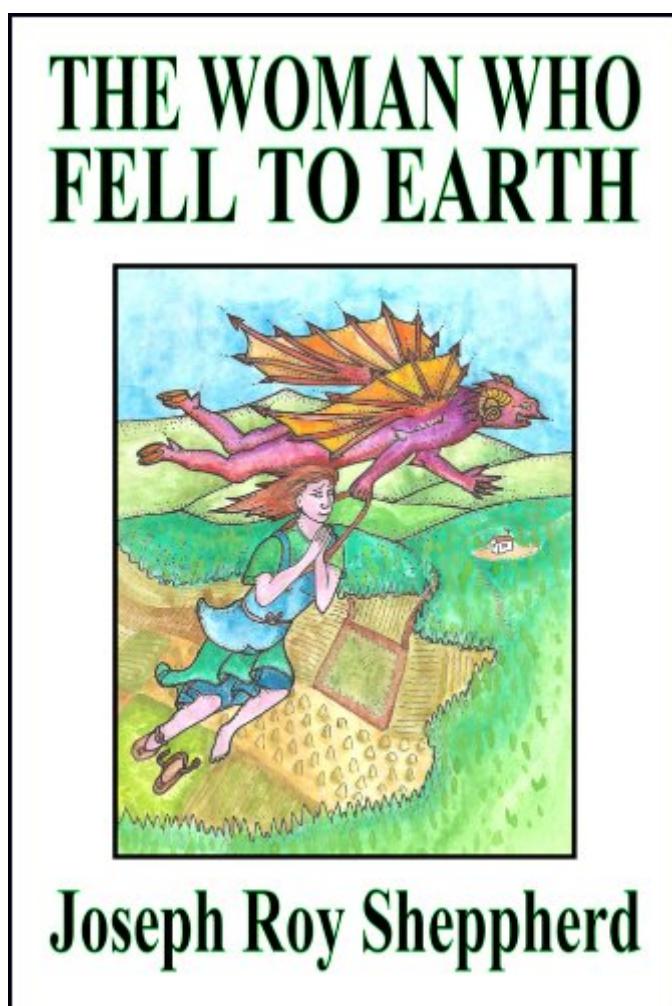


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THE WOMAN WHO FELL TO EARTH (Slovak History, Folklore And Culture Series Book 1)



Synopsis

The first in the series entitled: Slovak History, Folklore and Culture, THE WOMAN WHO FELL TO EARTH tells the story of recording and researching a group of Slovak folktales. For hundreds of years there used to be a separate village called NeÅ¡tich just to the southwest of the Village of Smolenice. It wasn't, in fact, until the middle of the twentieth century that these two communities were connected administratively and the ancient NeÅ¡tich name was officially changed to SmolenickÃ¡ NovÃ¡ Ves, "the new village belonging to Smolenice." This historical fact proved to be culturally significant in a visit to this part of Slovakia in 2009 by the author and his wife, who were invited to meet a couple of grandmothers and talk to them about folklore local to NeÅ¡tich. The story describes the process of learning about Slovak history and culture. In telling the tales, both ladies often speak at the same time, remembering aloud and reminding each other of things they had first heard as children. They have been friends for a long time and feel free to contradict and correct each other's telling of some detail in the legends. Over the course of a few hours the two ethnographic informants cover a wide range of subjects, often without segues from one topic to the next. In the room, there are two other Slovaks present, who haven't heard many of these tales and sit mesmerized by what they hear. The author describes the process of transferring Slovak oral traditions across generations.

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