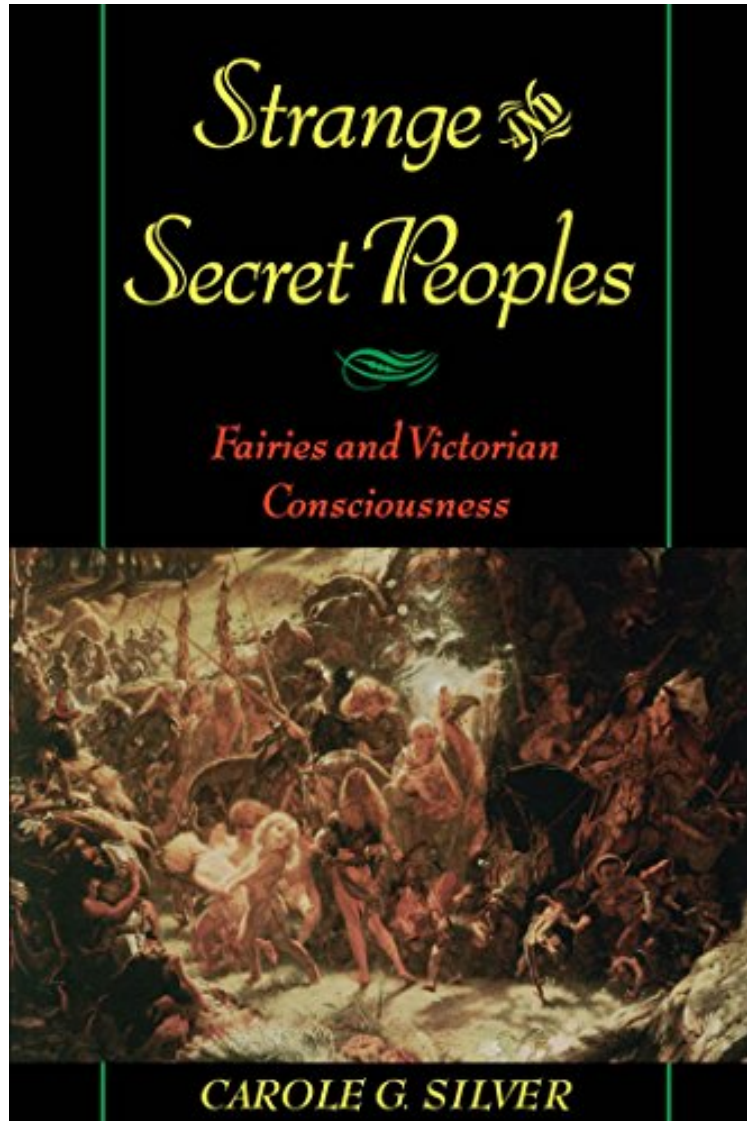


(Free read ebook) Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and Victorian Consciousness

## Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and Victorian Consciousness

Von Carole G. Silver

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**Von Carole G. Silver : Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and Victorian Consciousness** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and Victorian Consciousness:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Enchanting and trustworthy account of British fairy lore. Von Ein Kunde An enchanting book with a great deal of curious and interesting information. It's written with enough clarity and charm to appeal to nonspecialists, though it is

also an authoritative and trustworthy resource for scholars. Investigating everything from the survival of ancient beliefs (especially in the Celtic fringes of Scotland, Wales, and Ireland) through the work of anthropologists and folklorists to the cute designs for nursery wallpaper, Carole Silver demonstrates the ways in which the widespread nineteenth-century interest in fairy lore exposes fears and fantasies close to the Victorian unconscious. The author draws on an extraordinary range of sources: newspaper accounts, legal cases, theology, linguistics, the new social sciences of anthropology, ethnology and psychology, and texts ranging from the essays of Thomas Carlyle to the literary fairy tales we still read to our children. She explores in depth the belief in changeling children, the rendering of goblins and other dark primitive creatures, and the gender and power relations revealed in stories of fairy brides. This is real scholarship to illuminate the current and continuing popularity of fairies and their stories. -- Sally Mitchell, Professor of English and Women's Studies, Temple University

