



## The Secret Commonwealth: Of Elves, Fauns, and Fairies

By Robert Kirk

The New York Review of Books, Inc, United States, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 182 x 124 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Late in the seventeenth century, Robert Kirk, an Episcopalian minister in the Scottish Highlands, set out to collect his parishioners many striking stories about elves, fairies, fauns, doppelgangers, wraiths, and other beings of, in Kirk's words, a middle nature betwixt man and angel. For Kirk these stories constituted strong evidence for the reality of a supernatural world, existing parallel to ours, which, he passionately believed demanded exploration as much as the New World across the seas. Kirk defended these views in *The Secret Commonwealth*, an essay that was left in manuscript when he died in 1692. It is a rare and fascinating work, an extraordinary amalgam of science, religion, and folklore, suffused with the spirit of active curiosity and bemused wonder that fills Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* and the works of Sir Thomas Browne. *The Secret Commonwealth* is not only a remarkable document in the history of ideas but a study of enchantment that enchants in its own right. First published in 1815 by Sir Walter Scott, then re-edited in 1893 by Andrew...



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