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Spirits, Fairies, Leprechauns, And Goblins: An Encyclopedia



Synopsis

A fabulously entertaining work with over 100 delightful illustrations--Library Journal calls *Spirits, Fairies, Leprechauns, and Goblins* its "favorite work of 1996." In more than 2,000 alphabetically arranged entries, readers will meet angels, demons, elves, encantados, fairies, familiars, keremets, nats, nymphs, and many other strange beings from around the world. Carol Rose introduces the reader to the little--and not so little--folk, delightfully various and, at the same time, strikingly similar from country to country. Wherever humans have lived, the supernatural beings have dwelt alongside us. People serve to explain the unexplainable--the strange disappearance of a traveler in a dark wood, that odd thumping in the attic, the fresh cream turned sour overnight. Often they reveal the stoic humor with which human societies have faced their difficulties. But whatever their source, our guilts, fears, dreams, or imaginations, the spirits have fascinated and enchanted us through the millennia. Chosen by Library Journal as a Best Reference Source.

Book Information

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Age Range: 3 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

The variety of cultures represented is breathtaking. . . . Rose's encyclopedia will enrich reference collections in several thousand little ways. -- Rettig on Reference

Carol Rose is a research member at the University of Kent and a senior lecturer at Canterbury

College, England.

Spirits, Fairies, Leprechauns, and Goblins is a fairly comprehensive encyclopedia of the otherworld from all over the world. The illustrations are not very good, it is true; however, the text is pretty thorough and while no book will ever be able to cover the totality of Faerie and the diversity of its inhabitants, except perhaps the book of Life, this is a good addition to the library of those who love and study this subject. We're glad we got it. The Silver Elves authors of *The Shining Ones: The Elfin Spirits That Guide You According to Your Birth Date and the Evolutionary Lessons They Offer*

Carol Rose's 'Spirit, Fairies, Leprechauns and Goblins' is exactly what it claims to be - an encyclopediac guide to all manner of spirits, ghosts, djinn, goblins, angels, demons, fairies, dwarves, gods and other denizens of folklore and myth. And while no such volume could ever be complete, given how rich (and often contradictory) the world's folklore really is, this volume is still quite good. No doubt those reading this book will have heard of, say, the Green Man, La Llorona, brownies, nagas, trolls and elves, but what about more obscure tales such as Pahuanuiapitaiterai, the each usige, hantu ayer or leshii? Each spirit, goblin or deity is given a separate, dictionary style entry, along with references and related articles. Entries may refer to individual beings (Coyote, Lilith, the Jersey Devil) or types of spirits (black dogs, ohdowas, pitris, roane). Furthermore, she also gives a series of appendices at the end, breaking down entries by type of spirit (Demon, Nat, Nymph, Keremet, etc), associations (spirits of water, spirits of nature, spirits of fate, spirits of disease, etc), and country or culture (Welsh, Gypsy, Middle Eastern, Brazilian, Vietnamese, Norse, etc). One of the big strengths here is that Rose was so thorough in including often overlooked non-western beings, like Indian gandharvas, Malay langsuir, Afro-Brazilian Exu or the Penobscot wanagemeswak. In addition, she does make notes on regional variations on particular beings, such as the different role of Daevas in Hinduism and Persian Zoroastrianism, or how dwarves change in German, Scandinavian and other folklores. And yet, as previous reviewers noted, she also sometimes displays very obvious western biases. For instance, saying Durga is 'evil' completely misunderstands her role in Hinduism. Far from being evil, Durga is a demon-slayer and one of the most beloved aspects of the Goddess (Devi) in all of India! Even in her more destructive aspect of Kali, she is still not 'evil.' Still, one cannot be an expert on everything, and excepting these cultural biases, this work is a good reference for looking up various spirit beliefs. More detailed research you can find elsewhere. So while there are indeed a couple of shortcomings, this is still an excellent resource for looking up different types of goblins, bogies, phantoms, demons and other denizens of

the invisible worlds. Couple this with a half-way decent library of folklore, mythology and legends and your set to do some serious research here. Students of folklore will get good use out of this book, especially with regards to the more obscure beings, so definitely give this book a look. As for myself, I saw she has a companion volume, 'Giants, Monsters and Dragons,' which I am going to pick up soon.

This and its partner (Giants, Monsters and Dragons) are the best resources I've found. I write fiction and online research is great in general, but if you really crave a real encyclopedic source, get one or both of these. They really tickle my writer's brain even when I'm not in research mode. Note: They do have some overlaps since, obviously, a lot of the creatures and characters could fall under either title. But unless your focus is completely, 100% summed up in one title, you will very likely enjoy both. A lot.

They weren't kidding about 'encyclopedia' style. Not a story type but a listing and description of every kind you know of and many you had no idea of. Lists names as well as types. More for when you're researching, at your fingertips. Very full of information.

I love this book, a friend of mine recommended it and I bought my own its great for reference and a lot of fun to flip through. My copy is now pretty worn out I use it a lot.

Some entries are lacking in information but overall a nice book that even has creatures indexed by country or what they're associated with.

Excellent resource and information is helpful.

i really loved this book as it told about alot of the mythical creatures and i learned of many i never heard of before. loved this book as it was full of info and well written.

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