

Strange Tales From A Chinese Studio

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with their elegant prose witty wordplay and subtle charm the 62 stories in this selection from the strange tales of pu songling 1640 1715 reveal a world in which nothing is as it seems here a taoist monk conjures up a magical pear tree a scholar recounts his previous incarnations a woman out foxes the fox spirit that possesses her a child bride gives birth to a thimble sized baby a ghostly city appears out of nowhere and a heartless daughter in law is turned into a pig in his tales of humans coupling with shape shifting spirits bizarre phenomena haunted buildings and enchanted objects pu songling pushes back the boundaries of human experience and enlightens as he entertains

this elibron classics title is a reprint of the original edition published by t werner laurie ltd in london 1916

the strange tales of pu songling 1640 1715 are exquisite and amusing miniatures that are regarded as the pinnacle of classical chinese fiction with their elegant prose witty wordplay and subtle charm the 104 stories in this selection reveal a world in which nothing is as it seems here a taoist monk conjures up a magical pear tree a scholar recounts his previous incarnations a woman out foxes the fox spirit that possesses her a child bride gives birth to a thimble sized baby a ghostly city appears out of nowhere and a heartless daughter in law is turned into a pig in his tales of humans coupling with shape shifting spirits bizarre phenomena haunted buildings and enchanted objects pu songling pushes back the boundaries of human experience and enlightens as he entertains

strange stories from a chinese studio or liaozhai zhiyi also strange tales from a chinese studio or strange tales of liaozhai is a collection of nearly 500 mostly supernatural tales written by pu songling in classical chinese during the early qing dynasty the stories differ broadly in length with the shortest under a page long many are classified as chuanqi or zhiguai sometimes translated as marvel tales that is stories written in classical chinese starting in the tang dynasty pu borrows from a tradition of oral storytelling where the boundary between reality and the odd or fantastic is blurred the stories are filled with magical foxes ghosts scholars jiangshi court officials taoist exorcists and beasts wikicommons

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 lianxiang 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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pu songling was a qing dynasty chinese writer best known as the author of strange stories from a chinese studio

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