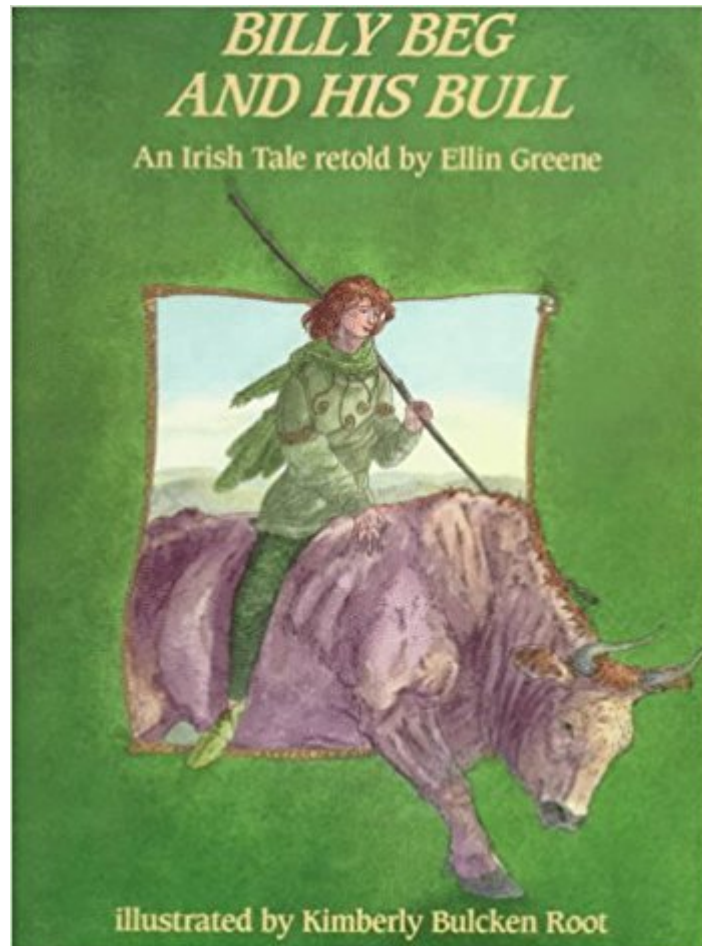




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# Billy Beg And His Bull: An Irish Tale



## Synopsis

With magical gifts from the bull his mother had given him, the son of an Irish king manages to prove his bravery and win a princess as his wife.

## Book Information

Age Range: 7 and up

Library Binding: 1 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1st edition (March 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823411001

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,634,851 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > European](#) #1480 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4-A lively retelling of a popular Irish tale found in many anthologies, including Virginia Haviland's *Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Ireland* (Little, 1961; o.p.). Billy Beg's mother gives him a magical bull calf just before she dies. When his stepmother tries, through guile, to rid herself of the bull and of Billy, the two escape. The bull gives the young man a magical napkin that provides food when unfolded, a stick that turns into a sword, and a belt that makes him invincible. After a series of adventures in which Billy slays giants with multiple heads and saves a damsel from a dragon, he loses a shoe. A la Cinderella, the princess declares that she will marry the man who fits it, and once reunited, the couple "live happy and well from that day to this." The colloquial language patterns convey the folk roots of the story without overwhelming readers with an Irish brogue. The watercolor illustrations are wonderfully energetic and perfect for all the fight scenes. They also manage, through color and details, to express emotion and foreshadowing. The text is a wee bit long for preschoolers, but primary-age children will enjoy hearing and reading this rousing tale. Karen K. Radtke, Milwaukee Public Library Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ages 5-8. When his evil stepmother plots against him, Irish prince Billy Beg escapes, thanks to his

pet bull. Before he dies, the bull leaves Billy a magic napkin to keep him fed, a magic stick to give him strength, and instructions for making a bull-hide belt to keep the boy from harm. Using the bull's gifts, Billy defeats giants and a dragon to win the hand of a princess. In a Cinderella twist, after the dragon slaying, the princess tears the shoe off Billy's foot as he rides away, then seeks as her husband the man who fits the shoe. Rhythmic and lively in the telling, this tale will entertain children who enjoy folktales of adventure. While not as graceful as the text, the ink-and-watercolor artwork is as expressive and full of action as the tale. Carolyn Phelan

I was looking for Cinderella variations for a 4th grade class and this was a recommended title. The story was definitely a Cindy variation but a little bloody for 4th grade. I will have to be cautious in choosing who uses this. Wish I had known before purchasing.

Well i love this story because it is much like the cinderella story but it is with a boy this time. It shows his adventures and the friendship between Billy and the bull. It shows that good always prevails over evil. That is why i would really recommend this book to broaden your imagination and creativity.

Best children's book available: "I got a piece of pie for telling a lie and then I came slithering home." I encountered this story in a Collier's collection in my youth, 45 years ago, and have never forgotten it. A wonderful story.

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