Cherryh is a versatile writer having published large bodies of science fiction and fantasy. Her high-fantasy is derived from her studies in languages, history, folklore, and ethnography. Her Slavic folklore trilogy, *Rusalka*, *Chernevog*, and *Yvegenie*, is here analyzed for its transformation of Slavic folklore, which has been variously analyzed as a ‘science’ by Propp or the unconscious by Todorov. She critiques simplistic assumptions about human views of ‘magical’ phenomena questioning the portrayal of easy human adjustment to shifting frames of knowledge, like chaos theory, entropy, extended life, forces operating according to laws beyond human comprehension, by presenting the troubling deformations of the naturalized, consensus reality in the subjective, affective universe of the individual.