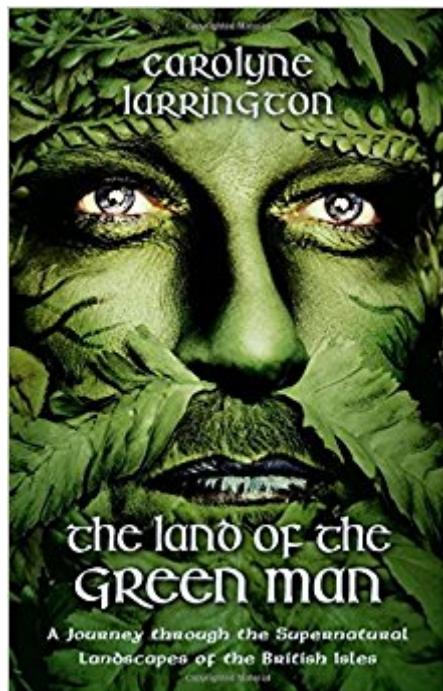


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The Land Of The Green Man: A Journey Through The Supernatural Landscapes Of The British Isles



Synopsis

Beyond its housing estates and identikit high streets there is another Britain. This is the Britain of mist-drenched forests and unpredictable sea-frets: of wraith-like fog banks, druidic mistletoe and peculiar creatures that lurk, half-unseen, in the undergrowth, tantalising and teasing just at the periphery of human vision. How have the remarkably persistent folkloric traditions of the British Isles formed and been formed by the psyches of those who inhabit them? In this sparkling new history, Carolyne Larrington explores the diverse ways in which a myriad of fantastical beings has moulded the nationâ™s cultural history. Fairies, elves and goblins here tread purposefully, sometimes malignly, over an eerie landscape that also conceals brownies, selkies, trows, knockers, boggarts, land-wights, Jack oâ™Lanterns, Barguests, the sinister Nuckleasee and Black Shuck: terrifying hell-hound of the Norfolk coast with eyes of burning coal. Ranging from Shetland to Jersey and from Ireland to East Anglia, while evoking the Wild Hunt, the ghostly bells of Lyonesse and the dread fenlands haunted by Grendel, this is a book that will captivate all those who long for the wild places: the mountains and chasms where giants lie in wait.

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Customer Reviews

There is the land we know, the familiar terrain on which we live, engaging in a myriad of activities. We find our way around this land, home, by maps, by directions given by others, by personal knowledge, acquired over time and through practice and repetition. And there is the land we remember. When I drive home to North Carolina, where I was born and raised, where I came of age, educated, and began my adult life (1950s-90s), memory tells me I am coming home, even if

the landscape has changed. I physically feel different. I remember the stories of what happened where and to whom and why. This is personal and family memory, a memory preserved and transmuted through story. In Larrington's exploration of the "supernatural landscapes of the British Isles," she examines a terrain of a memory of which the personal and the familial are a part, cultural memory. I am not speaking here of historical memory so much--what happened here on this spot, in this place, at a certain time in the past, and the weight and value of such memories, their significance. That is one way of knowing. As Larrington says, there is a "second way of knowing," of remembering, of knowing the land, through the stories and legends of folk tradition, here, those of "the British landscape." Larrington takes the reader on a journey, as the subtitle says, through the "supernatural landscapes" of the British Isles, from the islands in the far north, to Ireland, to the Isle of Man, and England, Scotland, and Wales. Here, the black dog was seen. Here, merfolk and over there, giants. Fairies, werewolves, monsters, changelings, selkies...

I would like to thank I.B.Tauris for providing me with a free ARC of this book in exchange for an open and honest review. Definitely more a text book than something you casually read as something to do. And I agree with the other reviews â “ why no mention of Pratchett? Okay, thatâ ™s all going to sound far more negative than I mean it to be. This was a fascinating and educational book and I did get some fantastic information from it that was new to me. But I will stand by my comments that this is more the sort of book you read for research and study than just to while away a few hours. I like text books, I love to research and so, for me, whiling away the hours with this was sort of okayâ | but I really did find it slow going at times and it seemed to get distracted at what the point it was trying to make actually was. Heck, I get like thatâ | pretty sure at least half my reviews appear like that. ;-) But, yeah, not a book to casually read. I also found the layout format rather dull and I feel this added to the â ^text bookâ ™ feel. Then again, if â ^The Land of the Green Manâ ™ is being sold as a text book â “ nailed it. For me, too blocky, not enough gaps/ paragraphs and sometimes very easy to go cross eyed over and start thinking about other things and losing concentration on what I was trying to read. From the blurb on Netgalley I was expecting a slightly lighter style of read and not the heavy text book I got. Would I recommend this book to others? I might mention it in passing as a good reference book if people were trying to research the myths and legends associated with areas of the UK. But I wouldnâ ™t jump up and down and tell everyone it was the â ^must readâ ™ book of the season. Would I buy this book for myself? Yes I would.

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