



The Water-Babies: A Fairy Tale for a Land-Baby (Macmillan Collector's Library Book 79)

Charles Kingsley

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After being chased from the home of an upper-class young girl called Ellie, chimney-sweep Tom falls asleep and tumbles into a river. There he is transformed into a 'water-baby' and his adventures truly begin. Beneath the surface, he enters a magical world full of strange and wonderful creatures, where he must prove his moral worth in order to earn what he truly desires.

One of the most unusual children's books ever written, *The Water-Babies*, subtitled 'A Fairy Tale for a Land-Baby', was originally intended as a satire in support of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, and explores many of the issues at the forefront of biologists' minds at the time. First published as a complete novel in 1863, Charles Kingsley's classic tale also explores ideas about religion, the Victorian education system and the working conditions of children and the poor.

With glorious black and white illustrations by W. Heath Robinson and an introduction by author and journalist Christina Hardyment.

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