



# **Breaking the Angelic Image: Woman Power in Victorian Children's Fantasy (Contributions to the Study of Science Fiction & Fantasy)**

*Edith Lazaros Honig*

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Honig's short, pleasantly written book is a consideration of the images of women--as mothers, spinsters, girls, and supernatural women--in 19th-and early 20th-century fantasy novels for children. . . . Honig sees fantasy as a means of freeing women from the Victorian social restraints--at first, imaginatively. *Choice*

This is the first book-length study of nineteenth-century children's fantasy from a feminist viewpoint. Honig focuses on a number of major works that are representative of the best of their era--including such classics as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll; *The Golden Key*, *The Princess and the Goblin*, and others by George MacDonald; the works of Mary Louisa Molesworth; *Peter and Wendy* by James Barrie; *The Five Children and It* and *The Enchanted Castle* by Edith Nesbit. Through a close reading of these fantasies Honig demonstrates that although Victorian women were still being repressed in the home and the marketplace, the female figure in literature played a role that was quite different from the traditional stereotype of the meek, submissive wife and mother.



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