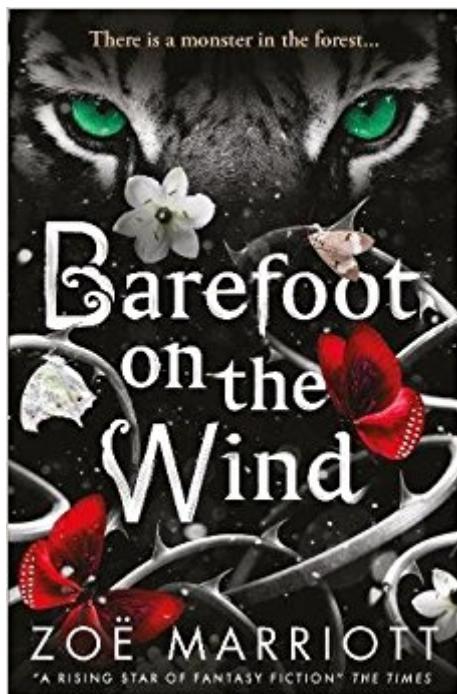


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# Barefoot On The Wind



## Synopsis

A feminist reworking of Beauty and the Beast from a talented fantasy writer. A magical retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" set in a fairytale Japan. A companion title to Zoe Marriott's critically acclaimed *Shadows on the Moon*. There is a monster in the forest... Everyone in Hana's remote village on the mountain knows that straying too far into the woods is a death sentence. When Hana's father goes missing, she is the only one who dares try to save him. Taking up her hunting gear, she goes in search of the beast, determined to kill it - or be killed herself. But the forest contains more secrets, more magic and more darkness than Hana could ever have imagined, and the beast is not at all what she expects...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Beautifully written and imagined -- Amanda Craig \* Scoop \* The author's trademark visually lucid style, magnificent world-building and exquisitely formed plot make this a richly satisfying read with a smart feminist overtone. \* Love Reading 4kids \* I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of this tale and will happily be getting lost in these dark woods again with Hana-San and Itsuki. \*

thelibrarymousebooktails.blogspot \* You will find love and comfort in every step and every turn, every chapter of this gripping tale [...] You will feel drawn to the book, attached to the characters and immersed in their adventures. This is definitely a winner for me. This is one retelling you should not miss! \* heyitsbookishme.wordpress.com \* A dreamy, chilling reimagining of Beauty & the Beast \*

Samantha Shannon \* Beautifully written and imagined, *Barefoot on the Wind* is not just about

romantic love - it's about family, and facing your deepest fears. Like all the best fairy stories, it ends on a note of unexpected joy. \* Scoop \* Beautiful visual imagery, viscerally brutal action and desperate passions make this retelling feel fresh - highlighting the tale's original themes of alienation, isolation and desire. \* BookTrust \*

Zoe Marriott is the author of many critically acclaimed and beloved books, including *The Swan Kingdom*, which was long-listed for the Branford Boase award. *Shadows on the Moon*, the companion title to *Barefoot on the Wind*, won the prestigious Sasakawa Prize and was an American Junior Library Guild Selection. Zoe lives in Grimsby, Lincolnshire. Visit Zoe's blog at [thezoe-trope.blogspot.co.uk](http://thezoe-trope.blogspot.co.uk) or her website at [ZoeMarriott.com](http://ZoeMarriott.com). Follow her on Twitter (@ZMarriott).

Wow, this was just beautiful. It had an old world charm mixed with the elegant Japanese manner of unfolding events. The story had an innocence and an unhurried feel that was delightful. I totally fell in love with this narrative that was so so able to cross both age barriers and genre. *Beauty and the Beast* lives again but with a lovely twist that includes more than just the lovers. It is a lesson for all of us but gently delivered.

A delightful retelling of a fairy tale, in a way that brings it real life, despite fantasy, and familiarity. Her prose stands by itself as a beautiful creation, but the character development is both surprising and yet, comforting. She makes you think!

Hana is a skilled hunter who lives in a tiny village surrounded by an enchanted forest. Something evil within the forest lures someone out of the village every night of the new moon. When Hana's father is taken, she decides to enter the wood herself and go after the thing that has been killing her people for one hundred years. Hana is brave, defiant, and spunky. She does what she wants and what she feels is right regardless of whether or not others in her village condone her actions. She is a religious character who references her god, the moon, several times throughout the book. When she meets the beast, he is different than what she imagined. A tragic backstory brings dimension to the villain. A bit slow-paced at times, this tale is a beautifully-written and entertaining reinterpretation of "Beauty and the Beast" with a protagonist to root for.

I didn't find this nearly as enjoyable as *Shadows on the Moon*.

I've been a huge fan of Zoe Marriott's writing ever since I read *Shadows on the Moon* five years ago, it's a fairytale retelling of *Cinderella* set in a fictional Japan where magic is real and it's one of my all time favourite books so you can only begin to imagine how excited I was when I found out she was writing a companion novel set in the same world. *Barefoot on the Wind* is a feminist retelling of *Beauty and the Beast* (which happens to be my favourite fairytale!) and it's just as wonderful as *Shadows on the Moon*. Although both books are set in the same world and are linked by the same beautiful writing and the fairytale feel to them there is no crossover of characters so you don't have to read them in any particular order but I want to go out and place a copy of both of these books into the hands of every fantasy fan I come across. Zoe was writing YA fantasy long before it became so popular and she really doesn't get the recognition she deserves considering how absolutely amazing her stories are so I want to see her at the top of the best seller charts where she should be. Let's get back to *Barefoot on the Wind* though, this is the tale of a young girl called Hana who lives in a remote village in the middle of a dark and dangerous magical wood. Everyone in her village knows that there is a monster in the forest and they live every day with the knowledge that leaving the safety of home means certain death. Hana's family have lost more than most to the monster, she is still grieving after the deaths of her grandmother and her brother but when her father is taken too something inside her snaps. Her grief and the additional pressure of survivor's guilt have combined into a reckless desperation to do something, anything, to try and save her father's life. She knows that she is unlikely to survive an encounter with the monster but when the rest of the village turn their back on her pleas for help she just has to try and fight for what is right. I'm not going to tell you much more than that so you're going to have to read the story for yourself to find out whether Hana manages to slay the monster and rescue her father. Instead I'm going to talk about the rich world building, the evocative and beautiful writing, the fantastic three dimensional characters that each have their own fears and sorrow, the heartbreak you'll feel as Hana talks about her grief, the joy and pride you'll feel for everything she accomplishes, how you'll fall be drawn totally into this world and find yourself wishing it was real just so you could live there. *Barefoot on the Wind* is a *Beauty and the Beast* retelling unlike any you've read before, it's utterly captivating and so, so beautiful that it makes my heart hurt just thinking about it. There is no doubt in my mind that this is going to be in one of the top slots when I'm trying to pick my favourite books of the year and I can't wait to reread *Shadows on the Moon* when the new extended version is published in November. Source: Received from Walker in exchange for an honest review

I love Zoe Marriott's writing style. Hana is a character that is both strong and fragile. I love the way

she explores the psychology of her characters. The story itself is a retelling of Beauty and the Beast set a feudal Japan-like setting. It makes the story at once new and real while really keeping with the core of the fairytale. There is a Monster in the Forest and Hana must face it to save her father.

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