The King of the Golden River or the Black Brothers

John Ruskin

ISBN	9781843682660
Publisher	Pallas Athene
Binding	Hardback
Territory	USA & Canada
Size	5.71 in x 7.28 in
Pages	64 Pages
Illustrations	25 b&w
Price	$19.95

* Charming fairy tale in facsimile edition

John Ruskin wrote this fable for a teenage family friend, Effie, and later he married her. The marriage was famously disastrous, but before it fell apart the Ruskins allowed *The King of the Golden River* to be published. It became one of the most popular works for children of its time. Richard Doyle contributed over 25 full-page illustrations and vignettes.

The King of the Golden River is the first literary fairy tale in English (as opposed to collected folk tales). Ruskin himself said it was 'a fairly good imitation of Grimm and Dickens, mixed with some true Alpine feeling of my own'. Later he spoke of the capacity of the traditional tales 'to fortify children against the glacial cold of selfish science'.

It remains a powerful fable about humanity's dual capacity for destructiveness and redeeming love, with as strange fairy-tale creatures as one could hope to meet.

An essay by Simon Cooke explains the book's importance.

John Ruskin (1819-1900) was an English writer, philosopher, art historian, art critic and polymath of the Victorian era. He wrote on subjects as varied as geology, architecture, myth, ornithology, literature, education, botany and political economy and was one of the most far-reaching thinkers of his or any other century.