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not all it could be, but an interesting work  
Von careya@kenyon.edu This is an interesting study of a subject which has perhaps less attention than it deserves. In spite of the exceedingly ill-mannered review in the New York Times, the contention that at least some people in Victorian times believed in fairies is a perfectly valid one; after all, people today, many of them quite intelligent and well educated, hold similar beliefs. The author is to be commended for largely refraining from the cynicism about other peoples' experiences which mars too much academic work in fairylore and related fields. That said, it isn't quite all it could be. References to Antonio Gramsci's writings were not properly cited, making it difficult to track down the specific translation and edition used. Most importantly, the author failed to make her work fully accessible to those of us who work in related fields; particularly irritating was her use (outside period quotations) of mutilated anglicisations of words from the various Celtic languages. While these barbarous concoctions may have been in common use in Victorian literature, they obscure the connection of this literature to the folkloric source material. Embedded in modern prose, they are not only ugly and confusing, but border on the the offensive. Modern scholars of Victorian ethnography generally use accepted present day romanisations in their own writing, retaining the crude phonetic attempts of the nineteenth century only in quotes. Surely the Irish, Scots, and Welsh nations deserve the same basic courtesy as the Arab, Chinese, and Bantu peoples.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A must-buy!  
Von Ein Kunde Enchanting, illuminating, and clear-headed, Carole Silver's study of the Victorians and their fairy obsession is a warehouse of treasures for anyone interested in fairy lore and the humans who hoard it. A born storyteller and endlessly smart, Silver brings to life the ideas and images that made up what we know of Victorian culture, showing how their reality and unreality differed from our own.

Kurzbeschreibung Teeming with creatures, both real and imagined, this encyclopedic study in cultural history illuminates the hidden web of connections between the Victorian fascination with fairies and their lore and the dominant preoccupations of Victorian culture at large. Carole Silver here draws on sources ranging from the anthropological, folkloric, and occult to the legal, historical, and medical. She is the first to anatomize a world peopled by strange beings who have infiltrated both the literary and visual masterpieces and the minor works of the writers and painters of that era. Examining the period of 1798 to 1923, *Strange and Secret Peoples* focuses not only on such popular literary figures as Charles Dickens and William Butler Yeats, but on writers as diverse as Thomas Carlyle, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Charlotte Mew; on artists as varied as mad Richard Dadd, Aubrey Beardsley, and Sir Joseph Noel Paton; and on artifacts ranging from fossil skulls to photographs and vases. Silver demonstrates how beautiful and monstrous creatures--fairies and swan maidens, goblins and dwarfs, cretins and changelings, elementals and pygmies--simultaneously peopled the Victorian imagination and inhabited nineteenth-century science and belief. Her book reveals the astonishing complexity and fertility of the Victorian consciousness: its modernity and antiquity, its desire to naturalize the supernatural, its pervasive eroticism fused with sexual anxiety, and its drive for racial and imperial dominion.

.de Clap if you believe in fairies! The Victorians did, writes Carole Silver in *Strange and Secret Peoples: Fairies and Victorian Consciousness*, but she's not exactly talking about Tinkerbell here. Silver prefers the more gruesome and treacherous species of fay: changelings and vampires, brownies and goblins. The Victorians took these creatures very seriously, indeed, and according to Silver, this belief tapped into some of their society's most fundamental anxieties. Fear of physical deformity, of women's sexual power, of racial or class difference: these were the true bogeymen that haunted the Victorian imagination, and they responded with a flood of art, literature, and theater that portrayed these imaginary creatures with equal measures of fascination and horror. Silver even argues that many if not most Victorians believed in the actual physical existence of fairies, citing contemporary news accounts as her evidence. Why fairies? Creatures of the imagination and of the rural past, they offered refuge from an increasingly mechanized and empirical age. More ominously, they also provided expression for some of an imperialist nation's nastier beliefs, embodied in figures from Dr. Jekyll to Snow White's dwarves. Exhaustively researched and engagingly written, *Strange and Secret Peoples* is an original look at the complexities and contradictions of Victorian culture.

