



The Mythological Zoo

Oliver Herford

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Oliver Herford is adept at pairing whimsical illustrations with humorous poetry, and *The Mythological Zoo* is no exception. Each of the 22 illustrations of classic mythological beasts is accompanied by a brief poetic verse. Medusa, Cerberus, the Chimera, the Phoenix, and the Centaur grace these pages, amongst many more. These original drawings have been clarified and intensified from their original publication.

The Mythological Zoo Details

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Author : Oliver Herford

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From Reader Review The Mythological Zoo for online ebook

Debbie Zapata says

Since I'm going to be away from the computer for a few days I have been amusing myself today by reading a few of the super-short titles that have been lurking about in my lists.

This 1912 collection was the fourth Oliver Herford book I have come across, but it is my least favorite. He did much better when he was writing about his Persian kitten!

This is a simple concept: he writes a little ditty about a mythological creature and then draws an illustration. There were a few gems, a few with groaning puns, and too many that compared the creatures to various Society types. The drawings were cute, though. Here is the link to the Gutenberg edition, with drawings.
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/23749/...>

And a few of my favorites from the zoo:

The Cockatrice (Basically a dragon with a rooster's head)

*If you will listen to advice
You will avoid the Cockatrice—
A caution I need hardly say
Wholly superfluous to-day.
Yet had you lived when they were rife
Such warning might have saved your life.
To meet the Cockatrice's eye
Means certain death—and that is why
When I its features here portray
I make it look the other way.
O Cockatrice! were you so mean
What must the Henatrice have been!*

The Salamander

*The Salamander made his bed
Among the glowing embers red.
A Fiery Furnace, to his mind,
Hygiene and Luxury combined.
He was, if I may put it so,
A Saurian Abednigo.
He loved to climb with nimble ease
The branches of the Gas-log Trees
Where oft on chilly winter nights
He rose to dizzy Fahrenheits.
Believers in Soul Transmigration
See in him the Re-incarnation
Of those Sad Plagues of summer, who
Ask, "Is it hot enough for you?"*

The Centaur

*The Centaur led a double life:
Two natures in perpetual strife
He had, that never could agree
On what the bill-of-fare should be;
For when the man-half set his heart
On taking dinner à la carte,
The horse was sure to cast his vote
Unswervingly for table d'OAT.
A pretty sort of life to lead;
The horse in time went off his feed,
The hungry man was nigh demented,
When one day—oatmeal was invented!*

Nicky Nocky says

This wasn't what I was expecting at all. I thought it might be a study of mythological creatures.

In fact, it's a short collection of poems about mythological creatures. Funny ones.

Well I laughed anyway. Rather enjoyable.

Darlene says

I actually quite enjoyed this little book of rhyming poems and mythical creatures! It was really fun! With that being said, the art was beautiful and it was a shame to see that talent get copied into black and white when you can tell it originally had color, like the front cover. I would love to see the pages all in color someday and I think that will lead this book to become a masterpiece found in everyone's homes. Oliver Herford did a good job in creating this and I hope others enjoyed it as much as I have!

Julia says

Saw a book for this in the Giveaways while it fascinated me So I was wondering if there was a free one to review. The book is interesting but being an older translation for free that meant the pictures were lost if there were every any while those are what I would like to see.

Some of the poems were creatively done but others didn't truly make much of any sense. The latter type of poems mostly rambled about something while not really covering the "creature", "monster" or "beast" in question such as the Unicorn. Others were thought out enough to make you wonder.

The poems were short and rhymed so they would make for easy, fast reading. If you are looking to learn more about fantastical creatures this isn't for you as they stick primarily with Classical culture while again

not giving out any facts on the ones you may want to read about the most.

Nicholas says

Not at all what I was expecting when I downloaded it to my Kindle. From the title I had assumed this book to be a study of mythological creatures. Instead I was presented with a series of poems that describe famous mythological creatures, mostly drawn from Graeco-Roman myths. Nevertheless the poems were entertaining enough that I was not completely disappointed. Some of the references to myths, however, are quite oblique, so I would recommend finding and reading the relevant myths first, the poems will mean more that way.

Mckinley says

Great. Poems about mythological beasts in an alphabet structure.
