Lost Tales of Narnia

Joe R. Christopher
Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien
Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021

This poetry is available in Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature: https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol15/iss4/14
Lost Tales of Narnia

...at the age of fourteen, I embarked on my first book: a set of twenty imaginary-world stories, more or less connected, set in the same world as Narnia, though my characters never actually ventured into C.S. Lewis's territory. I wrote C.S. Lewis, asking if I could use his world this way; and he very nicely wrote back, saying I could.

—Sanders Anne Laubenthal (1973)

What Secret wonders have not seen their print:
what princesses were kidnapped, lost, or strayed;
what prince fought in wars of high intent:
what mythic creatures danced or loved or hid;
what talking animals, in woody haunt,
told tales of even older days of need?

What noble prince, at time of need,
threw off her skirt with swans in silver print, and, dressed in leggings, fled the social haunt?
Perhaps she followed where the centaurs strayed, a herd of them; perhaps, neath lemurs hid in leafy boughs, she pitched her grass-green tent.

What noble prince, in sloth of soul's content, feeling for great adventure nary a need, a third son of an evil king who hid in dungeon's depth a map, a jewel, a print —
what youth was stirred by a sudden thought
which strayed most oddly, wandering if ghosts the cellars haunt?

What leprechaun has left his misty haunt, going a-cobbling with concealed intent, wandering from hamlet to hamlet, as if he strayed with but regard to monetary need?
Perhaps he sought a signet to imprint an ancient seal; perhaps a sword long hid.

What wallaby, with secret message hid within her pocket, bounced, as if from haunt, across the grasslands? What wildcat scratched clawprint in villain's hand? What goat, intent on climbing mountain heights at sacred need, leapt far to far, without a balustrade?

All these and more, the twenty tales now strayed might tell, but their high secrets are long hid:
who hears a pelican sing its lonely need;
who dared the graves invade of ghoulish haunt;
who failed and who proved glorious competent —
all these are lost, for never finding print.

And did a hidden Lion's paw imprint on those far, haunted regions, where strangers strayed a-questing, a needed, numinous content?

—Joe R. Christopher

 Benefactors

Benefactors support the improvement and outreach of MYTHOLOGY by making donations of $20 or more beyond the cost of subscription. For this much appreciated support they are listed for four issues. You are encouraged to become a Benefactor and show your support in this way.

Mary Borhek
Geffrey F. Brenny
Bonnie Callahan
Robert Hall, Jr.
Alison S. Lewis
Kathryn Lindskoog
Ted Nasmith
Anne Osborn
Rivendell Discussion Group
Peter Schakel
Mary McDermott Shideler

St. Paul, MN
Buena Park, CA
Pasadena, CA
Ithaca, NY
Hayward, CA
Orange, CA
Toronto, Canada
Orange, CA
St. Paul, MN
Holland, MI
Boulder, CO