

Folk-Tales of the British Isles



In the folk stories of Britain, the land teems with bogles and boggarts, witches and wolves, ghosts and giants. Mischievous Yallery Brown deceives the unwary, the great black bull of Norrway fights the devil, and Sion Dafydd finds that womans work is not as easy as he thought. By turns comic and frightening, revealing and strange, these tales evoke a shared heritage, unique to the British Isles. There is a fascination in tracing their roots in Celtic mythology, history, superstition and common rural experiences, but in the end, it is the magical pageantry of the stories themselves which continues to enchant. As Kevin Crossley-Holland says, They are doorstep stories leading to a better understanding of ourselves and our own world. Some are written down exactly as early collectors heard them told on winter evenings or amid the hum and bustle of spinning sheds, echoing with the cadences of vanished dialects. Others are retold by well-known writers like Alan Garner or W. B. Yeats, who add poetic flesh to the bones of story. It is the mark of a good fairy-story ... that however wild its events, however fantastic or terrible the adventures, it can give to child or man that hears it ... a catch of the breath, a beat and lifting of the heart J. R. R. Tolkien Chosen and introduced by Kevin Crossley-Holland. Quarter-bound in cloth with printed paper sides. Wood engravings by Hannah Firmin. 408 Pages.

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