



Unreal Encounters

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Horror, humor, and science fiction collide in this collection of weird tales about possible futures, warped present-day realities, and alternate history.

Unreliable narrators run rampant alongside aliens, ghosts, bullies, cannibals, home invaders, heroes, villains, unimaginable creatures, and gifted individuals of all ages.

Paranoia, fear, and bizarre situations abound in these reality-bending stories guaranteed to take you places you've never been.

40 Short Stories - Horror / Science Fiction / Humor

Unreal Encounters Details

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Author : Milo James Fowler

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From Reader Review Unreal Encounters for online ebook

Jessthebookslover says

Quite surprised with this collection of short stories! What I know for sure is that they were a lot better than the last collection I read.

The only thing I wonder is... Why do I always have to read short stories that have weirdos as main characters?!?!?!?

Anyway! That's kind of my problem I guess :')

Not 5 stars as they weren't THAT compelling, still really enjoyable!

Tam says

This was quite a unique collection of short stories that offered a variety of literary tastes to feast upon from chilling horror to sci-fi with some humor thrown in for added flavor. I liked how some stories seemed to inter-connect with each other. I felt like the collection, as a whole, had a very X-Files/Twilight Zone mashup feel to it. I often wonder where in the world authors like Fowler come up with their fantastical story ideas. Where ever that might be, I'm thankful for their quirky, talented brains!

*I received a complimentary copy of this book in order to read and provide a voluntary, unbiased and honest review, should I choose to do so.

Tyrean says

Strange, spectacular, and thought-provoking, Milo James Fowler takes us all on a Twilight-Zone type of ride in his 1 Dozen Short tales of the Strange and Spectacular. A few of the stories were definitely dark in that Twilight-Zone kind of way, but Fowler has a superb writing style. It's not a book that I'm going to give to my kids to read, but if you liked the Twilight Zone series, and are a fan of speculative fiction short stories that will leave you thinking, you will like these stories.

Darth says

[>

"A Creature Stirring" and "Just Leave" have violent home invaders. Disturbing.

"When Tomorrow Comes" ended really abruptly.

"Breathe" The sister is a b----!

"Scuttle" Sort of like a home invasion to me.

"Soul Smuggler", "Stone in the Sky and Bread Below" Didn't really get these ones.

"Grandpa's Bluetooth" I enjoyed this one even though it's predictable.

"Fo

Grampy says

"1 Dozen Short Tales" by Milo James Fowler is a short anthology of flash fiction (500-1,000 words) tales, each of which has previously been published individually in one of several magazines. It has been my experience that flash fiction anthologies often include a few not-so-interesting tales. However, I found all the tales in this collection to be entertaining.

Considering how difficult it is to compose a complete story that makes sense in as few as 500 words, Mr. Fowler has accomplished a rather remarkable feat. The tales in this book run the gamut from pure science fiction to horror to fantasy, and none of them left me feeling like something was missing. The stories are complete, with introduction, body, and conclusion fully presented within the requisite number of words.

I was impressed with this collection, and was particularly surprised to find myself at the end of the book, without having encountered a single story I didn't like. I happen to know that Mr. Fowler has published a rather large number of books; I will be obtaining more of his work, based on my enjoyment of this book.

Most of the tales in this collection are better suited to intermediate or better readers, and likely would not hold the interest of younger children. I see no reason, though, why middle grade students would have difficulty reading and comprehending any of these stories. On the contrary, I am confident they would find that they enjoyed reading them. These stories should even maintain the interest of the so-called "reluctant" reader, which will then have a positive influence on that child's subsequent interest in reading. I don't hesitate to recommend "1 Dozen Short Tales of the Strange and Spectacular" for anybody with a modicum of reading ability.

Note: In GoodReads, a 5-star rating means "it was amazing". A 4-star rating is, in my opinion, comparable to a 5-star rating on Amazon. Very few books would I consider "amazing", but if I really like a book - a lot - I am somewhat constrained to give it only a 4-star rating on GoodReads. In all probability, I would give the same book a 5-star rating on Amazon. Such is the case with this book.

Lyndon says

If you like your flash fiction on the gritty side - with a bit of horror thrown in - this collection by Milo James Fowler is a fair collection. Many of these stories are creepy, even a bit violent, others odd, and some downright bizarre. At least two of them are sample stories from Mr. Fowler's many and varied series, including Soul Smuggler (featuring the anti-hero Mercer) and Captain Quasar.

In this sense, flash fiction can introduce you to a writer's style and characters and can serve as a gateway drug to that author's other stories. Personally, I was hoping for a bit more thematic connection to this collection (which I found in the first half or so) but the oddly placed fantasy and Quasar's space opera send-

up felt out of place. Still, if you're looking for variety and tasty morsels of stories to munch on during breaks at work, this collection might be for you.

shannon Stubbs says

These stories were pretty creepy. Some of them made me think that the really scary monsters are the ones in our heads. Especially the ones that come around three in the morning.

