



The God Tattoo: Untold Tales from the Twilight Reign

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A short story collection fleshing out the world of the critically-acclaimed Twilight Reign series, a tremendous work of mature epic fantasy.

The history of the Land may remember the slaughter at Moorview or the horror of Scree's fall, but there were other casualties of the secret war against Azaer--more tales surrounding those bloody years that went unrecorded. In the shadow of memorials to the glorious dead, these ghosts lie quiet and forgotten by all but a few.

A companion collection to the Twilight Reign quintet, these eleven stories shine a rather different light on the Land. Look past the armies and politics of the Seven Tribes and you will find smaller moments that shaped the course of history in their own way. But even forgotten secrets can kill. Even shadows can have claws.

The God Tattoo: Untold Tales from the Twilight Reign Details

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Author : Tom Lloyd

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From Reader Review The God Tattoo: Untold Tales from the Twilight Reign for online ebook

David Teachout says

"The Twilight Reign" ranks as one of the most amazing fantasy series I've ever read, definitely on par with "Song of Ice and Fire" and "Lord of the Rings" in its epic scope and ability to weave in multiple narratives. Where "Song" is focused on human depravity and "Rings" on human hope, "Twilight" is determined to use religion as a focal point of social engagement. The gods here walk amongst people in a very personal way and the writing is so incredible they never appear out of place or merely a tool to move a stuck plot. These stories, filling in gaps in the series and going back in time to show where some of the characters first met one another, are quite fun, informative and maintain the writing quality of the series. Each one sucks you in, leaves you wanting more and now more than ever I want to go back and read the whole series again.

Dinko says

Mundane developments of minor characters' lives. There's a reason these stories didn't make it in the actual series. They're just not good enough. Some are ok. Others were barely tolerable. But all are nonessential. Good thing I'd read the complete Twilight Reign first. Had I read The God Tattoo before the other books, I'd never have bothered with the series and would have missed out on some very good storytelling. This collection of discarded ideas adds nothing to Twilight Reign. I'm really unsure as to why it was published at all.

Stacey O'Neale says

This book was reviewed by Michael Cummings, senior reviewer with the Fantasy Book Addict.

You can read the full review here: <http://www.fantasybookaddict.com/2013...>

Adrian Leaf says

An enjoyable collection of short stories from The Twilight Reign series. Not essential required reading, but does contain some background to some of the plot of the main series.

Ira John Paris says

Epic!

Mike says

if you haven't read the twilight reign series it's pointless reading this. if you have read the series, there isn't really anything here that fleshes it out much.

this is probably best described as the cashing-in compilation.

Michael Cummings says

I have a confession to make - I'm not the biggest fan of Tom Lloyd's books. It isn't the mythos, or the violence, or even the characters. There is something in the way that Lloyd constructs sentences that hurts my brain.

I realize that sounds petty and weak, and it is, but it makes reading a full length novel of his difficult. I'm sure listening to a narrated version would be fine - I've learned that lesson with a few other authors lately - but something in the word to brain translation breaks down and I begin to develop a book induced migraine. My internal critic screams at what seem like run-on sentences devoid of punctuation.

Which is why I'm as surprised as you now are to know I'm going to recommend the God Tattoo so highly. This collection of "Untold Tales from the Twilight Reign" follows the same universe as his other Twilight Reign novels, replete with White Eyes and magics and forces both terrible and dark. But somehow, distilled into these short vignettes, each chapter a story in itself, it was actually a really fun and entertaining read.

Of course, like any story collection, not all stories are created equal, and some are better than others. Fans of Lloyd's will enjoy the collection, and fantasy readers interested in a collection of fun fantasy adventures will find something entertaining here as well. This companion book contains a well rounded collection of mysteries, gothic fairytales, and classic adventure stories - set in the world of the Seven Tribes.

Enjoy!

Brannigan says

published first for The Qwillery

The God Tattoo is a fantastic collection of short stories that take place in the Twilight Reign world. It's no light thing for me to say that a short story collection is fantastic. I hardly ever read short story collections, and when I do it's nearly impossible for me to like each one of them. I tend to read a few pages, and if the story doesn't grab me, I move on. I was a little nervous to start this book, because I'm obligated to read every page before I write a review. I should also say I've not read any of the books in Tom Lloyd's Twilight Reign series, even though they've been on my to-read list for a while. With all that said, this collection surpassed my expectations.

Lloyd's world is rich in history and detail. He does a great job of giving you enough information to make the story real, but leaves enough unsaid for you to want more. Most of the stories are short and entertaining, giving you a feel for his ability to create intriguing characters and situations. There are a string of stories that

are vaguely connected to each other, which hint at a bigger story below the surface. One of the most surprising and enjoyable parts, is that several of the stories have a Gothic Horror slant. I always enjoy my fantasy mixed with other genres and Lloyd is really good at doing Gothic Horror.

