



## Russian Myths

*Elizabeth Warner*

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## **Russian Myths** Elizabeth Warner

The coming of Christianity to the state of Kievan Rus' at the end of the tenth century had an enormous impact on the development of Russian civilization. Despite the abandonment of the pagan gods, both Christian and pagan practices and beliefs continued to coexist for centuries, producing a system known as "dual faith."

Russian Myths deals with mythic beliefs, notions, and customs--concerning the veneration of earth, water, fire, and air, demons and spirit-beings in the world of nature, the cult of the dead, and witchcraft--many of which have their roots in the pre-Christian past but still survive to the present day. To illuminate the evolution of major themes and motifs and set Russian myths in the context of mythology the world over, Elizabeth Warner draws upon a rich variety of sources, including anecdotal narrative forms and religious legends, epic songs, funeral laments and folk religion, and, of course, the folktales where the sacred gives way to pure imagination in the depiction of mythic themes and characters.

## **Russian Myths Details**

Date : Published July 1st 2002 by University of Texas Press

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Author : Elizabeth Warner

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# From Reader Review Russian Myths for online ebook

## Jessica says

Informative, useful bibliography, but the writing style wasn't super captivating.

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## Kristen says

Enjoyable read, but not really academic.

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## Jennifer says

A pretty slow read for such a short book. Mostly talks about recurring themes and character types in Russian folklore, occasionally elaborates on a specific story. Interesting, but not particularly entertaining.

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## Haven says

One of the most comprehensive books on myths that I have read in a long time. This book covers many time spans, such as the myths in Russia before the rise of Christianity. The most intriguing for me was reading about dual faiths. I particularly enjoyed reading about the myths combining christianity along with pagan myths. These myths made a huge mark on the identity of who Russia is today. It's a great academic read.

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## Zebardast Zebardast says

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## **EAL says**

Concise and interesting. The information flowed logically from one point to the next. Though the book pointed out connections between topics, it did not repeat itself too much except on the point that pagan beliefs blended with Orthodox. The book wasn't dry even though many books detailing myths objectively are.

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## **Melissa says**

Bits of the beginning of this book were very dry. I wasn't reading it for those bits anyway.

This was a great, concise, and readable collection of myth/fairytale elements in Russian folklore. It has given me a lot to chew on in regards to the story I'm trying to write. I highly recommend it if you're in search of some insight behind Russian myths and legends.

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## **Julius says**

I do not know if I have ever mentioned how strongly I am enthralled by folk-lore. I like mythology, but folklore rises higher. But wait, you might ask, doesn't the title of that book say 'myths'?. Indeed it does. While this book is a history of Russian mythology so to speak, it actually I think should have been placed as folk-lore, because that is really what the book concerns; the folk-lore and superstitions of the peasants.

It starts with the explanation and a look at some of the spritual beings that the Russians believed in. Then moves on to explore the things they considered sacred, evil, good, fortunate, abominable, and so forth. One can really learn a good deal about a people by finding out about their lore and myths. I have done so with the Russians. The book was quite informative for what it was. As stated in my before opinion, I think that a title such as 'A breif look into Russian folk-lore' would have suited this book better. But I enjoyed it well enough.

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## **Helena R-D says**

It's a great primer for most of the Russian and Slavic myths, but that's it. You need to get more in-depth sources if you want more.

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## **Kim says**

Not a collection of myths as so much as an analysis of Russian myth structure and pre-Christian beliefs. For as tiny as this book is (respectively), it's quite dense.

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## **Joseph says**

This is an excellent, succinct summary of Russian mythology assembled by an honest and thorough researcher in the field, put forth without embellishment.

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## **Writtenwyrdd says**

If you are looking for a lot of information on Russian myths and/or folk beliefs, this extremely slender and overpriced volume is not the place to turn. As an alternative, you might try Russian Folk Belief by Linda Ivanits, which, while a bit too scholarly in tone for easy digestion, is still full of valuable bits of information. In particular, I appreciate how she places beliefs and mythology in the context of both time and place, as these folk beliefs change over time. The mythology can be found in other places, but as I was looking for references for a story I'm writing, this was the best book I was able to find.

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## **Cwn\_annwn\_13 says**

Really just as much about Russian Pagan beliefs, Gods, folklore and folk custom as much as any Russian mythological system. Its a short and basic book but is also full of nice illustrations. This seems to me like a very good introductory book for someone studying this books subject matter. I look forward to reading more about the Slavic interpretations of the Indo-European Gods in the future.

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## **Ευθυμ?α Δεσποτ?κη says**

Δεν ξ?ρω αν μου λ?θηκαν ?λες οι απορ?ες, αλλ? μια καλ? αρχ? για εμβ?θυνση την π?ρα.

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