

Synopsis

Fabulous animals, specters from the shadow world, nature spirits, and sacred beings: these are the monstrous, marvelous, and mythic creatures that have come down to us in folklore and legend. Some probably have their origins in reality; others spring completely from the imagination—and they are all here, in this stunningly illustrated bible. It's rich in history and images, and international in scope, covering dragons and serpents; weird insects like the Aztec Itzpapalotl; zombies, golems, and banshees; the watery Undine; the Monkey King, Sun Wukong; and much, much more. A fascinating and informative work. A

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Customer Reviews

This book may be small, but like many other books in the "bible series" it is packed with valuable information. I greatly recommend this book if you are looking for a quick reference on a huge variety of mythical creatures. I find this book to work best as a quick intro to the many varied and unique creatures. You'll obviously have to do more research on your own if you want lots of detail as this book only devotes a paragraph to a page per creature, but browsing through here will definitely get your curiosity rolling, especially if you are an aspiring writer. The illustrations are also wonderful, they really help sort of bring the creatures to life, I mean let's face it, as wonderful as the the imagination is, with some of the very outlandish descriptions of these creatures it is hard to picture in your mind exactly what they might look like, but this book does an excellent job of beautifully

illustrating almost every creature. Highly recommended to anyone interested in mythical creatures.

This book has creatures you're familiar with and ones you've never even heard of!! The illustrations are beautiful. I needed a good reference book for when I wrote about mythical creatures and this was beyond perfect.

Brenda Rosen's *The Mythical Creatures Bible* stretches a bit to embrace the breadth of a definitive "bible" of all legendary creatures. A small book, only 5 1/2" x 6 1/2" by 1", it nonetheless manages a wide range of entries, many of which readers may not have encountered before. Though the accompanying text for each creature comprises only a paragraph or two, the book still manages to enlighten. Author Rosen breaks the categories of creatures into "Fabulous Animals," "Creatures from the Shadow World," "Nature Spirits," and "Sacred Creatures." Fabulous Animals looks at the weird animals found in bestiaries from Greek myths, Marco Polo, and local folklore, including a large section on dragons from all parts of the world. Other odd animals noted include the Bishop Fish, Sedna, Yale, and Feng Huang. Creatures of the Shadow World covers the more malevolent entities, including werecreatures, black dogs, Vetala, Popobawa, Draugr, and Wendigo. Nature Spirits include descriptions of nymphs, Huldra, Undine, Peri, and Uldar and more. Sacred Creatures looks at the divine beasts, gods, and demigods of Egypt, Greece, Scandinavia, the East and elsewhere, including beings from the Bible. Filled with illustrations ranging in quality from pleasant to glorious, this book is not only a fine resource for facts but also a visual treat, especially when depicting lesser-known creatures. Seeing images of creatures rarely depicted helps form an image in the reader's mind that reinforces the text. So while this may not qualify as a primary source for research, it's a fascinating read for anyone who wants to know more about the strange beings that may or may not inhabit this small, blue planet and the heavens surrounding it.

I have been using this book as a reference in a personal project of mine. It has also become a fun book to carry around in boring times. Its small size makes it portable, and its brief entries are perfect for browsing on the go. Its detailed illustrations add color and joy to the descriptions, and to minds of easily distracted readers. I especially love the author's honest effort to include creatures from all over the world, and not just those from European myths. I especially loved seeing illustrations of some of the less-familiar creatures. For instance, the Adaro is the fish man of the Solomon Islands who slides down rainbows. The Baku is Japan's cute elephant-lion hybrid that eats nightmares. Seeing these creatures illustrated with the same realism and detail as the famous European ones places

them on equal grounds, and teaches readers that good myths come from all over the world! But if I had written this book, I would have arranged it differently, and come up with a slightly different list of creatures. The chapters seem to be somewhat arbitrary, and I usually have to look in the index in order to figure out where to find a particular creature. Also, the word "creature" is used quite loosely, often referring to any mythical being, even those that look human in appearance. I was particularly disappointed by the last chapter, "Sacred Creatures of Native America and Mesoamerica." It turns into more of a list of gods and characters of legend, rather than the fanciful bestiary that comprises most of the rest of the book. It looks almost as though the author ran out of time when doing the research. I hope that the second edition of this book corrects this deficiency.

A great source for any cryptozoologist, fantasy writer or anyone just interested in mythical creatures. Well written and great artwork. My 10-year-old loves it as well, (although the chapter on seductive creatures is for older readers.) Gerome Gnome and the Flying Pancake Gerome Gnome and the Fallen Star (The Adventures of Gerome Gnome and Friends) (Volume 2)

Don't be fooled by the book's size. It contains a treasure trove of information on the many supernatural creatures that exist in our world. Although I expected more in-depth, detailed encyclopedia-style entries for various creatures, it instead offers sections on different types of creatures, and sometimes, the section for a certain monster (like the Vampire or the Dragon) goes on for pages at a time. Although relatively small, it contains a HUGE amount of information. I was hoping for obscure information, but it seems that the author has put together all her knowledge on these subjects into one whole. Overall, I would say that this is a great book, and well worth the money and the time it takes to receive it.

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