Pressestimmen "A fascinating and beautifully written book. Victorianists who think they have no interest in the

subject should think again. Silver finds fairies in every imaginable aspect of nineteenth-century British life. Scholars of Victorian anthropology and sociology; biology; genealogy; medical, legal, and women's history; imperialism; Darwinism; photography; art; and literature will all benefit from this marvelous book.... In her passionate, jargon-free prose Silver reminds us that literature always has been and literary criticism can be a sheer delight to read."--Journal of English and Germanic Philology "While Silver presents a mainly academic approach, it is highly readable and fascinating material to anyone who loves this literary period."--Michigan Alumnus Magazine "Carol G. Silver does much to remedy the dearth of historical analysis in this rich field.... Silver's book is a significant contribution to this fascinating hallmark of the Victorian era."--Victorian [Canada] "[A] fascinating account...Silver, a literature professor, provides a generally valuable service in integrating anthropological, linguistic, and folkloric materials into her discussion of Victorian conceptions of alternative worlds of existence. Recommended especially for Victorian specialists and sophisticated readers of fairy tales."--Choice "This is an entertaining and informative study of Victorian culture....Provides some of the most original reading on the subject we have."--The New York Times Book "Highly accessible....This is essential for academic libraries, and highly recommended for public libraries as well."--Library Journal "This is a masterful examination of [the nineteenth] century's burgeoning interest in the folklore of fairies, and an interpretation of this folklore in cultural and political terms.... This is a long overdue study, especially significant to anyone interested in the full range of Victorian culture from its scientific and pseudoscientific extensions of Darwinism, ethnography, and genetics to its focus on the occult 'sciences'--theosophy, spiritualism, and so on."--Marvels Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies "[Features] the choicest discoveries...Silver has culled from her vast reading in fairy lore and the Victorian folklorists....Handsomely illustrated."--Studies in English Literature "A fascinating and beautifully written book. Victorianists who think they have no interest in the subject should think again. Silver finds fairies in every imaginable aspect of nineteenth-century British life. Scholars of Victorian anthropology and sociology; biology; genealogy; medical, legal, and women's history; imperialism; Darwinism; photography; art; and literature will all benefit from this marvelous book.... In her passionate, jargon-free prose Silver reminds us that literature always has been and literary criticism can be a sheer delight to read."--Journal of English and Germanic Philology "While Silver presents a mainly academic approach, it is highly readable and fascinating material to anyone who loves this literary period."--Michigan Alumnus Magazine "Carol G. Silver does much to remedy the dearth of historical analysis in this rich field.... Silver's book is a significant contribution to this fascinating hallmark of the Victorian era."--Victorian [Canada] "[A] fascinating account...Silver, a literature professor, provides a generally valuable service in integrating anthropological, linguistic, and folkloric materials into her discussion of Victorian conceptions of alternative worlds of existence. Recommended especially for Victorian specialists and sophisticated readers of fairy tales."--Choice "This is an entertaining and informative study of Victorian culture....Provides some of the most original reading on the subject we have."--The New York Times Book "Highly accessible....This is essential for academic libraries, and highly recommended for public libraries as well."--Library Journal "This is a masterful examination of [the nineteenth] century's burgeoning interest in the folklore of fairies, and an interpretation of this folklore in cultural and political terms.... This is a long overdue study, especially significant to anyone interested in the full range of Victorian culture from its scientific and pseudoscientific extensions of Darwinism, ethnography, and genetics to its focus on the occult 'sciences'--theosophy, spiritualism, and so on."--Marvels Tales: Journal of Fairy-Tale Studies "[Features] the choicest discoveries...Silver has culled from her vast reading in fairy lore and the Victorian folklorists....Handsomely

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