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desde 1950





Título:

Autor: Precio: \$208.00

Editorial: Año: 2008

Tema: Edición: 1ª

Sinopsis ISBN: 9780545128285

Fans of Harry Potter will already have a few associations with the title of this book by J. K. Rowling. The first is that The Tales of Beedle the Bard is Dumbledore's bequest to Hermione Granger in the last book in the series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. The book is a collection of Grimm-like fairy tales wizarding parents tell their children that both amuse- and instruct -- or at least keep the listeners occupied. The second is that originally Rowling produced only seven copies, each one lettered and illustrated by herself, with gorgeous jewel-encrusted leather bindings. Six were intended as thank-you gifts to friends who had supported her through the series. The seventh, inset with moonstones, was put up for auction by Sotheby's and bought by Amazon for \$4 million. Tantalizing tidbits have come out, but now we all get to read the five stories ourselves: "The Fountain of Fair Fortune," "The Wizard and the Hopping Pot," "Babbitty Rabbitty and her Cackling Stump," "The Warlock's Hairy Heart," and the story that proved so important in Deathly Hallows, "The Tale of the Three Brothers."

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