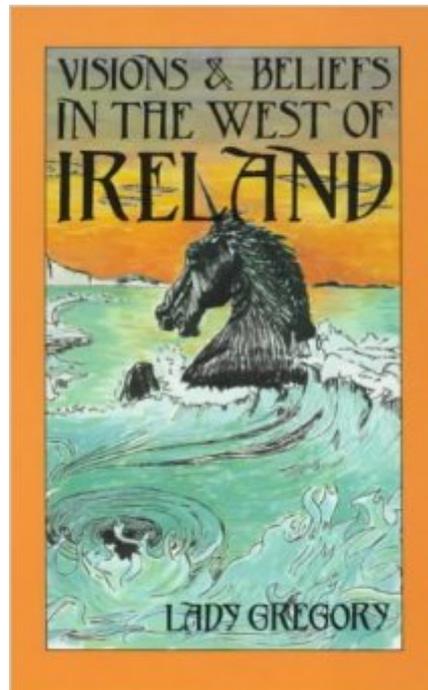


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Visions & Beliefs In The West Of Ireland



Synopsis

This material collected over a period of more than twenty years proved to be a valuable source not only for Gregory's own plays but also for Yeats' work. A classic, it presents many aspects of the supernatural seers, healers, charms, banshees, forths, the evil eye and contains a treasure trove of Irish folk-beliefs from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A rustic, wonderfully unadorned collection of anecdotes and 'stories heard' concerning fairy beliefs and fairy doings gathered and recorded at the turn of the 20th Century by Lady Augusta Gregory (with the assistance of William Butler Yeats), 'Visions & Beliefs In The West Of Ireland' (1920) will appeal directly to students of folklore, fairylore, anthropology, psychology, and religion. The book will also be of interest to the casual reader, who may be surprised to learn how prevalent the belief in fairies was in rural areas of the British Isles, and how seriously this belief was taken; and not two or three hundred years ago, but only a hundred years ago. Though far less common today, the "fairy faith" still thrives throughout the world, as several articles in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal recently made clear. Charming, colorful, and occasionally bizarre without being in the least sentimental, 'Visions & Beliefs In The West of Ireland' is required reading for anyone seriously interested in the supernatural or Irish cultural history. The fairies described here vary in appearance, but in most cases are more akin to the image of the Christian angel than to the 'flower fairy' or gnome of modern popular imagination. Never winged, only sometimes small or short, and often the size of an average man or larger, the beings observed in these recountings (or perceived but

unseen "all around us, as thick as the grass," as one man says) steal milk, kidnap babies, haunt roads, wells, and shorelines, prefer human women to act as midwives for their newborns, and require human participation to play their games and fight their wars. Who or what is the Fool of the Fort? Why May and June are the most dangerous months of the year?

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