Having never read any of the previous books in the series, I never felt lost with events or characters. It helped that most of the collection features new characters. This collection of stories definitely makes you want to read more from Lloyd's world.

Beware, The God Tattoo is a gateway drug to the Twilight Reign series. The God Tattoo contains strong language and descriptive violence. For that reason, I would recommend it to adult readers. It's perfect for both fans of fantasy and Gothic Horror, as well as those curious about the Twilight Reign series. I'd also recommend it to anyone who likes to read short story collections.

Fantasy Literature says

Tom Lloyd shares stories from before his TWILIGHT REIGN series in this collection, The God Tattoo: Untold Tales from the Twilight Reign. I read it because I thought you didn't have to have read any of the TWILIGHT REIGN books in order to understand what was going on. I would say that's not strictly true. My ignorance of the series definitely hampered my enjoyment of these pieces.

These eleven stories follow various characters in the city and nation of Narkang in a land called The Land. Several seem to take place at or near the site of an epic battle in the past, which the last elf king Aryn Bwr ("Aaron Burr?") lost badly, and which seems to be cursed now. Lloyd's writing is reminiscent at times of a number of dark fantasy writers from the 1980s, most notably Karl Edward Wagner. Once in a while he nearly channels... Read More:
<http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

Mark Redman says

This book is collection of interconnected stories set in the world of Twilight Reign. You don't necessarily have to read the 5 book series, in fact this is a great introduction to the series as a whole. There is a nice mixture of short stories that vary in length, with some characters making more than one appearance.

Anthony Wong says

this is the first time i read this author. i think i would find the full novel rather tedious, but in short bursts like this, it is all right. there is only one idea or story line ... the short stories are just variations on it. some vampire -like creature periodically create havoc killing in violent ways . not something u want to read in a full novel, but in short story form, it is bearable.

Mogsy (MMOGC) says

4 of 5 stars at The BiblioSanctum <http://bibliosanctum.blogspot.com/201...>

I'm not generally in the habit of reading short story collections, though it wouldn't be accurate to say I'm not a fan of them either. It's just that given a choice between an anthology or a full-length novel, I would most likely end up picking the latter because they tend to better satisfy my appetite for more in-depth character development and world-building. Not that I don't think a short story is incapable of achieving this at all, but it does take a talented author to make me connect to their characters and world the same way in so few pages. After reading *The God Tattoo* though, I'm happy to report that Tom Lloyd is one of them.

Of course, this collection of "untold tales from the Twilight Reign" also has the added benefit of taking place in a fantasy universe already established in a series of five books. According to the introduction, reading the main Twilight Reign series is not a prerequisite before tackling *The God Tattoo*, which is good because I'm a newcomer to this world myself. I have to say not being familiar with any of the locations or characters (apparently, not many of the major ones appear here anyway) did not hinder my enjoyment one bit; if anything I'm even more impressed with the sheer scope and epic quality of the world of Twilight Reign.

As the author himself has written, his series was never intended to be about one person or even a group of people; the history and population of an entire land are affected by the events, and the eleven stories presented here give a pretty good idea of what that means. There's a nice variety, from tales of mystery like *A Beast in Velvet* and *The Marshall's Reflection*, to some that are disturbingly magical, carrying a hint of that dark fairy tale flavor (examples like *The God Tattoo*, *A Man Collecting Spirits*, and *Afraid of the Dark* come immediately to mind).

This collection does a good job of fleshing out the world, showing how the people are an inextricable part of its history. The way some of these stories are connected merely serves to emphasize this point, featuring characters that shape events outside their own story and vice versa. As such, this anthology seems to flow better than most. Seen in context together, all eleven tales paint a very intriguing picture of Twilight Reign, with what I felt was a strong touch of horror to give the series that haunted, shadowy feel. It definitely sets the kind of tone I like to look for in my dark and epic fantasy.

Bottom line, I think this would be a great choice for avid readers of short stories and anthologies. That doesn't describe me at all, but even so, I found myself enjoying this book a lot. Though Tom Lloyd did say that this collection is not required reading for fans of the Twilight Reign novels, I can't think of any reason why any fan wouldn't want to pick this one up as well; if you're familiar with the world already, the stories here will probably resonate more. And if you're a new reader of his work, *The God Tattoo* might be inspiration to add *The Stormcaller* to your reading list. I personally added it because I got a taste of the series and Tom Lloyd's writing from these short stories, found that I liked what I saw, and now I'm interested in the full-length novels.

Becky says

This is an excellent collection of short stories from Tom Lloyd's Twilight Reign series. My particular favourites were *The Dark Of The Moor*, as Tom brings a wonderful sense of family and Shadows in the Library for the great relationship between Emin and Gennay.

