

In Search Of The Swan Maiden

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in her compendious study of the folktale of the runaway wife leavy argues that the contradictory claims of nature and culture are embodied in the legendary figure of the swan maiden a woman torn between the human and bestial worlds the new york times book review this is a study of the meaning of gender as framed by the swan maiden tale a story found in the folklore of virtually every culture the swan maiden is a supernatural woman forced to marry keep house and bear children for a mortal man who holds the key to her imprisonment when she manages to regain this key she escapes to the otherworld never to return these tales have most often been interpreted as depicting exogamous marriages describing the girl from another tribe trapped in a world where she will always be the outsider barbara fass leavy believes that in the societies in which the tale and its variants endured woman was the other the outsider trapped in a society that could never be her own leavy shows how the tale though rarely explicitly recognized is frequently replayed in modern literature beautifully written this book reveals the myriad ways in which the folktales of a society

reflect its cultural values and particularly how folktales are allegories of gender relations it will interest anyone involved in literary gender and cultural studies

in the quiet hour before dawn anything can happen a third daughter can dream of being a creature of flight and magic of wearing a swan skin like her sisters but doucette must run the castle household while her older sisters learn to weave spells her dream of flying is exactly that until the day she discovers her own hidden birthright sudden soaring freedom it is a wish come true yet it comes with a price as doucette struggles to find her own way in the world she risks losing the one she loves most of all an age old fairy tale told in a refreshingly original voice heather tomlinson s stunning debut is fantasy at its most eloquent and richly imagined

in this lush romantic retelling of one of the most enduring irish legends acclaimed celtic historical author jules watson reignites the tale of deirdre the irish helen of troy in a story that is at once magical beautiful and tragic she was born with a blessing and a curse that she would grow into a woman of extraordinary beauty and bring ruin to the kingdom of ulster and its ruler the wily conor ignoring the pleadings of his druid to expel the infant king conor secrets the girl child with a poor couple in his province where no man can covet her there under the tutelage of a shamaness deirdre comes of age in nature and magic and in the season of her awakening the king is inexorably drawn to her impossible beauty but for deirdre her fate as a man s possession is worse than death and soon the green eyed girl at home in waterfall and woods finds herself at the side of three rebellious young warriors among them is the handsome naisi his heart charged with bitterness toward the aging king and growing in love for the defiant girl naisi will lead deirdre far from ulster and into a war of wits swords and spirit that will take a lifetime to wage brimming with life and its lusts here is a soaring tale of enchantment and eternal passions and of a woman who became legend

once upon a time a young girl cried all her sadness into the lake of her local city park and a lonely black swan drank a tear and was transformed for signet being human is much harder than she imagined there are machines that are trying to kill her people who want to replace her and dizzying new emotions she d rather not feel when she finds herself torn between two wildly different worlds she must discover how much she s willing to sacrifice where she really belongs and who she truly is enter a world where birds shapeshift into wizards women emerge from sealskins swans transform into maidens and love is the most powerful enchantment of all

once upon a time there dwelled in the otherworld a princess who upon being transformed into a swan by a most troublesome spell was destined to roam the earth until called home by her true name and like ripples in a pond her fate would be intertwined with those of her royal lineage living in the waking world

the king s youngest son releases the swan maiden from servitude under the witch with three eyes

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