

Impolite Society

Love, Power, and Gender in Seventeenth-Century French Fairy Tales
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I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle to Beat Some Manners into Impolite Society
Rude Society Bronwyn Reddan atlantisrising.com Amy Alkon Hugh Patrick McGraw
Love, Power, and Gender in Seventeenth-Century French Fairy Tales
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love is a key ingredient in the stereotypical fairy tale ending in which everyone lives happily ever after this romantic formula continues to influence contemporary ideas about love and marriage but it ignores the history of love as an emotion that shapes and is shaped by hierarchies of power including gender class education and social status this interdisciplinary study questions the idealization of love as the ultimate happy ending by showing how the conteuses the women writers who dominated the first french fairy tale vogue in the 1690s used the fairy tale genre to critique the power dynamics of courtship and marriage their tales do not sit comfortably in the fairy tale canon as they explore the good the bad and the ugly effects of love and marriage on the lives of their heroines bronwyn reddan argues that the conteuses scripts for love emphasize the importance of gender in determining the right way to love in seventeenth century france their version of fairy tale love is historical and contingent rather than universal and timeless this conversation about love compels revision of the happily ever after narrative and offers incisive commentary on the gendered scripts for the performance of love in courtship and marriage in seventeenth century france

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