

= Thumbelina =

" Thumbelina " ( Danish : Tommelise ) is a literary fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen first published by C. A. Reitzel on 16 December 1835 in Copenhagen , Denmark with " The Naughty Boy " and " The Traveling Companion " in the second installment of Fairy Tales Told for Children . " Thumbelina " is about a tiny girl and her adventures with appearance- and marriage @-@ minded toads , moles , and cockchafers . She successfully avoids their intentions before falling in love with a flower @-@ fairy prince just her size .

" Thumbelina " is chiefly Andersen 's invention , though he did take inspiration from tales of miniature people such as " Tom Thumb " . " Thumbelina " was published as one of a series of seven fairy tales in 1835 which were not well received by the Danish critics who disliked their informal style and their lack of morals . One critic , however , applauded " Thumbelina " . The earliest English translation of " Thumbelina " is dated 1846 . The tale has been adapted to various media including television drama and animated film .

= = Plot = =

In the first English translation of 1847 by Mary Howitt , the tale opens with a beggar woman giving a peasant 's wife a barleycorn in exchange for food . Once planted , a tiny girl , Thumbelina ( Tommelise ) , emerges from its flower . One night , Thumbelina , asleep in her walnut @-@ shell cradle , is carried off by a toad who wants the miniature maiden as a bride for her son . With the help of friendly fish and a butterfly , Thumbelina escapes the toad and her son , and drifts on a lily pad until captured by a stag beetle who later discards her when his friends reject her company .

Thumbelina tries to protect herself from the elements , but when winter comes , she is in desperate straits . She is finally given shelter by an old field mouse and tends her dwelling in gratitude . The mouse suggests Thumbelina marry her neighbor , a mole , but Thumbelina finds repulsive the prospect of being married to such a creature because he spent all his days underground and never saw the sun or sky . The field mouse keeps pushing Thumbelina into the marriage , saying the mole is a good match for her , and does not listen to her protests .

At the last minute , Thumbelina escapes the situation by fleeing to a far land with a swallow she nursed back to health during the winter . In a sunny field of flowers , Thumbelina meets a tiny flower @-@ fairy prince just her size and to her liking , and they wed . She receives a pair of wings to accompany her husband on his travels from flower to flower , and a new name , Maia .

In Hans Christian Andersen 's version of the story , a bluebird had been viewing Thumbelina 's story since the beginning and had been in love with her since . In the end , the bird is heartbroken once Thumbelina marries the flower @-@ fairy prince , and flies off eventually arriving at a small house . There , he tells Thumbelina 's story to a man who is implied to be Andersen himself and chronicles the story in a book .

= = Background = =

Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense , Denmark on 2 April 1805 to Hans Andersen , a shoemaker , and Anne Marie Andersdatter . An only and a spoiled child , Andersen shared a love of literature with his father who read him The Arabian Nights and the fables of Jean de la Fontaine . Together , they constructed panoramas , pop @-@ up pictures , and toy theatres , and took long jaunts into the countryside .

Andersen 's father died in 1816 , and from then on , Andersen was left to his own devices . In order to escape his poor , illiterate mother , he promoted his artistic inclinations and courted the cultured middle class of Odense , singing and reciting in their drawing @-@ rooms . On 4 September 1819 , the fourteen @-@ year @-@ old Andersen left Odense for Copenhagen with the few savings he had acquired from his performances , a letter of reference to the ballerina Madame Schall , and youthful dreams and intentions of becoming a poet or an actor .

After three years of rejections and disappointments , he finally found a patron in Jonas Collin , the

director of the Royal Theatre , who , believing in the boy 's potential , secured funds from the king to send Andersen to a grammar school in Slagelse , a provincial town in west Zealand , with the expectation that the boy would continue his education at Copenhagen University at the appropriate time .

At Slagelse , Andersen fell under the tutelage of Simon Meisling , a short , stout , balding thirty @-@ five @-@ year @-@ old classicist and translator of Virgil 's Aeneid . Andersen was not the quickest student in the class and was given generous doses of Meisling 's contempt . " You 're a stupid boy who will never make it , " Meisling told him . Meisling is believed to be the model for the learned mole in " Thumbelina " .

Fairy tale and folklorists Iona and Peter Opie have proposed the tale as a " distant tribute " to Andersen 's confidante , Henriette Wulff , the small , frail , hunchbacked daughter of the Danish translator of Shakespeare who loved Andersen as Thumbelina loves the swallow ; however , no written evidence exists to support the theory .

