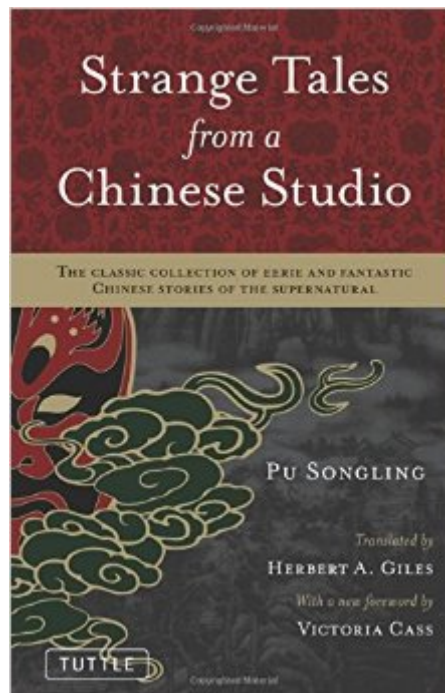


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Strange Tales From A Chinese Studio: The Classic Collection Of Eerie And Fantastic Chinese Stories Of The Supernatural (Tuttle Classics)



Synopsis

Long considered a masterpiece of the eerie and fantastic, *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio* is a collection of supernatural-themed tales compiled from ancient Chinese folk stories by Songling Pu in the eighteenth century. These tales of ghosts, magic, vampirism, and other things bizarre and fantastic are an excellent Chinese companion to Lafcadio Hearn's well-known collections of Japanese ghost stories *Kwaidan* and *In Ghostly Japan*. Already a true classic of Chinese literature and of supernatural tales in general, this new edition of the Herbert A. Giles translation converts the work to Pinyin for the first time and includes a new foreword by Victoria Cass that properly introduces the book to both readers of Chinese literature and of hair-raising tales best read with the lights turned low on a quiet night. Some of the stories found in these pages include: *The Tiger of Zhaocheng*, *The Magic Sword*, *Miss Lianziang*, *the Fox-Girl*, *The Quarrelsome Brothers*, *The Princess Lily*, *A Rip Van Winkle*, *The Resuscitated Corpse*, *Taoist Miracles*, *A Chinese Solomon*

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy reading traditional ghost stories and over the years I have read Chinese ghost stories as well. I was delighted to find that this book has an excellent collection of them. If you have never read Chinese ghost stories before, it is a splendid volume to experience the tales for the first time or to add to your collection. This book has 159 short stories in it and they range in length from several paragraphs to several pages. There were several stories where I had read a variation of the same

thing in other books. However, those were few and all the rest were new to me. They are well written and exemplify the themes that are prevalent in the culture - gods taking mortal forms, ghosts seeming to be real people who wed and have children with mortals, and animals, especially foxes, housing the spirits of the dead. These stories are frequently morality tales as well. If someone is evil then their fate will be bad but if you are true to a loved one or a cause, the outcome can be a happy one. I have greatly enjoyed reading it and it will hold up to future readings as well. The number of stories contained in the book makes it well worth the cost. This one is a keeper for me. I would highly recommend it.

This is such a great set of stories packed quite densely into a single volume. There's some additional translation to be done in order to read them to my children, as the language is quite formal and doesn't hold their attention the way simpler words do, but we persist! My personal favorite so far (which I haven't read to the kids) is the one in which a tiger acts as a surrogate son to a woman whose child the tiger has killed; it's a little melancholy to be sure, but very sweet all the same.

good

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