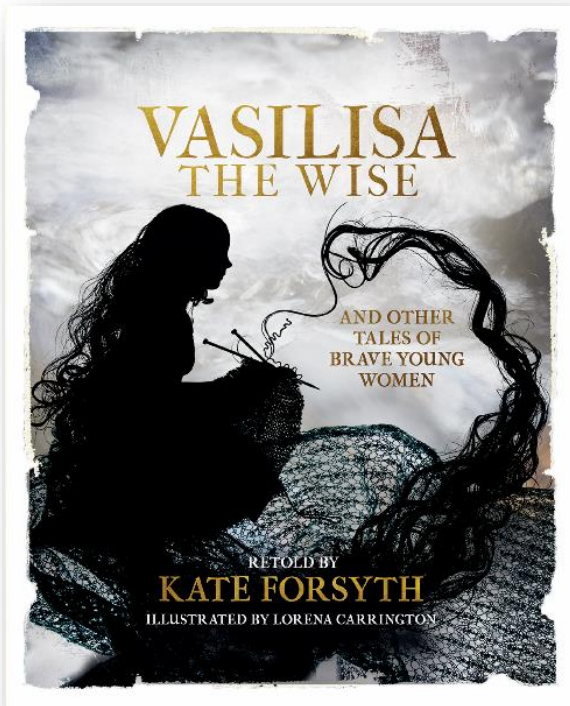


# VASILISA THE WISE

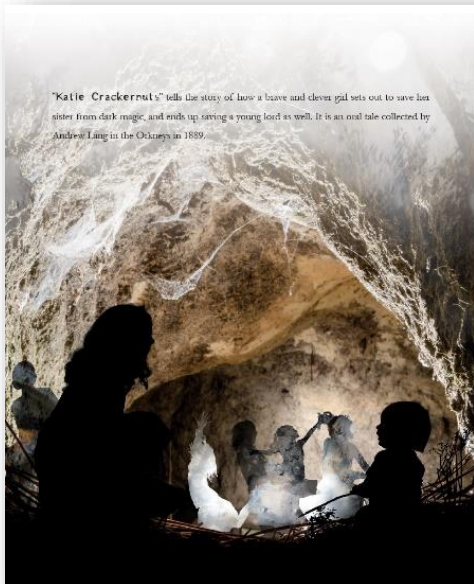
Kate Forsyth \* Lorena Carrington

Story Collection | ISBN: 978-1-61067-852-0 | Ages 10+ | Paperback | 7 ½ x 9 ½ | 112pp | \$9.99 | LOC: 2018942399

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"Katie Crackernuts" tells the story of how a brave and clever girl sets out to save her sister from dark magic, and ends up saving a young lord as well. It is an oral tale collected by Andrew Lang in the October in 1889.



## Katie Crackernuts

In Scotland, a long time ago, there lived an earl with a beautiful daughter whose name was Lady Kate. She was sad and lonely, for her mother had died when she was a baby. So the earl decided to marry a woman who had a daughter just the same age as his. Her name was also Kate. She was not at all beautiful, but was so kind and clever and merry hearted that the earl's daughter loved her like a sister. The two girls – one golden haired and honey, the other dark haired and bright – shared everything, though the elder was called Lady Kate and the younger was simply Katie.

The new countess was a proud and jealous woman, with lips as thin as a line drawn in red. It appeared her that Lady Kate was so much more beautiful than her own daughter. It seemed to her that Katie was always cast in the shade. What chance would Katie have of winning herself a rich and noble husband when her step-sister drew everybody's eyes away?

One day the countess heard of an old cunning woman who lived in the forest and knew all sorts of spells and charms and curses. She wrapped herself in a hooded cloak and went to the cunning woman, and offered her a bag of silver, perceiving if she would put some kind of ban upon Lady Kate and mar her beauty forever.

The cunning-woman was old and bent as a tree blown sideways by the wind, her eyes as