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The Year's Best Dark Fantasy & Horror 2016 Edition



Synopsis

Macabre meetings, sinister excursions, and deadly relationships; uncanny encounters; a classic ghost story featuring an American god; a historical murderer revived in a frightening new iteration; innovative Lovecraftian turns; shadowy fairy tales and weird myths; strange children, the unexpected, the supernatural, the surreal, and the all-too real . . . tales of the dark. Such stories have always fascinated us, and modern authors carry on the disquieting traditions of the past while inventing imaginative new ways to unsettle us. Chosen from a wide variety of venues, these stories are as eclectic and varied as shadows. This volume of 2015's best dark fantasy and horror offers more than five hundred pages of tales from some of today's finest writers of the fantastique—sure to delight as well as disturb.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley. Horror is my favorite genre whether I'm reading, writing or watching a movie. So when I saw this book I jumped at the chance to read it. Let me start by saying this is a huge book, over 500 pages on my e-reader in fact, filled with all the variations of horror you can imagine. Now I'm a little picky with what sort of horror appeals to me. I like the straight forward explanations, the twists that shock and anything written with a Lovecraftian bent. A majority of these are not the sort I prefer but nonetheless very enjoyable. The stories can be incredibly dark, some are graphic, others deal with hard choices,

there are supernatural elements to some, while the ones that are perfectly mundane can be the most horrifying. If I had to pick favorites my top picks would be Ripper, Mary Mary, Snow, The Door, There is no place for Sorrow in the Kingdom of the Cold, The Deepwater Bride, Fabulous Beasts, Cassandra, Greyness, Corpsemouth. Others like the Lily and the Horn, and the Devil under the Maison Blue were intriguing and descriptive but needed more clarification for me. My least favorites would have to be The Absence of Words & Kaiju Maximus, the first wasn't explained properly and the second simply did not appeal to me. All in all an interesting read. I would recommend this for any adult who likes horror or dark fantasy and wants to be able to enjoy the impact of a whole story in a couple of 1000 words. 3.5 stars for me which I'm rounding up to 4.

I love short story collections, because I don't have access to endless magazines and chapbooks. Paula Guran is a good editor, so I am not going to take exception to her curating skills. Is it that there is less and less good material out there for editors to choose from? This isn't a bad collection, it's just not a great one. Certainly worth the Kindle price of admission.

I liked all the stories in this collection, and it's a good introduction to some authors I'd heard of but not yet read. Definitely entertaining and readable. A wide range of story types, too, within the fantastic vein.

Great collection with a few repeats from other recent anthologies. Well-edited and well worth the read, especially the last few stories.

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