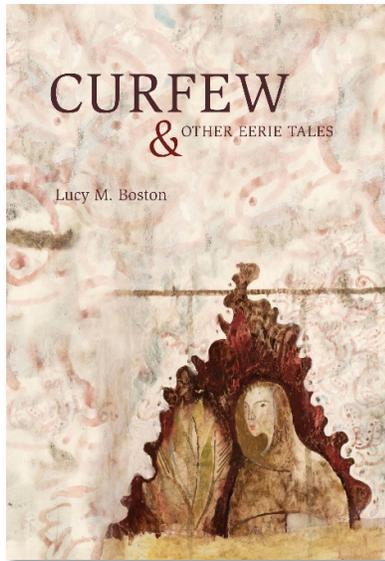


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LUCY M. BOSTON (1892–1990) was born in Southport, Lancashire. She studied English at Oxford and served as a nurse in France, before settling in Cheshire towards the end of the First World War. After her marriage broke down in 1935 she trained as a painter in Europe, eventually returning to England on the eve of the Second World War. In 1939 she bought the eleventh century Manor in Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire, which was her home and literary inspiration until her death. It is the setting of her much-loved series of Green Knowe novels for children.

CURFEW & OTHER EERIE TALES

Lucy M. Boston

*“His eye sockets were appallingly hollow,
and he lifted his chin as the blind do when they seek.”*

Lucy M. Boston is best remembered today as the Carnegie Medal-winning author of a series of children’s novels set in Green Knowe, an ancient, haunted house based on Hemingford Grey Manor near Huntingdon, Cambridge. She began writing these chilling tales when she was already in her sixties, but they were not her first attempts at fiction. A handful of supernatural tales dating from the early 1930s exist among her papers, and these are here published together for the first time, along with her only play, *The Horned Man*, which has been out of print since 1970. An introduction by Robert Lloyd Parry considers the literary influences on these works and looks at them in the context of Boston’s personal life.

Of the short stories in this volume only three have been published before—“Curfew”, “The Tiger-Skin Rug” and “Many Coloured Glass”—all having appeared originally in long out of print anthologies for children. Children play pivotal roles in the first two of these stories, but there is nothing specifically juvenile about their language or themes, nothing to exclude them from a mature bookshelf. Indeed in her use of children as witnesses and victims of the supernatural, Boston was—consciously or otherwise—emulating that other great East Anglian supernaturalist, M. R. James.

CONTENTS

“Introduction” – *Robert Lloyd Parry*
“Curfew”
“Pollution”
“Blind Man’s Buff”
“Many Coloured Glass”
“The Italian Desk”
“The Tiger-Skin Rug”
“The Horned Man”

REVIEWS

“Apt to delight any ghost story lover.”

– British Fantasy Society

*“Lucy M. Boston was a first-rate storyteller . . .
her debt to M. R. James runs deep.”*

– Supernatural Tales

“Well worth reading.”

– Ghosts & Scholars

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