**Research Resources:**

Jeremiah Curtin and Jacob Young, *Tales of Fairies and of the Ghost World: Collected from Oral Tradition in Southwest Munster*, Kindle Edition

Carolyne Larrington, *The Land of the Green Man*: *A Journey through the Supernatural Landscapes of the British Isles*, I.B Tauris & Co, 2015

Jennifer Westwood and Jacqueline Simpson, *The Lore of the Land: A Guide to England's Legends, from Spring-heeled Jack to the Witches of Warboys*, Penguin, 2005

Interview with Folklorist Jenny Butler, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnDlZLkralU

**Inspirations & Approaches**

Etymology, the mysterious case of James Worson and the film ‘Absentia’ - all inspired me to hone in on and underscore themes such as loss, the hollow unknowing attached to this loss and the terror of disappearance and abduction.

The word ‘fey’ has a diverse etymological history and I wanted to reclaim the sense of the ‘otherworldly’ that it invokes. As it states in the Online Etymology Dictionary: The sense of "displaying unearthly qualities" and "disordered in the mind (like one about to die)" led to modern ironic sense of "affected." I’ve appropriated the former in order to move away from the more trite images that are attached to the word fairy. Indeed, in moving away from the cute and the trite, I wanted to explore the darker aspects of ‘fairy’ beliefs and the terror that underlies those old stories about abductions. In fact, in reading these kidnapping and disappearance stories, I had a gut sense of those other meanings of the word ‘fey’; I often imagined and felt the disorientation and fear that a poor human soul might experience trapped in fey worlds.

Another very inspiring resource was an interview with folklorist Jenny Butler, who discusses the idea that the sidhe (Irish word for fairies) are a far cry from the cute winged things popularised by Spencer. In fact, they are potent beings, powerful and even feared. They are the descendants of the Tuatha de Danaan, a race conquered by the invading Milesians, from whom we humans descend. This theme, particularly the idea that the sidhe are an oppressed and invisible race, was a fascinating one and this is one of the many thematic threads I have included in my stories.

I also often experienced another imaginative connection, particularly in reading the story about the abandonment of Elizabeth Shea to her fey abductors - in particular, images from the film ‘Absentia,’ in which a woman and her sister begin to link a mysterious tunnel to the disappearance of the woman’s husband. The twilight shots of the empty suburban street that forms a part of the setting - as well as the cold concrete tunnel - often conjured feelings of profound anxiety and emptiness. Strangely enough, these seemingly utilitarian establishing shots caused me more emotional distress than the more terrifying moments in which the protagonists encountered the tunnel creatures.

These emotional impressions were powerful, and as a part of my overall aim to tell the stories as if they are very likely true, I wanted to add a bit of emotive flesh to the common ‘fairy’ tale skeleton of abduction and disappearance.

**Suggested reading & viewing:**

(Besides the above research resources)

Absentia, 2011 American [independent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_film) [supernatural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supernatural_fiction) [horror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horror_fiction) film written and directed by [Mike Flanagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Flanagan_(director))

The Hollow, 2015 British-Irish [horror film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horror_film) directed by Corin Hardy

Some Kind of Fairy Tale (novel), Graham Joyce