= = Publication and critical reception = =

Andersen published two installments of his first collection of Fairy Tales Told for Children in 1835 , the first in May and the second in December . " Thumbelina " was first published in the December installment by C. A. Reitzel on 16 December 1835 in Copenhagen . " Thumbelina " was the first tale in the booklet which included two other tales : " The Naughty Boy " and " The Traveling Companion " . The story was republished in collected editions of Andersen 's works in 1850 and 1862 .

The first reviews of the seven tales of 1835 did not appear until 1836 and the Danish critics were not enthusiastic . The informal , chatty style of the tales and their lack of morals were considered inappropriate in children 's literature . One critic however acknowledged " Thumbelina " to be " the most delightful fairy tale you could wish for . "

The critics offered Andersen no further encouragement . One literary journal never mentioned the tales at all while another advised Andersen not to waste his time writing fairy tales . One critic stated that Andersen " lacked the usual form of that kind of poetry [ ... ] and would not study models " . Andersen felt he was working against their preconceived notions of what a fairy tale should be , and returned to novel @-@ writing , believing it was his true calling . The critical reaction to the 1835 tales was so harsh that he waited an entire year before publishing " The Little Mermaid " and " The Emperor 's New Clothes " in the third and final installment of Fairy Tales Told for Children .

= = English translations = =

Mary Howitt was the first to translate " Tommelise " into English and published it as " Thumbelina " in Wonderful Stories for Children in 1846 . However , she did not approve of the opening scene with the witch , and , instead , had the childless woman provide bread and milk to a hungry beggar woman who then rewarded her hostess with a barleycorn .

Charles Boner also translated the tale in 1846 as " Little Ellie " while Madame de Chatelain dubbed the child ' Little Totty ' in her 1852 translation . The editor of The Child 's Own Book ( 1853 ) called the child throughout , ' Little Maja ' . H. W. Dulcken was probably the translator responsible for the name , ' Thumbelina ' . His widely published volumes of Andersen 's tales appeared in 1864 and 1866 . Mrs. H.B. Paulli translated the name as ' Little Tiny ' in the late @-@ nineteenth century .

In the twentieth century , Erik Christian Haugaard translated the name as ' Inchelina ' in 1974 , and Jeffrey and Diane Crone Frank translated the name as ' Thumbelisa ' in 2005 . Modern English translations of " Thumbelina " are found in the six @-@ volume complete edition of Andersen 's tales from the 1940s by Jean Hersholt , and Erik Christian Haugaard 's translation of the complete tales in 1974 .

= = Commentaries = =

For fairy tale researchers and folklorists Iona and Peter Opie , " Thumbelina " is an adventure story

from the feminine point of view with its moral being people are happiest with their own kind . They point out that Thumbelina is a passive character , the victim of circumstances whereas her male counterpart Tom Thumb ( one of the tale ' s inspirations ) is an active character , makes himself felt , and exerts himself .

Folklorist Maria Tatar sees ' Thumbelina ' as a runaway bride story and notes that it has been viewed as an allegory about arranged marriages , and a fable about being true to one ' s heart that upholds the traditional notion that the love of a prince is to be valued above all else . She points out that in Hindu belief , a thumb @-@ sized being known as the innermost self or soul dwells in the heart of all beings , human or animal , and that the concept may have migrated to European folklore and taken form as Tom Thumb and Thumbelina , both of whom seek transfiguration and redemption . She detects parallels between Andersen ' s tale and the Greek myth of Demeter and her daughter , Persephone , and , notwithstanding the pagan associations and allusions in the tale , notes that " Thumbelina " repeatedly refers to Christ ' s suffering and resurrection , and the Christian concept of salvation .

Andersen biographer Jackie Wullschlager indicates that ' Thumbelina ' was the first of Andersen ' s tales to dramatize the sufferings of one who is different , and , as a result of being different , becomes the object of mockery . It was also the first of Andersen ' s tales to incorporate the swallow as the symbol of the poetic soul and Andersen ' s identification with the swallow as a migratory bird whose pattern of life his own traveling days were beginning to resemble .

Roger Sale believes Andersen expressed his feelings of social and sexual inferiority by creating characters that are inferior to their beloveds . The Little Mermaid , for example , has no soul while her human beloved has a soul as his birthright . In ' Thumbelina ' , Andersen suggests the toad , the beetle , and the mole are Thumbelina ' s inferiors and should remain in their places rather than wanting their superior . Sale indicates they are not inferior to Thumbelina but simply different . He suggests that Andersen may have done some damage to the animal world when he colored his animal characters with his own feelings of inferiority .

