


## Catholic Girl's Guide to Summer Reading

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*Child of Faerie, Child of Earth*, by Josepha Sherman 

“I’ve watched you from afar till I couldn’t bear to stay away. Dearest lady, I’ve come to you because I love you. Could you ever love me?”

“How can you possibly ask that of me?”

This witty repartee begins on page 24 of Josepha Sherman’s romantic fantasy novel, *Child of Faerie, Child of Earth*, and goes on with slight variations until page 157.

**STORY:** Percinet, an impulsive half-human, half-faerie prince, falls in love with Graciosa, a shy human with the beginnings of magical talent, as he watches her through a mirror to the human world, and eventually travels to her father’s castle and confesses his love to her immediately upon meeting her. Beginning at this point and not lapsing until the last few pages is Graciosa’s response, which consists of fear and suspicion of the Faerie world, including the question of whether or not faeries have souls. Near the beginning, Graciosa’s father, a greedy count, becomes engaged to a rich, evil, toad-like woman who seems to have supernatural powers, which evolves into a subplot that adds to the anti-faerie side of Graciosa’s decision, shadowing whatever affection she might have for Percinet.

**GOOD:** Colorful descriptions of the faerie world contrast intelligently with the dreary depiction of earthly life, setting up the story line, and most of the characters seem to be well-rounded, although there is an unquestionable bad-guy characterization full of totally bad traits.

**BAD:** Although the questions of morality and faerie souls are interesting at first, 130 pages of them can leave the reader slightly annoyed at the wishy-washiness of Graciosa, not to mention Percinet’s almost stalker-like persistence.

**MORALS:** Despite some interesting moral concerns as to whether faeries have souls, *Child of Faerie, Child of Earth* also contains a brief negative portrayal of a priest and a moderate degradation of the Catholic Church in general, as well as mild sexual innuendo.