Twitter Thread by Sarah K. Marr



Sarah K. Marr
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It's time for a thread of (my) editions of Alan Garner's "The Owl Service" & related books. I'd love to hear what you think, and all about your own copies. And do, please, share if you enjoy it.

Anyway, off to the magical Shelf of Garner...

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#OwlService 1/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Collins, 1967

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Starting at the beginning, here's the first edition of "The Owl Service", with a jacket design by Kenneth Farnhill.

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#OwlService 2/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Collins, 1967

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Here's the plate design, created by Griselda Greaves from the original plates belonging to her mother, Betty, and now in print for the first time on the paste-down and free endpapers of the hardback.

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#OwlService 3/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Collins, 1967

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Alan & Griselda signed this copy for me. (I've pixelated Griselda's signature as it's not already on the internet.) A note from Griselda which might be of interest. I like the red binding, even if it's a mistake.

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#OwlService 4/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Peacock Books, 1969

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The television adapatation of "The Owl Service" was broadcast in late 1969. This is the edition which accompanied the series. I'm fairly sure that this is the first paperback edition.

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#OwlService 5/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Peacock Books, 1969
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The cover shows Gwyn, Roger and Alison (Michael Holden, Francis Wallis and Gillian Hills). This copy is also signed, and here's (half of) the paperback's version of the famous plate design.
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#OwlService 6/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Peacock Books, 1969, reprinted 1969, 1970, 1971
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This copy arrived yesterday. That incredible cover—my favourite of them all—is by Charles Keeping (uncredited in my 1971 reprint, but credited in @folk_horror's 1972 reprint).
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#OwlService 7/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Peacock Books, 1969, reprinted 1969, 1970, 1971
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This is harder to find than most. I thought it predated the television tie-in, but seemingly not. My current theory is that '69/'70 were photo-covers, and '71/'72 had this cover.
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#OwlService 8/22

"The Owl Service", Alan Garner, Collins Modern Classics, 1998
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The fern on James Marsh's cover reminds me of the Welsh hillsides of childhood holidays. This edition gains a 1998 postscript by Alan. It also has illustrations for each chapter, by Bob Harvey.
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#OwlService 9/22

"The Owl Service," Alan Garner, Folio Society, 2013
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This is everything one would expect from a @foliosociety edition: beautifully made and printed, with outstanding illustrations by @DarrenHopes, and a preface by Susan Cooper.
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#OwlService 10/22