

The Tree's Sadness *and Other Strange Stories*

by ROBERT TEMPLE

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by Robert Temple

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Fiction

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Where does reality end and 'bent reality' begin? This collection of 55 eerie and bizarre stories set in various countries and in various times is the first book of fiction published by Robert Temple, who is well known for his unusual non-fiction books such as *The Sirius Mystery* and *A New Science of Heaven*.

One tale is told by a dog, in another an animal unexpectedly speaks, and in another a man discovers that he is dreamed by another man and that he himself has dreamed someone else. So which of them is real, or are any of us?

Darwin meets his own brother, a young man inherits billions because he has an unusual grasp of mathematics, a man is arrested for researching an ancient Egyptian god, a popular magazine is shown to carry secret spy codes, a man turns to salt while his doctors take refuge in their favourite word 'idiopathic', which means 'we don't know', a secret society worships the ancestors, oil portraits talk to one another, a man is troubled by mischievous water nymphs, and Conan Doyle's Red-Headed League takes on a brand new incarnation.

The author has written a sequel to Franz Kafka's story *The Giant Mole*, preceded by a specially commissioned translation of the Kafka story. Some of the stories are based upon real people and events, and several of the book's apparent 'impossibilities' are substantiated by mysterious photos. The Kentucky woman whose pig rode beside her on the front seat of her car was real, the canals of Delft are indeed shallow enough to walk in, but are the cat people really invading?

The stories are told in a simple manner as if there were nothing at all unusual going on, but the events are far from normal.

PUBLISHER

Eglantyne Books
The Club Room, Conway Hall
25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL
tel. 020-7831-9905
www.eglantynebooks.com
info@eglantynebooks.com

SALES

Signature Book Representation (UK) Ltd
tel: 0845-862-1730
sales@signaturebooksuk.com

DISTRIBUTION

Combined Book Services
Email: orders@combook.co.uk
Phone: 44 (0) 1892 837171
Fax: 44 (0) 1892 837272