, even as they celebrate a timeless protagonist who survives a perilous journey and makes a satisfying life. Clear maps on the endpapers show Fatima's world travels. *Hazel Rochman*

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## Review

*Fatima The Spinner And The Tent* is based on a classical "Teaching-Story" well known in Greek folklore - this particular version is attributed to Sheikh Mohamed Jamaludin of Adrianople (modern-day Edirne). *Fatima the Spinner and the Tent* is the tale of a woman who seems beset with one disaster after another as she travels from Morocco to the Mediterranean, Egypt, Turkey, and finally China. It is in China that she realizes that what seemed to be terrible misfortune was in fact a valuable part of her life and her path to fulfillment, for in the course of her journey she learned the skills that would serve her well in her hour of greatest need. A story of wisdom and hidden depth, recommended for bedtime reading and children's library collections. -- Midwest Book Review

When a shipwreck leaves her washed up on a beach, Fatima is taken in by a family of weavers. She learns their trade, only to be captured by slavers, who sell her to a mast-builder. Entrusted to accompany a cargo to market, the girl survives another shipwreck off the coast of China, where she is welcomed by townspeople as the female stranger of legend who would make a tent for the Emperor. She is delivered to the palace, where she uses her skills to complete the task by spinning flax into ropes; weaving some sturdy cloth; and carving tent poles, finally realizing her wish for happiness. The story fulfills the requisites of a folktale—a strong main character, three misfortunes, the completion of a seemingly impossible task, and the granting of a wish. Delmar's finely detailed paintings incorporate a variety of Middle Eastern and Chinese designs, both within the pictures and in borders surrounding text boxes. Several

spreads are panoramas that have amazing depth. An endpaper map shows the path of Fatima's travels. Although some aspects of the plot are weaker than the protagonist's strength of character, children will relate to the positive lesson about making the best of one's misfortunes. -- School Library Journal

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Daniel Bravo:**

Here thing why this specific Fatima the Spinner and the Tent are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Fatima the Spinner and the Tent giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no publication that similar with Fatima the Spinner and the Tent. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your technique home by train. If you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of Fatima the Spinner and the Tent in e-book can be your alternate.

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#### **Edna Vachon:**

The book Fatima the Spinner and the Tent has a lot info on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can find the point easily after reading this article book.

#### **Thomas Crittenden:**

Fatima the Spinner and the Tent can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing Fatima the Spinner and the Tent however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource information that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can drawn you into

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