



Celtic Mythology: The Nature and Influence of Celtic Myth from Druidism to Arthurian Legend

Ward Rutherford (Foreword) , John Matthews (Foreword)

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This is a lively and absorbing account of the world of Celtic myth and the role it has played in the development of western culture. Included here are: The world of the Celts, including an historical overview from their emergence as an identifiable people around 1000 B.C. Also included is an exploration of their social structure. The contents of Celtic myths and the differences and similarities between their manifestation in Britain and Ireland. The topography of the supernatural world of Celtic myth, including discussion of Druidism, Shamanism, and the meaning of Celtic myths. The influence of Celtic myth in English literature from Arthurian legend to the Grail legends.

This highly literate, lively, and absorbing exploration of one of the jewels of European cultural heritage demonstrates how deeply Celtic mythology has become embedded in Western consciousness. It is for anyone interested in history, mythology, spirituality, and culture.

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From Reader Review Celtic Mythology: The Nature and Influence of Celtic Myth from Druidism to Arthurian Legend for online ebook

Brittany Dietrich says

Very informative!!! This book was filled with lots of information and interesting facts and history. I love it!!! :)

Juliette Holly says

Horrible writing style, makes it hard to understand.

Roxanne says

I believe this is a new edition of this book first copyrighted in 1987 but there is a 2015 new forward by John Matthews. This book is about Celtic Mythology from the Druids in the 17th century up to King Arther. The mythology of the Celts is a jewel of the European cultural heritage. Some of the Celtic themes have influenced contemporary writers such as Dylan Thomas and JRR Tolkien. This book gives us an historical overview, and also tells us how these myths made their way into English Literature. I enjoyed the book because this a subject I have never known much about.

Tawney says

I received this book compliments of RedWheel/Weiser Books through the Goodreads First Reads program.

This book is subtitled "The Nature and Influence of Celtic Myth from Druidism to Arthurian Legend". Rutherford packs this subject matter into fewer than two hundred pages crammed with detail to support his viewpoints. The first parts of the book describe the Celts, their origins and social structure followed by what we know of the myths of Ireland and Britain. Descriptions of Druidism and it's place in Celtic life are followed by very detailed commentary on Rutherford's beliefs on there origins (and ultimate connections to other Indo-European cultures). Finally he examines Arthur and the Arthurian legends as built upon, or embellished by, the earlier Celtic mythology.

The book seems well researched, but I've not found any information on Rutherford's credentials or biography other than the books he has written.

His writing style is not easy for me to follow. Rather than enlightening me, his way of following detail with branching detail was often confusing.

Kaitlyn Saunders says

1.5 stars.

First: I won a copy of this in a Goodreads giveaway.

Now that we have that out of the way, I'd like to give my honest review of the book.

I realize that this is a pre copy, but there were problems. There was missing punctuation, clumsy wording, and some cringeworthy paragraph structure. The material was dry and not what I was expecting.

Problems aside, I was very impressed with the author's vocabulary (maybe tone that down a bit to make it more accessible, though). There were some excellent points and supportive evidence, but the points themselves were not unlike the other information I read.

While I appreciate the effort the author obviously put into it, I probably would not read it again.
