

Foreword Review FANTASY



The Forgotten Beasts of Eld: 50th Anniversary Special Edition

Patricia A. McKillip Stephanie Law, Illustrator **Marjorie Liu, Contributor** Gail Carriger, Contributor Tachyon Publications (Feb 29, 2024) Hardcover \$25.95 (256pp) 978-1-61696-410-8

A powerful wizard protects her right to self-determination in Patricia A. McKillip's fantasy classic *The Forgotten Beasts* of Eld.

"Every time I read The Forgotten Beasts of Eld, I am filled with love," writes Marjorie Liu in her introduction to this fiftieth anniversary edition. "I am reminded of love, and I come away feeling loved." It's a feeling at first foreign to the book's heroine, Sybel—the granddaughter and daughter of women called against their will to a wizards' compound where mythical beasts gather.

Indeed, love is not often spoken of on Eld Mountain—even as orphaned Sybel learns it by being a neighbor to kind, magic-filled Maelga and a caretaker to a lion, a dragon, a swan, a riddle-answering boar, and a slinking black cat. When an intriguing warrior arrives on her doorstep, begging her to care for motherless baby Tam, she learns it in two new ways. But Sybel's power is a threat to some, and her beauty a jewel that kings and fellow wizards prize. She has to risk much to protect her home and heart.

With delicate line drawings to match the sleek, silver majesty of its prose, this fresh edition of the inaugural World Fantasy Award winner stands to be treasured by generations to come.

MICHELLE ANNE SCHINGLER (January / February 2024)

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