



Folk-Tales of the British Isles

Kevin Crossley-Holland (Editor)

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A superb collection of folklore from the British Isles that celebrates storytelling, culled from great 19th- and 20th-century collections. It is a first-of-a-kind anthology including stories from English, Celtic and Norse traditions. Illustrated.

Folk-Tales of the British Isles Details

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Author : Kevin Crossley-Holland (Editor)

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From Reader Review Folk-Tales of the British Isles for online ebook

David says

How anyone can suck the life out of good, well known tales I do not know. But here it is. It is hard to pinpoint exactly what it is that makes this collection fall so short: The writing is not technically bad, and the stories are at least told, but I find myself at the end of a tale thinking, "What?" as if it never actually happened. That's probably the most magical thing that happened while reading this.

Coreena McBurnie says

I thoroughly enjoyed The Magic Lands. I love reading original folk tales and myths and this book puts 55 interesting British and Irish ones together.

Each tale is short, some less than a page, some several pages long, so this is a perfect book for reading to children or to bring with you while you need to wait somewhere.

As much as I enjoyed the stories, I am a historian at heart, so found myself going to the end to read the "Sources and Notes" section for each tale. Crossley-Holland has obviously done huge amounts of research in this area and tells us about where the stories first came from, where first recorded, and other interesting details.

This is a great book for anyone wanting original tales written in accessible, modern language.

Dave says

Nice cross-section of British folktales - some I already knew, others I'd never heard of. Some in dialect, others not. Not just Great Britain but every isle from the Shetlands to Jersey. Nice collection if you can find it.

Barbara Doll says

Another of those folk tale type books I keep handy to read a few stories when I need a little bit of light reading.

Mary Catelli says

A miscellaneous collection. Tales of fairies, fairy tales, ghost stories, tales of heroes, legends, jocular tales. . .

If you are looking for one of those types, you may have to read through them all, because they are organized by themes that sometimes cross them. Some are literary -- we have the nasty old woman variant of "Goldilocks" and the "Jack and the Beanstalk" where the giant had robbed Jack's father. Some are in dialect that can be hard to read.

Many interesting ones.

Caitlin says

I quite liked this collection of stories. Some of them were more interesting than others, and I would have liked an indication at the beginning of the story as to where it was from (but that was given in the contents, so not impossible to find out, just more effort). I also found the introduction to the section by the author/editor(?) quite handy.

Bakhyt says

gjnn

Sophie says

ok myths/legends book

David says

I read this delightful group of stories about the year 2003, and then reread some in 2014.

These many folk tales in 393 pages are grouped into the following sections:- Fairies, Origins and causes, Kings and heroes, Fabulous beasts, Nursery and jocular, Ghosts, Fables and animal tales, Giants and strong men, Historical, Saints and devils, and finally Enchantment.

This book constitutes a grand survey of this genre! Many to be reread from time to time for the sheer enjoyment of the folk tale printed in this handsome edition. Some remain cast in somewhat archaic language, a product of the source and time from which the tale was recorded. One needs to know some medieval history of Britain so the personal names and place will provide meaning to one reading it today in a far distant country. Yet the editor probably retained the old voice so as to convey the old primitive context within which the tales were passed on from generation to generation.

A beautifully packaged book published 1985 by the Folio Society of England - cover outstanding, wood-engravings by Hannah Firmin serve as chapter headings are super, and the selection of tales is varied and very engaging.

