



Curiosities of Natural History, in Four Volumes: Second Series

By Francis T. Buckland

Cosimo Classics. Paperback. Condition: New. 380 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.4in. x 1.0in. A pioneer in the strange art and ambiguous science of zophagy—that is, of studying animals by eating them—British natural historian FRANCIS TREVELYAN BUCKLAND (1826-1880) was a wildly popular speaker and writer of the Victorian era. In his classic four-volume *Curiosities of Natural History*, published between 1857 and 1872, he shared his love of creatures exotic and mysterious with readers who devoured his charming and erudite essays much in the same way he devoured his animal subjects. If there is one person that I would have expected to have captured a sea serpent in the 19th century for the sole purpose of eating it, it would be Frank Buckland, writes cryptozoologist Loren Coleman in his new introduction to Buckland's series. One of the founding grandfathers of cryptozoology, the discipline that investigates animal mysteries, Buckland was not a wild-eyed true believer in anything strange, insists Coleman, but brought, instead, a skeptical, open-minded approach to his work. Indeed, here, in the second series of *Curiosities of Natural History*, Buckland's erudition is clear in his animated discussions of, among many other things, a dish of fossil fish, a gamekeepers museum, the gypsy...



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