



Photographing Fairies

Steve Szilagyi

Download now

Read Online ➔

Photographing Fairies

Steve Szilagyi

Photographing Fairies Steve Szilagyi

In the 1920s, a country policeman, Constable Michael Walsmear, punches his way into the London studio of Charles Castle, the world-famous American photographer, to show him some pictures. What Castle sees in Walsmear's pictures is incredible. When he goes to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for verification of the faerie images found on the negatives, Doyle tries to bribe Castle to destroy the pictures. But Castle will not be bought; he is out to discover the truth. And truth he finds in the small village of Burkinwell, a village built upon secrets, strange sexual practices, beautiful gardens, and true human nature.

Photographing Fairies Details

Date : Published November 16th 1995 by Sceptre (first published January 1st 1992)

ISBN : 9780340649336

Author : Steve Szilagyi

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Literary Fiction, Novels

 [Download Photographing Fairies ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Photographing Fairies ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Photographing Fairies Steve Szilagyi

From Reader Review Photographing Fairies for online ebook

Angela says

I found this at the thrift store, wondering if it was the original book the 1998 Movie starring Ben Kinglsey was made from and was happy to find it was. The book was written in a matter of fact way, told from the perspective of one narrator as he thinks about past events in a death sentenced prison cell in England. As is common with most book to Movie adaptations, the film script writers changed many facts to make the movie more watchable, but they didn't have to. The Movie I had enjoyed, so of course was a bit irritated when I read the book and found the movie lacked a few aspects that should have stayed true to the book. But None the less I enjoyed the book, although a times it was too over done in areas of the narrators point of view, and the getting to the fairies. I would have liked to have seen some of the other character's give some narration as well.

Heidi says

Enjoyed the book except for the very weak ending.

Andrea says

Fast, entertaining read. I thought I knew the premise of the story but it ended up being darker than I expected and had an unusual ending.

Sharlene says

Does this count as a Once Upon a Time read? There are hints of other-worldiness, with 'evidence' of fairies when policeman Walsmear brings photographer Charles Castle photographs of fairies. Castle becomes completely convinced that those smears around the photographs are indeed fairies and heads to the garden to photograph the fairies for himself. Arthur Conan Doyle makes an appearance.

And based on that alone, it sounds like a fantastic read, doesn't it? I was all ooh, Doyle and fairies!

But bah. It wasn't. It started out fine enough but once Castle heads to the little village of Burkinwell to find the fairies, things just get too bizarre. Not in the otherworld-ly sense, which would have made for at least an interesting sort of bizarre. But in the human sense, where Castle meets the vicar's wife and falls in with some gypsies and just drinks far too much. I'm kind of surprised I stuck with it, but I guess since the book opens with Castle telling his tale from prison, I wanted to find out what he was incarcerated for. So Steve Szilagui got me there. And I wasn't the only one, as Photographing Fairies was shortlisted for the 1993 World Fantasy Awards and was even turned into a film starring Ben Kingsley.

Lindsey says

This is one of my all time favorite books. This unusual story (most likely based on the Cottington Hoax with Frances Wright and her sister) was a truly passionate story of romance, torment, adventure, sexual desire, and fantasy at its finest. The description and use of language as portrayed by the author set the perfect scene for the overall feeling of this book. I would definitely recommend a wonderful read like this one to anybody looking for something new and unusual to read.

Sara Pauff says

A good beginning and a intriguing ending, but the middle was all over the place. I don't know if you'd call it fantasy or mystery or a mix of both. I think the author may have been trying to create an unreliable narrator but I don't know if he managed it.

Scott Short says

I really enjoyed this book. As a photographer and having seen my fair share of doctored images, I really enjoyed brining this aspect into the fantasy world.

This is not a book for children since it has some rather erotica threads it in; but the book is a pager turner and each chapter ends with a cliffhanger.

Corielle Hayley says

The only reason I rated this two stars instead of one is that the author had the courtesy to kill off the obnoxious main character in the end.

Set in 1920s London, Photographing Fairies opens with photographer Charles Castle, locked in a jail cell on the night before his execution. He starts telling his story, which involves fairies, a murder, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Should have been a winner, but it really fell short due to a crappy writer and, like I said, a main character I wanted to whack over the head.

