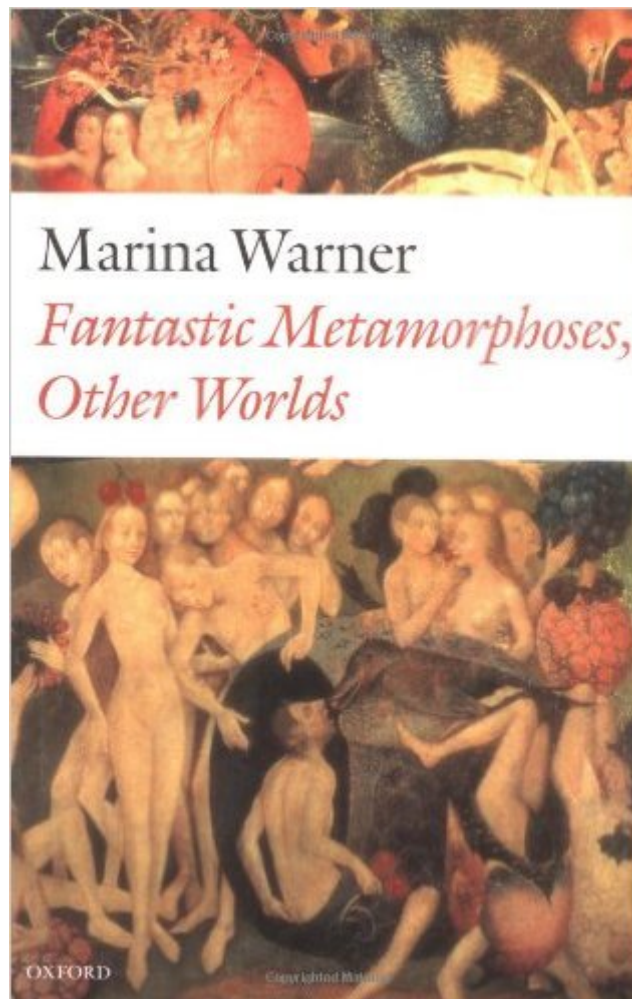


The book was found

Fantastic Metamorphoses, Other Worlds: Ways Of Telling The Self (Clarendon Lectures In English Literature)



Synopsis

Metamorphosis is a dynamic principle of creation, vital to natural processes of generation and evolution, growth and decay, yet it also threatens personal identity if human beings are subject to a continual process of bodily transformation. Shape-shifting also belongs in the landscape of magic, witchcraft, and wonder, and enlivens classical mythology, early modern fairy tales and uncanny fictions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In *Fantastic Metamorphoses, Other Worlds*, acclaimed novelist and critic Marina Warner explores the metaphorical power of metamorphoses in the evocation of human personality. Beginning with Ovid's great poem, *The Metamorphoses*, as the founding text of the metamorphic tradition, she takes us on a journey of exploration, into the fantastic art of Hieronymous Bosch, the legends of the Taino people, the life cycle of the butterfly, the myth of Leda and the Swan, the genealogy of the Zombie, the pantomime of Aladdin, the haunting of doppelgangers, the coming of photography, and the late fiction of Lewis Carroll. Beautifully illustrated and elegantly written, *Fantastic Metamorphoses, Other Worlds* is sure to appeal to all readers interested in mythology, art, and literature.

Book Information

Series: Clarendon Lectures in English Literature

Hardcover: 284 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (November 21, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0198187262

ISBN-13: 978-0198187264

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.9 x 5.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,749,765 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #307 in [Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism](#) #1002 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > Literary Theory](#) #2587 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Medieval](#)

Customer Reviews

The book tackles the idea of metamorphoses as a theme in art and literature. Stirred into the mix are mythology, encounters between Europeans and tribal peoples in the New World and how those encounters affected art and literature produced in the Western tradition, meanwhile relating all these

