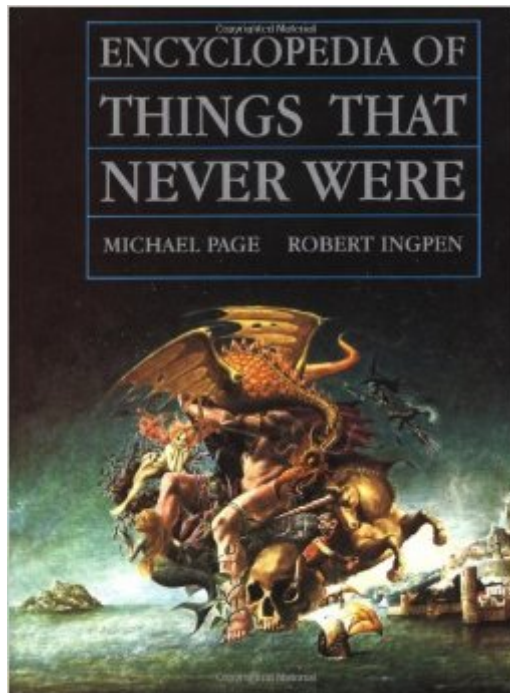


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Encyclopedia Of Things That Never Were: Creatures, Places, And People



Synopsis

Hardcover sales of more than 70,000 copies have made the Encyclopedia of Things That Never Were a classic illustrated reference to myths and legends from all corners of the world. Here--culled from mythology, literature, and folk tales--is the mystical realm that has populated humanity's imagination for centuries. Over 400 entries, engagingly written and organized by type of entity, make this a complete source of information and a visual feast. Among the entries are: from "The Cosmos," Quetzalcoatl and Scorpio; from "The Ground and Underground," centaurs, elves, and unicorns; from "Wonderland," Atlantis and El Dorado; from "Magic, Science, and Invention," flying carpets and the Trojan horse; from "Water, Sky, and Air," Pegasus and Moby-Dick; and from "The Night," a host of shuddersome creatures from vampires to the golem. This is a wild and wondrous gift for any visionary.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first came across this book by chance in my high school library. I'd read a number of books on mythology before, but I'd never seen anything like this. It became my favorite book in the library, and I'd come back to it repeatedly. Unfortunately, the volume was lost somehow, and I've been looking for a personal copy ever since. It is an amazing compilation of mythological creatures, and for it may lack as far as depth of description is concerned, it more than makes up for in the number of entries within.

I bought this book a couple of years ago in a moment of pure whim, and I've not regretted the purchase. It isn't fully reliable when it comes to facts, and therefore should not be used for research, but if you discount that and approach it as entertainment or seed for story ideas, it is lovely. The illustrations are beautiful and the way the book is arranged is clever and useful. The authors chose such a wide variety of topics and sources that the book is very good for expanding your knowledge base or finding new interests. I really appreciate that they did not focus entirely on the Greeks as if theirs were the only mythology! I run across that too often. However, for a more accurate take on mythology, I suggest something more serious like "World Mythology," edited by Roy Willis. This book is more useful in terms of facts, but the Encyclopedia of Things that Never Were is the one I read more often.

This is a large, beautifully illustrated book, full of information on a wide-range of fantasy topics. Some authors of books on mythology and fantasy take on a snooty, lecturing tone, like they're imparting true occult wisdom upon the unenlightened masses. Page and Ingpen get a little mystical but I never had the impression that they really thought they had met pixies or been to Valhalla. My only problem with it is that the entries are not sourced. There is a nice bibliography in the back but there is no indication in the individual entries where the information came from. It would have been nice to be able to follow up on the entries that I found especially interesting.

I am only 16 years old, but I am one of the biggest bibliophiles you'll ever meet. I love reading every kind of book and fantasy books are some of my favorites. I got this book as a present when I was 8 (hardcover version) and even still, every time I look at it, I find something new. As others have pointed out, there are some editing errors and some things are left out, but in my opinion, the sheer beauty and wealth of information in this book allows the reader to easily overlook it. This book can be used as a reference book, but I enjoy just thumbing through the pages and reading random entries (my favorite is "White Cat's Castle"). So, I entreat any lover of books, especially fantasy, to pick up this book and enjoy!

This book offers entertainment for the whole family! The topics are ordered alphabetically and offer a full explanation of the basic contents of different types of mythology and wonder creatures, it is always interesting, and provides rare information of certain topics that will appeal to all ages.

This book is full of fantastic facts and myths regarding many of the story time legends we all know,

as well as a few that have been forgotten over the years. I'd recommend it to anyone as an important and beloved addition to their shelf.

I love this book. I sleep next to it at night. I hold it close and coo words of endearment. I found this in my school library when I was about seven or eight. (to avoid confusion from here, my school is K-12) from then on, every few months I'd check it out for a project or just fun (I was intensely into this stuff) about my freshman year they revamped the library and I couldn't find it (GASP!!) eventually I located it on the floor, open and in pain. I cried to the heavens WHY?! and promptly put it under my arm and walked away. I've had it for about 4 years in my bed between the sideboard and mattress and every time I open it I find something new, interesting and inspirational. Only downfall is everything is written as exact so it doesn't include many variations of myths but in these situations it's a good starting point anyways.

It is an encyclopedia of the things that never existed, so if you are a curious person, like sci-fi or have a great imagination and enjoy stories, myths and stuff like that you will definitely enjoy having this book.

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