Basically, Castle is approached by a constable named Walsmear who has photographs taken by two little girls of fairies. After examining them closely, Castle believes them to be real. He approaches Sir Arthur Conan Doyle about the photographs, knowing of the author's love of the mystical. Doyle is convinced that he himself has real photos of fairies (which really happened--poor guy), and wants to purchase and destroy Walsmear's as competition. Castle thinks Doyle's photos are crap (they really were) and convinces Walsmear to introduce him to the girls. His basic plan is to take more photos, sell them and get rich. Walsmear feels bad for the girls (since, oops, he killed their mom), so he agrees because he wants to help them earn some money.

Castle goes to their little village, bangs the reverend's wife (oops) and all sorts of other terrible things. He's whiny, nazel-gazing and has too much testosterone. Walsmear I actually kind of liked, until the mommy-murdering was revealed, along with some other unsavory character traits.

The writing style is meant to imitate Doyle's, but it falls short. I was expecting some big Sherlock Holmes ending: a practical explanation for the mystical. Szilagyi kind of gets there, but you can see the ending a mile away, making it rather disappointing. Don't bother.

Josh says

Best work of fiction I have ever read. Hands down.

Sarah says

I was expecting a similar tale to the movie I remember watching a lot as a kid, Fairytale: A True Story, and this book was actually quite different. It was much darker than I expected and was told from the adult, male, photographers perspective, rather than the two little girls. At first I enjoyed this difference in perspective, but like I mentioned above, the story became rather dark in parts and had a bit more sexual encounters than I was expecting (I was expecting none, and got at least 3). Honestly I think my expectations for the book to be similar to the movie influenced my judgement for this book a great deal, but a part of me did enjoy that the tale wasn't just sweet and full of fantastical creatures.

Elizabeth Olson says

The premise is promising -- a novel based on Arthur Conan Doyle's real obsession with a handful of photos purporting to show young girls frolicking with fairies -- but it quickly goes sideways, with a photographer who goes in search of the fairies, but seems only to sleep with anyone with anyone he can, get beat up a lot, and drink too much. Eventually, he's arrested for the one thing he didn't do, and then he dies. Yeah...

Ellen says

This was an interesting little book. Another "first" novel. This book was very different and imaginative. I had heard it was a moving that I might enjoy but I couldn't get a hold of the movie. It was about a photographer who went searching for and found fairies. He had questionably (he wasn't sure) identified the creatures in a picture for a policeman. The plot thickens and twists and turns-including two extramarital affairs, gypsies, and murderous robbing ruffians. It is an amazing book, in 321 pages. I wasn't sure I liked it: The main character a photographer, Charles Castle has an affair with Linda Drain the ministers wife.

Giovenna says

Photographing Fairies, a first from Mr. Szilagyi has won my heart and thirst for a different take on writing a drama fantasy novel. Forget about the simplicity of the book cover, which features the classic Midsummer Eve fine art by the artist Edward Robert Hughes, for it partnered enough with the smooth story flow between the pages.

The way the story just flows through a usual day of the protagonist, Charles Castle, up until the night he experienced something magical, was naturally written without any hint of exaggeration. It's a mature novel, created with a mature mind of Mr. Szilagyi.

The author knows how to keep the best for the last, letting the reader experience the excitement and wonder until the very last word of the very last page of the book. And the last chapter was a relief, Mr. Szilagyi never disappoint.

The characters were all well structured, they don't move along with the protagonist's life, but they just move along with the whole story freely, doing their own business. The lines thrown are all very clever, every chapter reflects the life of a man, so the reader can surely relate. There's this one joke which appeared in the book a lot of times but never failed to make me smile, for it's the same joke over again but was still different from the first time it was mentioned.

The whole book was cleverly structured, i consider it a masterpiece, and it's a first from Mr. Szilagyi. I think it's fun living inside his brains. Haha.

Sam (Hissing Potatoes) says

3.5 stars

Emilie says

This book just randomly caught my eye in the library and curiosity is what brought me to check it out.

An English photographer, Charles, is developing pictures in his dark room. The year is about 1920-30. A mysterious stranger (policeman) suddenly bursts into his dark room and hands Charles some pictures. He wants to know if the pictures are of fairies flying around the little girls in the pictures. Charles eventually becomes convinced that the blotches on the pictures surrounding the girls are, in fact, little fairies. He travels to the town with the police man. Eventually Charles finds the garden where the fairies reside, except that Charles is arrested for a murder that he did not commit. He's unable to finish his study of the fairies and cannot answer the obvious questions that one might have about these flitting beings.

I felt like I needed more info about these beings in order for the story to become believable. Overall, the story was interesting, an easy read, with a pretty solid plot.
