



The Supernatural Revamped: From Timeworn Legends to Twenty-First-Century Chic

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This book is the logical continuation of a series of collected essays examining the origins and evolution of myths and legends of the supernatural in Western and non-Western tradition and popular culture. The first two volumes of the series, *The Universal Vampire: Origins and Evolution of a Legend* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2013) and *Images of the Modern Vampire: The Hip and the Atavistic*. (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2013) focused on the vampire legend. The essays in this collection expand that scope to include a multicultural and multigeneric discussion of a pantheon of supernatural creatures who interact and cross species-specific boundaries with ease. Angels and demons are discussed from the perspective of supernatural allegory, angelic ethics and supernatural heredity and genetics. Fairies, sorcerers, witches and werewolves are viewed from the perspectives of popular nightmare tales, depictions of race and ethnicity, popular public discourse and cinematic imagery. Discussions of the “undead and still dead” include images of death messengers and *draugar*, zombies and vampires in literature, popular media and Japanese anime.

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Editorial Review

Review

The third collection edited by Brodman and Doan—after *The Universal Vampire: Origins and Evolution of a Legend* (2013) and *Images of the Modern Vampire: The Hip and the Atavistic* (CH, Aug'14, 51-6535)—this volume offers 17 brief essays written by international scholars in various disciplines and focused on a range of supernatural beings in literature, film, and other forms of popular culture. The first section, 'Ethereals and Terrestrials,' emphasizes the seemingly endless variety of supernatural creatures from the ancient world to the present; the second, 'The Undead and Still Dead,' focuses more on various versions of zombie narratives in popular culture. Highlights include treatments of culture-specific supernatural creatures in popular culture, including essays by Tommy Kuusela, Claudia Schaefer and Raúl Rodríguez-Hernández, and Masaya Shimokusu, writing on Swedish, Mexican, and Japanese culture, respectively.... Summing Up: Recommended.... Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers. (*CHOICE*)

About the Author

Barbara Brodman is professor in the Department of History and Political Science at Nova Southeastern University.

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