Jacqueline Banerjee views the tale as a failure story . ' Not surprisingly , ' she writes , ' ' Thumbelina ' is now often read as a story of specifically female empowerment . ' Susie Stephens believes Thumbelina herself is a grotesque , and observes that ' the grotesque in children ' s literature is [ ... ] a necessary and beneficial component that enhances the psychological welfare of the young reader ' . Children are attracted to the cathartic qualities of the grotesque , she suggests . Sidney Rosenblatt in his essay " Thumbelina and the Development of Female Sexuality " believes the tale may be analyzed , from the perspective of Freudian psychoanalysis , as the story of female masturbation . Thumbelina herself , he posits , could symbolize the clitoris , her rose petal coverlet the labia , the white butterfly " the budding genitals " , and the mole and the prince the anal and vaginal openings respectively .

= = Adaptations = =

= = = Animation = = =

The earliest animated version of the tale is a silent , black @-@ and @-@ white release by director Herbert M. Dawley in 1924 .

Lotte Reiniger released a 10 @-@ minute cinematic adaptation in 1954 featuring her " silhouette " puppets .

Dyuymovochka was a Russian popular animation version from 1964 of a film studio " Soyuzmultfilm " . One of the best statements of the director Leonid Amalrik : in " Thumbelina " Andersen ' s heroes loved by all play the pressing history of sufferings of the least girl on the earth .

In 1983 , a Japanese version was released called Oyayubihime ( Princess Thumb ) ; ?????? ????? ( Sekai Meisaku D?wa Oyayubi @-@ hime ; World Classic Fairytale Princess Thumb ) , a Toei Animation anime movie , with character designs by Tezuka Osamu from 1978 .

In 1992 , The Golden Films released of Thumbelina ( 1992 ) , and Tom Thumb Meets Thumbelina

afterwards .

An animated , Japanese series adapted the plot , Thumbelina : A Magical Story ( 1992 ) and made it into a movie , released in 1993 .

In 1994 , Warner Brothers released Thumbelina ( 1994 ) , directed by Don Bluth and Gary Goldman , with Jodi Benson as the voice of Thumbelina .

The 2002 direct @-@ to @-@ DVD animated movie , The Adventures of Tom Thumb and Thumbelina , brought together the two most famous tiny people of literature , with Thumbelina voiced by Jennifer Love Hewitt .

In 2005 , there was H.C. Andersens eventyrlige verden : Tommelise ( 2005 ) ,

The 2009 direct @-@ to @-@ DVD animated movie , Barbie Presents Thumbelina , where Barbie tells the story of the Twillerbees , with Thumbelina as the main character. in a modern @-@ day tale . She meets Makena , the daughter of a wealthy couple , who became the Twillerbees ' only hope for saving their home ( which was being torn due to a building construction by Makena 's parents ) . At the end , Barbie waves at Thumbelina and her friends before the Twillerbees magically make a plant grow in the sight of a little girl , revealing it is a true story .

In 2015 , a modernized version of Thumbelina appears in the Disney Junior series , Goldie and Bear . In the episode , Thumbelina 's Wild Ride , Thumbelina is hired to babysit for Goldie and Bear . The two friends are initially put off by her small stature , thinking she 's almost helpless . When she tries getting the kids a snack , she falls down the kitchen sink and slides into the river behind the house . Goldie and Bear try to save her , but soon see that Thumbelina is resourceful , agile , and can lift several times her own weight . She saves herself from the river and even rescues the kids when they fall in trying to save her . The kids take an instant liking to her and can 't wait for the next time she babysits . Thumbelina is voiced by Debby Ryan .

= = = Live action = = =

On June 11 , 1985 , a television dramatization of the tale was broadcast as the 12th episode of the anthology series Faerie Tale Theatre . The production starred Carrie Fisher . A version of the tale was filmed in 1970 as an advertisement for " Pirates World " , a now @-@ defunct Florida theme park . Directed by Barry Mahon and with Shay Garner in the title role , this version was reused in its entirety as filler material for " Santa Claus and the Ice Cream Bunny " , a rival to such films as " Plan 9 from Outer Space " and " Manos : the Hands of Fate " for the title of most inept film ever made .