to the idea of personal identity. Among the works discussed in detail are Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, Apuleius' *The Golden Ass*, Hieronymus Bosch's painting *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, some Renaissance-era graphic sexual depictions of Leda and the Swan, Maria Merian's late 17th century natural history studies of butterflies, and then onto a discussion of zombies, Coleridge, Jean Rhys, Kafka, Nabokov, photography, Lewis Carroll and more. This may all sound like heavy going, but Warner writes for the layperson, and you need not have read the primary sources to follow her reasoning. (But her discussion and excerpts made me want to check out a copy of Ovid and read it for myself!) The artwork is illustrated by plates, some in color. The book is an ambitious attempt to raise issues more than come to sweeping conclusions, with chapters titled *Mutating*, *Hatching*, *Splitting*, *Doubling*. Those interested in Joseph Campbell, Carl Jung, and other writers on comparative mythology should find it interesting. The chapters on *Mutating* and *Hatching* were more compelling to me as someone with a special interest in art and mythology. Fans of 19th century literature, especially Gothic literature, may prefer *Splitting* and *Doubling*. And it is blessedly free of any type of academic jargon. Indeed, Warner also conveys the sheer enjoyment of reading or looking at the material she discusses.

Marina Warner is an amazing scholar and teacher. In this book, she begins with the *Metamorphoses* of Ovid, and continues with other changes in the human spirit, in both literary and natural history. The chapter on zombies is particularly relevant to her novel *Indigo*; the explication of the Greek psyche is familiar ground, but well done. The only flaw in this brilliant work is the continual return to Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* as an allegory of life. Her enthusiasm for the painting does not match her vast knowledge of classical and popular literature. However, I recommend this book highly as a helpful tool to any student of the humanities.

This is a fascinating, truly fascinating, analysis of the metamorphic trends in literature, and how those trends are used in fiction to "tell" the self. It's divided into four parts. The first three: *Mutating*, *Hatching*, and *Splitting* covered a lot of new ground for me. The fourth section: *Doubling*, not so much. *Mutating* addressed the cross-pollination of ideas between cultures. *Hatching* dove more into issues of identity. *Splitting* provided an in-depth look at how Zombies came to be. *Doubling* covered a lot of ground with images and photography. It was the hardest section to read, and the least interesting. I've always viewed transformation as a positive thing. I came away from this study with the new understanding that many cultures/religions have found transformation to be threatening.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Fantastic Metamorphoses, Other Worlds: Ways of Telling the Self (Clarendon Lectures in English Literature) States of Fantasy (Clarendon Lectures in English) Self-Discipline: Achieve Unbreakable Self-Discipline: How To Build Confidence, Willpower, Motivation, Self-Belief And Master Your Life!: Self control, ... Self-Confidence, Self-esteem, Organizing) Self-Love: The 21-Day Self-Love Challenge - Learn how to love yourself unconditionally, cultivate self-worth, self-compassion and self-confidence (self ... happiness) (21-Day Challenges Book 6) Self Help: How To Live In The Present Moment (Self help, Self help books, Self help books for women, Anxiety self help, Self help relationships, Present Moment, Be Happy Book 1) Talk English: The Secret To Speak English Like A Native In 6 Months For Busy People (Including 1 Lesson With Free Audio & Video) (Spoken English, listen English, Speak English, English Pronunciation) Numerology: Divination & Numerology: Fortune Telling, Success in Career & Wealth, Love & Relationships, Health & Well Being - Fortune Telling With Numbers ... Runes, Zodiac Signs, Star Signs Book 1) Numerology: Divination & Numerology: Fortune Telling, Success in Career & Wealth, Love & Relationships, Health & Well Being - Fortune Telling With Numbers to Reveal Your Future Self Hypnosis for Beginners: The Ultimate Guide With Systematic Steps To Master Self Hypnosis (Self Hypnosis, Self hypnosis as you read, Self hypnosis diet) Self Hypnosis: The Ultimate Beginners Guide To Mastering Self Hypnosis In 7 Days (self hypnosis, self hypnosis diet, self hypnosis for dummies) Bridal Bargains, 8th Edition: Secrets to throwing a fantastic wedding on a realistic budget (Bridal Bargains: Secrets to Throwing a Fantastic Wedding on a Realistic Budget) The Government of Self and Others: Lectures at the College de France, 1982-1983 (Lectures at the Collège de France) Telling Sexual Stories: Power, Change and Social Worlds Fantastic Worlds: Myths, Tales, and Stories The Norton Anthology of English Literature (Ninth Edition) (Vol. B) (Norton Anthology of English Literature (Paperback)) Tales from Ovid: 24 Passages from the Metamorphoses Metamorphoses (Oxford World's Classics) Metamorphoses (Penguin Classics) Musings on Human Metamorphoses (Leary, Timothy) NAVY SEAL: Self Discipline: How to Become the Toughest Warrior: Self Confidence, Self Awareness, Self Control, Mental Toughness