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Evertype presents Lafcadio Hearn's classic tales of ghosts, spirits, and the darker side of the natural world with 20 new linotypes by Mathew Staunton. --- "A legend in Ireland and in Japan where his descendants thrive to this day, Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) was himself drawn to legends, his imagination ignited initially by tales of the Celtic Otherworld and later fuelled by stories of Voodoo magic in Louisiana, an imagination that had its full flowering in far-away Japan where his restless spirit found peace. If you have any few hairs at all on your head, these venerable tales will have them standing up in wonder." -- Gabriel Rosenstock

- Published on: 2015-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .40" w x 5.51" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 174 pages

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A mix of information

By Lalla Rookh

The first part of this book contains a mix of 8 "strange" (as the title suggests) stories. The stories are an eclectic assortment of ghost tales and legend but all of them will most likely seem strange to the Western mind. Individually, the stories seem confusing, perhaps even without point, but take them as a whole and they begin to paint a picture. They lend the reader a strong sense of the Eastern mind. It is really, quite a lovely collection.

The second part of this book, contains a collection of three "essays", if you will, on insects. In particular, a sampling of insects which hold some place within Japan's culture or customs - butterflies, mosquitos and ants are covered here. To my mind, this is an unfortunate departure from the first half of the book's legends and tales. The information will likely seem a bit dry as Lafcadio Hearn (LH) hails from a different time and to many modern minds, I would think the words of his essays may seem rambling. Nonetheless, they are interesting in and of themselves for the information within. If I were to truly pick apart the fine particulars of the two subject matters, I could surely list some fine argument here as to why they are brought together as one, but in the end, the contrast is greater than the benefit. I find they cause quite some disharmony when brought together.

Two last notes for this e-book version: 1) there may be some off-putting words to the modern mind in this book's introduction, which LH had written in January of 1904, in the earliest hours of the Russo-Japanese War. For example, LH references Japanese soldiers on their war boats as "little men", etc. If you can forgive these words as those from a different time, the meat of this book will be your reward, and 2) for those that

appreciate additional information, endnotes are included at the end of each tale.

Lafcadio Hearn is well enough known to both Japanese and Westerners alike, and well enough respected by both for his translations of Japanese tales that it would seem almost criminal for a Western student of things Japanese, to completely ignore his works. This book and any of his compilations of Japanese ghost stories and legends are highly recommended.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Japanese Stories of the Supernatural

By Mike Keeper

Excellent collection of old Japanese Stories of the supernatural! Stories of ghosts, demons, goblins, and other creatures of the supernatural. Japan has a rich history of Yokai which are creatures of the supernatural. In Shinto tradition everything has Kami or spirit in it, so anything can develop into supernatural beings of good, evil, or just a neutral spirit being. Fascinating reading!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Good gift.

By K. Gaston

I purchased this as a gift and I think it will be a big hit.

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