

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787938503321
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Titolo	Children into swans : fairy tales and the pagan imagination // Jan Beveridge
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal, Quebec : , : McGill-Queen's University Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-7735-9617-8 0-7735-9616-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (296 p.)
Disciplina	398.2094
Soggetti	Fairy tales - Europe - History and criticism Fairy tales - Europe
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Cover""; ""Half-title""; ""Title""; ""Copyright""; ""Dedication""; ""Contents""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Preface""; ""A Note on Spelling""; ""Pronunciation""; ""PART ONE: History""; ""1 Early Storytellers""; ""2 The Oldest a€œFairya€? Tale""; ""3 The Manuscript""; ""4 Folk Tales and Fairy Tales""; ""PART TWO: Characters""; ""5 Fairies""; ""6 Elves""; ""7 Dwarfs""; ""8 Household Spirits""; ""9 Water Dwellers""; ""10 Giants""; ""11 Souls and Spirits""; ""PART THREE: Stories from the Pagan Year""; ""12 Festival Days""; ""13 Beltaine""; ""14 Samain""; ""15 Midwinter and Midsummer"" ""PART FOUR: Storytellersa€? Themes""""16 Wishing, or Dreams Come True""; ""17 The Triple Form""; ""18 Shape-Shifting""; ""19 Omens and Prophecies""; ""20 Between Two Worlds""; ""21 Spells""; ""22 Trees""; ""23 The Invisible World""; ""24 A Fairy Tale Almost Forgotten""; ""Notes""; ""Selected Bibliography""; ""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	Fairy tales are alive with the supernatural - elves, dwarfs, fairies, giants, and trolls, as well as witches with magic wands and sorcerers who cast spells and enchantments. Children into Swans examines these motifs in a range of ancient stories. Moving from the rich period of nineteenth-century fairy tales back as far as the earliest folk literature of northern Europe, Jan Beveridge shows how long these supernatural

features have been a part of storytelling, with ancient tales, many from Celtic and Norse mythology, that offer glimpses into a remote era and a pre-Christian sensibility. The earliest stories often show significant differences from what we might expect. Elves mingle with Norse gods, dwarfs belong to a proud clan of magician-smiths, and fairies are shape-shifters emerging from the hills and the sea mist. In story traditions with roots in a pre-Christian imagination, an invisible other world exists alongside our own. From the lost cultures of a thousand years ago, *Children into Swans* opens the door on some of the most extraordinary worlds ever portrayed in literature - worlds that are both starkly beautiful and full of horrors.
