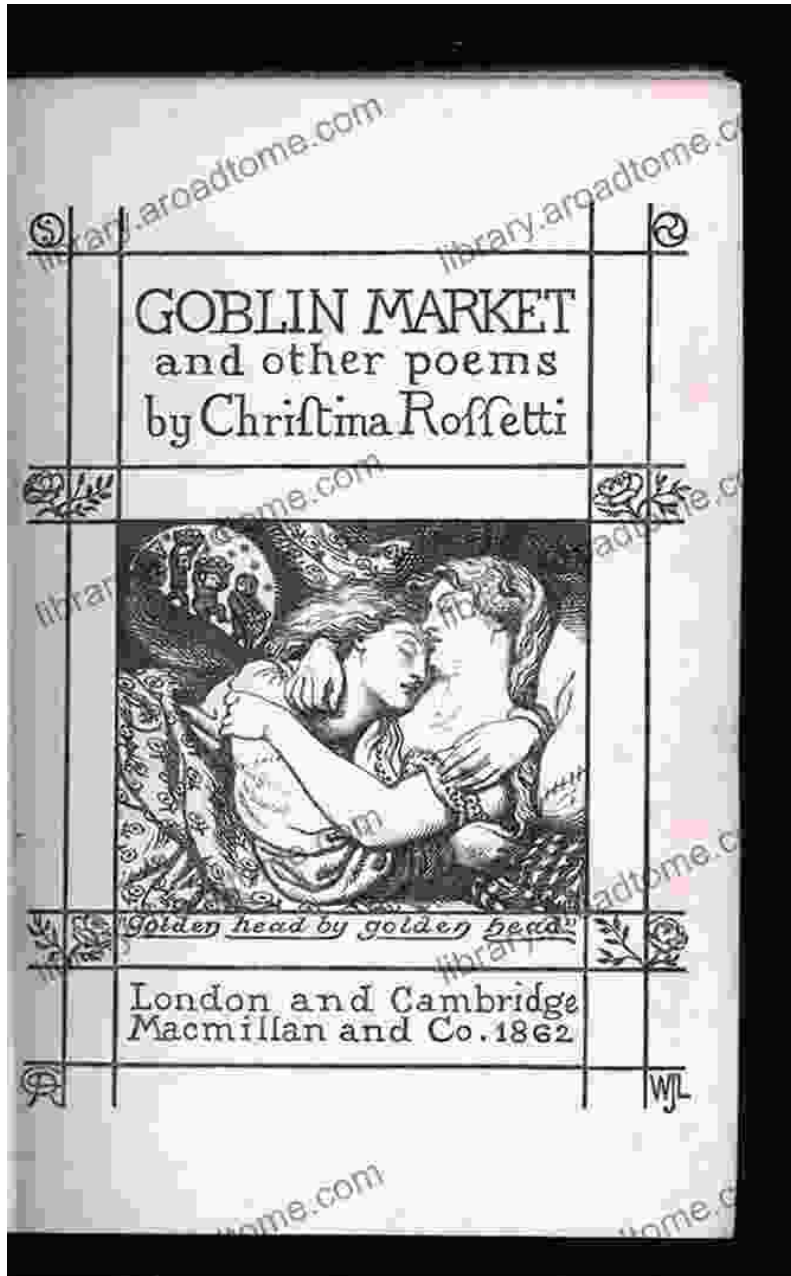


# Goblin Market: A Victorian Masterpiece Explored in Dover Fine Art's History of Art



## Goblin Market (Dover Fine Art, History of Art)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3595 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 64 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Goblin Market, a captivating Victorian masterpiece by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, has captivated audiences for over 150 years. This enigmatic painting, now housed in the Tate Britain, is a testament to the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood's commitment to intricate detail and profound symbolism. In Dover Fine Art's History of Art, this iconic work is meticulously analyzed, revealing the rich layers of meaning and artistry that have made it an enduring symbol of the Victorian era.

## **The Genesis of a Masterpiece**

Goblin Market was conceived in 1859, when Rossetti's sister, Christina, wrote the eponymous poem. Inspired by the poem's haunting imagery and allegorical depth, Rossetti embarked on a three-year journey to translate its essence into a visual masterpiece. He meticulously studied the poem, working closely with Christina to ensure that his painting accurately captured the spirit and symbolism of her words.

## **Pre-Raphaelite Influences**

As a member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, Rossetti was deeply influenced by the movement's principles. The Pre-Raphaelites sought to revive the purity and detail of early Italian art, rejecting the academic conventions of the time. Goblin Market exemplifies this approach, with its

meticulously rendered details, vibrant colors, and idealized figures. The painting's setting, a lush and verdant forest, is reminiscent of the medieval tapestries that the Pre-Raphaelites admired.

## **Symbolism and Allegory**

Goblin Market is a deeply allegorical work, laden with symbolism that invites multiple interpretations. The two sisters, Lizzie and Laura, represent the choices and temptations that young women face in Victorian society. Lizzie's encounter with the goblins, who offer her forbidden fruits, symbolizes the dangers of succumbing to temptation. Laura's suffering and subsequent transformation represent the consequences of indulging in forbidden pleasures.

The goblins themselves are complex figures, both alluring and repulsive. Their grotesque appearance and sensual allure represent the seductive nature of temptation. The fruits they offer, which are both beautiful and poisonous, symbolize the deceptive nature of forbidden desires. Rossetti's meticulous depiction of the goblins' facial expressions and gestures conveys their cunning and predatory nature.

## **Critical Reception and Legacy**

Goblin Market was first exhibited in 1862, where it received mixed reviews. Some critics praised its technical brilliance and imaginative power, while others were put off by its unconventional subject matter and overt sexuality. However, over time, the painting has gained widespread recognition as a masterpiece of Victorian art. Its haunting imagery and timeless symbolism have resonated with audiences for generations.

Goblin Market has had a profound impact on art history, inspiring countless artists, writers, and musicians. Its influence can be seen in the works of Edward Burne-Jones, Aubrey Beardsley, and the Symbolist movement. The painting's enduring popularity is a testament to Rossetti's artistic genius and the enduring power of its allegorical themes.

## Dover Fine Art's History of Art

Dover Fine Art's History of Art is a comprehensive guide to the most important works of art throughout history. This invaluable resource provides detailed analysis, stunning images, and insightful essays that illuminate the context and significance of each masterpiece. Goblin Market is just one of the many iconic works featured in this essential reference work.

Whether you are an art enthusiast, a student, or simply curious about the history of art, Dover Fine Art's History of Art is a must-have resource. By providing accessible and engaging insights into the world's most celebrated artworks, this book opens up the wonders of art to everyone.

Goblin Market is a captivating and enduring masterpiece that has left an indelible mark on art



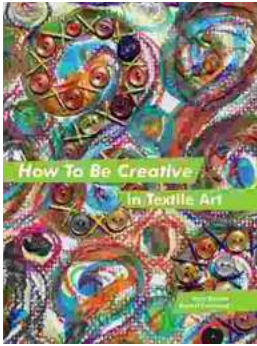
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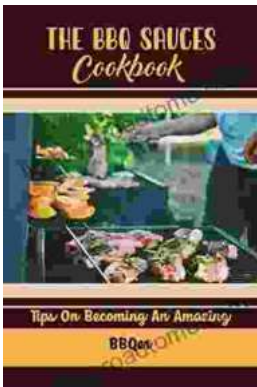
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