**If you liked “Cold”. . .**

A few more examples of more **modern folk and fairy tales** along the lines of A.S. Byatt’s stories “Cold,” “The Story of the Eldest Princess,” and “The Djinn in the Nightingale’s Eye.”

* **Films**: Maleficent, Mulan, Ever After (feminist takes on the fairytale princess motif)
* **Young Adult novels**: The Princess Academy, Book of a Thousand Days, Goose Girl
* **Adult novels/plays:** Snow Child, Into the Woods, Wicked (begins a novel series and was made into an award-winning musical. Warning, the novels are much darker!)

**The Atalanta Myth, Told and Retold**—It has been said that if you want to change a culture, you must change the stories. Here is one example of the Atalanta myth updated (below).

First, a fairly standard version of **the original myth of Atalanta** from the Theoi website of Greek mythology (<http://www.theoi.com/Heroine/Atalanta.html> ):

ATALANTA was an Arkadian heroine--a huntress and a favourite of the goddess [Artemis](http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Artemis.html). She was exposed by her father at birth in the wilds but was suckled by a she-bear and afterwards found and raised by hunters. [. . . .] She later took part in the voyage of the Argonauts and defeated the hero Peleus in wrestling at the funeral games of King Pelias. When King Oineus (Oeneus) summoned heroes to destroy the [Kalydonian (Calydonian) Boar](http://www.theoi.com/Ther/HusKalydonios.html), Atalanta answered the call and was the first to draw blood. [. . . .] Atalanta was eventually reunited with her father Skhoineus (Schoeneus) who insisted that she wed. The heroine reluctantly agreed insisting that a suitor must defeat her in a race and that the losers be put to death. Melanion--or Hippomenes--however, sought the help of the goddess [Aphrodite](http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/Aphrodite.html) who provided him with three golden apples to cast before the girl in the race. When Atalanta stooped to retrieve these, she was slowed enough to allow the hero to emerge victorious. [. . . .] Atalanta's name was derived from the Greek word atalantos meaning "equal in weight"--perhaps a reference to her success in various contests with men.

**“Free to be You and Me” modern version of the Atalanta myth**

This is one rewrite of the Atalanta myth fashioned for a modern American *egalitarian* ethic. Personally, I think it lacks appeal, but one can see the perfectly laudable values it was trying to promote—success coming from hard work, women and men being equally capable and strong and not dependent on each other for happiness, marriage being a choice, not a requirement, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuyRi2yWWSQ>