

Named One of the Best Books of 2012 by the Editors of The Huffington Post— Many people throughout the world inhabit imaginary worlds communally and persistently, parsing Harry Potter and exploring online universes. These activities might seem irresponsibly escapist, but history tells another story. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, when Sherlock Holmes became the world's first virtual reality character, readers began to colonize imaginary worlds, debating serious issues and viewing reality in provisional, as if terms rather than through essentialist, just so perspectives. From Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos and Tolkien's Middle-earth to the World of Warcraft and Second Life, *As If* provides a cultural history that reveals how we can remain enchanted but not deluded in an age where fantasy and reality increasingly intertwine.

Omens from Your Dreams, *City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era*, *Progress in Drug Research* (Progress in Drug Research/Fortschritte Der Arneimittelforschung), *Global Innovation in Emerging Economies* (Routledge Studies in Innovation, Organizations and Technology), *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: Law and Practice* (Employment Law Library S02), *Should the Baby Live?: The Problem of Handicapped Infants* (Modern Revival Sin Philosophy Series),

*As if: Modern enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of virtual Reality*, by Michael Saler; pp. x + oxford and new York: oxford university Press, , ?

*As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*. Front Cover. Michael Saler. Oxford University Press, USA, Jan 9, - Computers. *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*. Front Cover — Michael Saler. Oxford University Press, Dec 29, - Literary Criticism.

*As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*. Front Cover. Michael Saler. Oxford University Press, Jan 9, - Literary Criticism.

The social practices of imaginary worlds will continue to play an important role in a future increasingly influenced by concepts of virtual reality and the rapid. *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality* when Sherlock Holmes became the world's first virtual reality character, readers. *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*. Article in *The American Historical Review* (5) — December with Michael Saler, *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*. Article in *The Journal of Modern History* 85(3) *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Pp. \$ (cloth). In *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality* (Oxford, ), historian Michael Saler explores the precursors of the. Saler, Michael. *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*. NY: Oxford University Press, pp. Softcover. ISBN Michael Dirda reviews — *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*, — by Michael Saler.

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