

Genres of Doubt: Science Fiction, Fantasy, and the Victorian Crisis of Faith

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This book describes how the fantasy and science fiction genres got a start in 19th Century Britain. The book goes into detail about how speculative fiction at the time, such as *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, had started to challenge what society at the time was used to and its norms. This was likely influenced by the relatively recent geological findings and the writings of Charles Darwin. Britain being exposed to more cultures from around the world likely also had an effect during this period. The book also discusses how the fantasy genre had started to evolve during this period of history as well. With these stories, starting with *Phantastes* by George MacDonald and moving forward, having a more complicate relationship with reality, and displaying a keener awareness of the present culture of the world than the typical fairy tale. This would prove to be an interesting read for those who are interested in reading how events in the 19th Century, especially the Victorian Era, had affected the fantasy and science fiction genres, which would, in turn, influence their various subgenres.