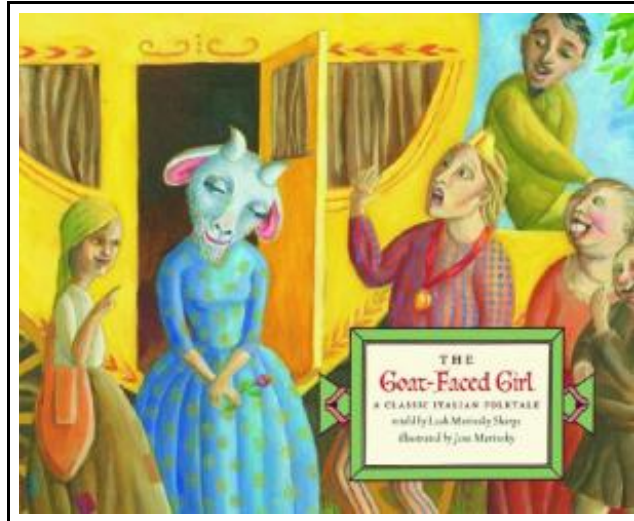


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David R. Godine, Boston, 2009. Hardback/Cloth. Book Condition: New. 1st Edition. 32pp . [In stock in Australia, for immediate delivery] Like many good fables, this story opens with a foundling left - rather inconveniently, if not surprisingly - in the woods. A large lizard, ever conscious of tripping hazards, picks up the infant and takes her home, where she soon grows into a pretty, pampered, and generally useless young woman named Isabella. Despite her adoptive mother's efforts (for the lizard is really a witch in disguise) to shape her up, the girl prefers the alluring life offered her by the charming Prince Rupert, a world of cooks and servants, palaces and jewels, luxury and indolence. Luckily, the lizard woman is a canny, concerned parent. She does not suffer fools lightly and is not about to let her daughter's too-easy transition to palace life go unchallenged. And so she arranges a surprise transformation for her daughter - one that puts the prince's marital plans on hold and gives the witch just enough time to hammer home a few lessons about the downside of idleness, the inanity of vanity, and the satisfactions of self-reliance. In this witty, modern interpretation of a classic Italian folktale, Leah Marinsky Sharpe has crafted a light-hearted mother-daughter fable with a moral that is sure to strike a chord with readers of all ages. The illustrations by Jane Marinsky glow with rich colour and playful humour. Together, words and pictures provide a zesty treat for parents and children alike. Leah Marinsky Sharpe has told stories all her life, but this is the first one to be published. When not writing children's books, she is finishing her PhD in conservation biology. Jane Marinsky's editorial illustrations have appeared in many major publications. She is proud that her daughter, Leah, is...



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