Bandit says

Can't find the one I read, but it wasn't the entire collection, more like a teaser, maybe 5 stories, just enough to whet the appetite and that it did. The author grabbed my attention with the Soul Smuggler and these stories definitely continue that winning streak of a first impression, this guy can write and has an imagination to go with the talent. The genre here is general speculative fiction, but with a prominent slant toward scary. The genuine scary, that is, the haunting disturbing things that won't let you sleep at night, the locks undoing themselves, the inexplicable noises and terrifying thoughts, the paranoia and obsessions. Wish I'd read these at night, but in any case...very entertaining. Fans of genre fiction should really check this guy out. Very nice find indeed, makes one remember that checking out random unknown (lesser known) authors on kindle freebies really pays off. Recommended.

Tyrean says

Unreal Encounters by Milo James Fowler is a great slice of Milo's excellent short fiction. With over 100 stories published, Fowler chose some of his most chilling tales of humans and "other" life – alien and paranormal. Because I've been reading Fowler's work for several years now and following his fiction avidly, I had read many of these tales in their original publications, but there were some that I had never read before and I'm glad to have some of my old favorites to read again and again. Fowler's fiction is good enough to re-read because he always includes unexpected plot twists, characters with depth, and endings that leave some food for thought. My favorite story in this collection is "Shadow of Death" – an interesting extra-Biblical re-telling of David and Goliath from King Saul's tormented perspective. My second favorite is "The Cost of Freedom" which re-imagines JFK's assassination as part of an alien plot to take over Earth. But Fowler doesn't just imagine world events, he creates new characters and unexpected encounters like in his story "To Know a Lie from a Hacksaw" – a grim, but humorous story; and "Starlight" – another one of my favorite stories which involving a bullied, young teen with a strange new power. With 40 short stories of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, Fowler offers up some of his best short fiction in this collection. Readers of speculative fiction who don't mind a little grim bite to their reading will enjoy this book.

Andrew Leon says

I'll preface this by saying that I'm not a fan of "flash fiction." I find it often uses contrived or twist "endings" (How can something only 1000 words even have an ending? Isn't the whole thing an ending at that point?) to be interesting or they spend too much time telling us the back story only to have a few hundred words left to

actually show us the action in the supposed story.

Unfortunately, I found this collection to be no different. They're written well enough from technical standpoint, but the stories just weren't there. I didn't really dislike any of them, but I didn't like any of them either.

Becky Stephens says

Fowler's mix of science fiction and horror, sprinkled with a dash of humor leaves us with a good variety of short stories. With unexpected plot twists and endings that leave readers with food for thought, this is a great collection of speculative fiction.

I also found it interesting that some stories seem to weave into another, with similar settings, as if we're getting a glimpse into more than one story in the same timeline. Very clever.

My favorites from this collection are *Scuttle*, *A Monster By Any Other Name*, and *Self-Storage*. They are all examples of what short horror should be. I also chose them because I love stories with creatures born from an author's wild imagination.

I recommend this collection to all readers who enjoy speculative fiction.

Cherie says

Unreal Encounters by Milo James Fowler has packed in a lot of great science fiction, horror, and the occasional humor in these forty short stories. This collection is perfect to read while on a lunch break or while exercising on a treadmill or elliptical. I enjoyed most of the stories, although there were at least two where I was a bit confused character-wise who was telling the story. Some of my favorite stories involved the Grey men. They had a very *X-Files* feel to them. The story with the man trapped in the hotel room also has stuck with me as well as the child cannibal. If you combined *The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits* with a dash of *The X-Files*, then you'll have Milo James Fowler's *Unreal Encounters*.

Renee Hall says

I hate giving an indie book a one-star review, but I have to be honest, and this collection just didn't do anything for me. Typically I enjoy flash fiction (reading it and writing it), but even for flash these stories felt incomplete and abrupt, as if they were all setup and no payoff, one after another leading up to punchlines that fell flat. Some of the concepts were interesting, but it felt like that was all I was getting -- a sketch of a concept, bare bones and nothing else in the way of characters or imagery to stay with me after the reading. Of the 12 stories, "Soul Smuggler" was the only really memorable one for me, and even then I would have liked to see things fleshed out a bit more.

Sandra Lopez says

This is a collection of short stories that make you question the scheme of things. These twisted tales are certainly full of dark irony and otherworldly elements. You don't always get them. At times, you reach the ending and go "huh?"

Stories are described as "Twilight Zone-ish," which is blatantly obvious once you start reading. They're bound by confusion, mystery, and illusion. You don't know where you are and you're out in the middle of nowhere; then you're taken on a trippy ride and you don't know how you ended up there. It's kind of weird, but you appreciate the dark setting and are strangely allured by it.

Some stories were certainly better than others. Like I said, some I didn't get at all. The words I'd use to describe them would be: weird, dreary, and unreal.

T.B. Markinson says

I'm a fan of flash fiction since I love to see how an author can pull it off. It's not an easy challenge and not many are successful. Fowler's stories add another level of difficulty since they involve world-building. In novels, this can take pages. In flash fiction, Fowler only has a few words to spare.

What impressed me was how quickly each story pulled me in. And they kept me interested until the end. And Fowler included an introduction to each story and I liked knowing the inspiration for all of them. Two of the stories really stood out to me: "A Creature Stirring" and "Captain Quasar and the 'If Only' Elixir of Opsanus Tau Prime." I really enjoyed Captain Quasar and there'll be more of him in 2014. I'm so excited!

I will warn you, many of these stories are chilling. But they are horror stories so it's not surprising. This is my first introduction to Fowler's writing and I want to read more by him. Count me as a fan.
