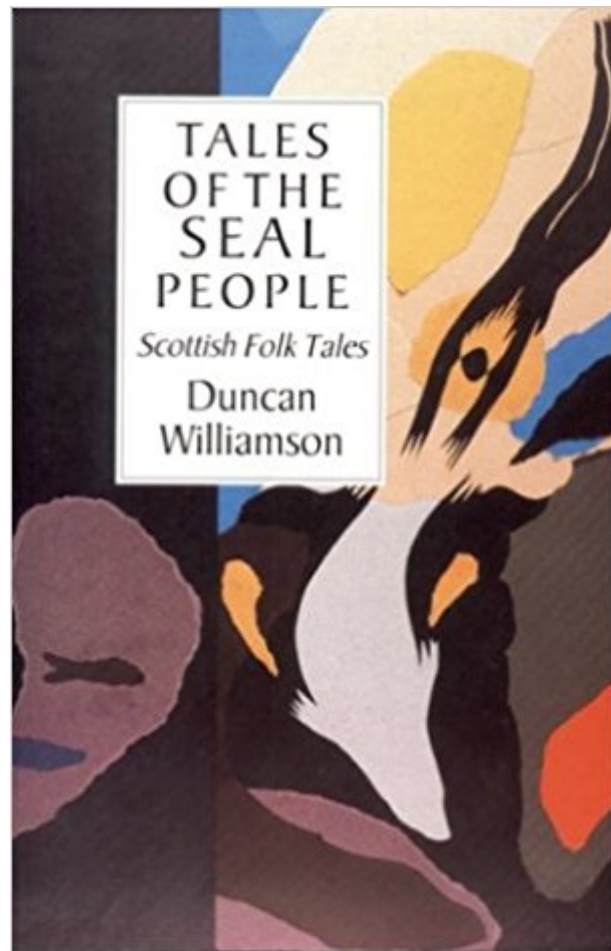




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Tales Of The Seal People: Scottish Folk Tales (International Folk Tales)



Synopsis

A collection of Scottish folk tales featuring silkies, the seal people who can take human shape.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Series: International Folk Tales

Paperback: 160 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Grade 4 Up-- A collection of 14 selkie tales from the Orkney and Shetland islands off the northern tip of Scotland. Five previously appeared in Williamson's *Fireside Tales of the Traveller Children* (Harmony, 1985; o.p.), but this new volume has bare-bones retellings that state the plot lines with scant attention to characterization or atmosphere. A brief introduction and short prefaces tell how the veteran storyteller came across the tales, and sometimes offer details about their sources and the people who passed them along to him. A glossary helps with the dialect, although the tales do not depend heavily upon it. Illustrations decorate the start of each story; they are dark, almost silhouetted in appearance. The big advantage to this book is that it collects, in one volume, stories that would otherwise require researching many indexes to locate. Also, there is a current curiosity about seal people; recently such writers as Mordicai Gerstein (*The Seal Mother* , Dial, 1986), Susan Cooper (*The Selkie Girl* , McElderry, 1986), and Sylvia Peck (*Seal Child* , Morrow, 1989) have used the motif. Large collections may want this as a source of more material for interested students, teachers, and storytellers. --Kay McPherson, Central Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, GA
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As an avid reader with a passion for shape-shifters of all kinds, this book suits my needs to perfection. These stories about the seal people were collected on site and are flavored with the smell and taste of the sea. Our curiosity about seals is stoked by their remarkable resemblance to ourselves in some ways--those melting brown eyes, their cries and more. In a time when folk lived close to the earth and sea, these legends helped them navigate unexplained mysteries. Today, when perhaps we know too much, they take us back to the possibilities of fantasy.

I think this is a really beautiful collection of authentic Scottish crofters' stories. Those not used to reading Scottish folk tales will probably find the stories repetitive at times, but the repetition is important - these themes were constants in the peoples' lives. It seems that Mr. Williamson did a good job of capturing the real stories and the real people who told them.

I am a tour guide, docent to the elephant seals at Ano Nuevo, California. I love to tell the silkie seal stories. I know the people do not give a phoquelazation about me but I do believe they like to hear the stories of the hidden secret under the bed. Q: does anyone know more Silkie, Seal stories? Does anyone have a secret seal story?

From story one in this book I was hooked. This is my favorite book of Scottish Folk Tales of the Sealies. The writings are accurate to the versions of these stories that I have heard from other sources over the years. I recommend this book to a collector of Scottish Folk Tales definitely.

great

The stories about Selkies are a very traditional Folktales and this collection is a very good representation.

this book might be a little slow to some but it is mainly for the tails and the insight it gives to the scots.

Nice story.

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