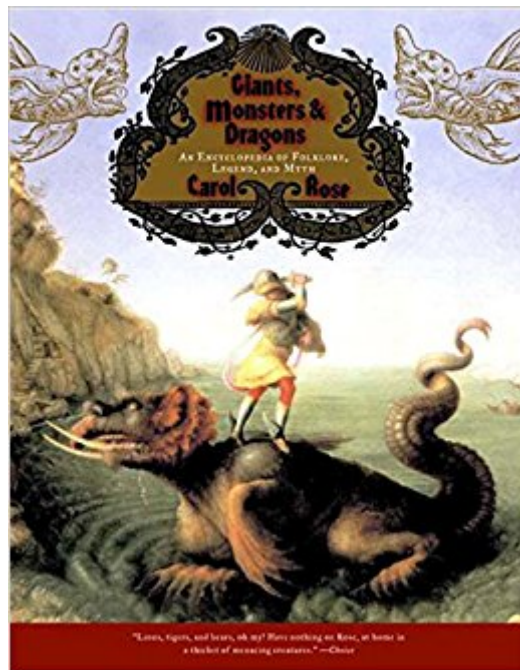


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Giants, Monsters, And Dragons: An Encyclopedia Of Folklore, Legend, And Myth



Synopsis

"Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! have nothing on Rose, at home in a thicket of menacing creatures." —Choice We have always conjured up creatures never seen in nature, from flying horses and two-headed birds to fire-breathing dragons and enormous killer skunks, as well as fantastic distortions of our own image, from giants to nubile maidens. In these pages you will meet extraordinary beings from Hindu and Navajo religions, Scandinavian tales, Russian folklore, Lithuanian stories, Irish oral history, American tall tales, and Aztec myth. Just some of the monstrous entourage: Baku, a benevolent Japanese monster with the body of a horse, the head of a lion, and the legs of a tiger, who helps people by devouring their nightmares. Kurma, the giant tortoise of Hindu myth, whose upper shell forms the heavens and lower part the earth. Missipissy, the feared fish serpent of North America's Great Lakes region. This illustrated encyclopedia not only identifies and describes individual beasts in their cultural context but also groups them together across cultures and discusses common mythological strands and conceits. 60 b/w illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are three criteria for inclusion in this near-comprehensive reference work on a relatively narrow aspect of folklore: the creature cannot be divine, it must be a supernatural being from mythology, legend, folklore, or classic literature, and it may be a cryptozoological or symbolic being, such as a heraldic beast. Although various other sources treat giants, monsters, and mystery

animals, none seems to cover them all at once, and this work's inclusion of the symbolic element appears to be unique. Entries give basic descriptions of each creature as well as its activities, region, culture, and historical period, and each entry is both cross-referenced and referenced to a selected bibliography. Appendixes categorize beings under country or region as well as such headings as "Beings Associated with Catastrophe." While works as modern as J.R.R. Tolkien's are cited, the Harry Potter series is not, though several monsters described here are present in J.K. Rowling's books. Perhaps Rose (Spirits, Fairies, Gnomes, and Goblins) does not consider Potter classic literature, but for a current reference work, this may soon prove a serious oversight. Recommended for public and school libraries where similar references are used. DKatherine K. Kaigler-Koenig, Ellis Sch., Pittsburgh, PA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! have nothing on Rose, at home in a thicket of menacing creatures. -- Choice

Encyclopaedias have always enjoyed favour as a means of presenting subject matter in a condensed and accessible form. There are a number of books that treat giants, monsters and mystery animals none however seems to cover the entire lot in one book including symbolic elements. In alphabetical order giving basic descriptions of each creature as well as its activities, region, culture and historical period. In addition to the basic description and explanation of the origins the author explains parallels to other cultural icons, common heritages and manifestations pertaining to modern popular culture. My only disappointment in this book would be the pictures although there were a number of sketches they were all black and white a bit of colour would have improved the visual effect of this encyclopaedia greatly. We have after all grown accustomed to artistically drawn and designed books. Mythical creatures have always generated popularity of immense proportion in literary works, film, t/v and the most basic beginning story telling. They are legendary creatures believed at one point in our past history to be real beings. Mythical creatures can easily be divided into two groups ones that actually existed ones that are a composition of imagination gone wild in a time where imagination played a large part of existence. Over time these stories become legends they are then transferred into modern day mythological beings or creatures through film and majestic art work. Each country has their own mythical and magical creatures, monsters and legendary heroes brought to life in a continuum. We are constantly searching and wanting to know more about these myths, they are forever haunting our imagination and will forever

continue to run along the imaginary mind. Movies, books on superheroes are forever bringing these mythical beings back to life.

Mostly small paragraphs on each creature, not many picture references; yet can give you a starting point for creature ideas for storytelling.

This book has some very useful information on a great number of various kinds of creatures including some I have never even heard of; I have enjoyed this book and it is priced reasonably.

This is a very good source of information for all those interested in folklore and mythology! There are hundreds of fascinating entries that will make you hungry for more information.

This was for my grandson and he is thrilled with it.

It was a very interesting book, but I think it could do with a couple more pictures. There are definitely some creatures that I had no idea even existed.

Thorough but dry. No color, just like an old school dictionary.

My boyfriend and I read before we go to bed. This is a great way for us to have little conversations before heading to bed. I love this book. I'm an artist who is really into doing scenes from mythology and this book has given me so much inspiration. Great!

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