



Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Stories to Be Read With the Door Locked - Volume 1

Alfred Hitchcock (editor) , Robert L. Fish , Adobe James , Jerry Jacobson , William Jeffrey , Charles W. Runyon , Betty Ren Wright , Roald Dahl , more... Isaac Asimov , Richard Matheson , John Keefauver , Jacques Futrelle , Harlan Ellison , Waldo Carlton Wright , Harold Q. Masur ...less

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You can't hide from horror when Hitchcock comes with his skeleton keys!

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(This is volume 1 of Stories to Be Read with the Door Locked. It should not be combined with volume 2, or with the complete work.)

Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Stories to Be Read With the Door Locked - Volume 1 Details

Date : Published January 1977 by Dell Publishing Co. (first published 1975)

ISBN :

Author : Alfred Hitchcock (editor) , Robert L. Fish , Adobe James , Jerry Jacobson , William Jeffrey , Charles W. Runyon , Betty Ren Wright , Roald Dahl , more... Isaac Asimov , Richard Matheson , John Keefauver , Jacques Futrelle , Harlan Ellison , Waldo Carlton Wright , Harold Q. Masur ...less

Format : Paperback 219 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Mystery, Horror, Fiction, Anthologies

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From Reader Review Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Stories to Be Read With the Door Locked - Volume 1 for online ebook

Hylarie says

Contrary to the title, I would feel comfortable reading this book with the doors unlocked, windows open, lights off, and burglar alarm disabled. Look elsewhere if you are searching for stories that will scare you because this book will most likely disappoint if a scare is what you're after; it is mainly mysteries with horribly predictable endings. However, being familiar with the short stories and novelettes usually attached to Hitchcock's name, I personally wasn't expecting more than what I got. After finishing up with a heavy novel, I was looking for a lighter read and got it with this volume. There were a couple of stories included that had decent enough twists to make them worth the time I spent reading; a few I found I liked simply because I grew attached to certain characters despite the fact that the plots they were tangled up in weren't as strong as I felt these particular characters deserved; and there was one I highly enjoyed because of the somber yet elegant tone it was written in. There were only two or three that had me lamenting that I couldn't get the last ten-fifteen-twenty minutes of my life back. Also, it's worth noting that while none of them are leave-the-light-on frightening, there are one or two that had a satisfying degree of creepiness to them (in my opinion of course). So not all was lost at least. Three stars.

Kyra Dune says

This anthology is a rather odd mix of horror and detective stories. I am not at all fond of detective stories, but I enjoyed most of the horror stories. My favorite was Shottle Bop by Theodore Sturgeon. It's a story about a man gifted with a supernatural power who fails to heed the warning attached to it. I also really enjoyed Voices In The Dust, which is about a man who goes sifting through the ruins of a lost civilization and finds something unexpected. Another good one was Zombique by Joseph Payne Brennan, about a man who seeks out petty revenge and pays a costly price for it.

If you like detective stories the ones in this anthology are not bad at all, simply not to my taste. And many of the stories have nice twist endings which may surprise you. For the most part, I found this an enjoyable book I'd be happy to recommend to anyone.

Andrea says

I expected horror stories. Don't let the name of the book fool you!

Leila says

Zabavno :D

Lisa says

#63 of 120 books pledged to read during 2018

Jillian says

Lots of great stories in here. The first half is definitely the best, though.

LobsterQuadrille says

3.5 stars

As with most anthologies, this one was sort of hit-and-miss. Most of the stories are good, though none were quite as terrifying as the title makes them sound. There were a couple of mediocre mystery stories in the collection(neither of which was the least bit creepy), but there were enough good stories that it made up for those two. Many of the tales are quite clever, and have that strange "Twilight Zone" atmosphere to them(one was even written by a man who also wrote for "The Twilight Zone" back in the day!), which I enjoyed.

These are my favorite ones:

- Funeral in Another Town
 - A Case for Quiet
 - A Good Head for Murder
 - Royal Jelly
 - Light Verse
 - The Distributor
 - How Littlefinger Licked the Hippies
 - Little Foxes Sleep Warm
-

Kelly says

This book was a fun venture into the world of short stories as I do not read many, and most of the stories lived up to their advertised spookiness or mysteriousness even though it did take me about 6 months to finish this book.

Benjamin Stahl says

I once read another *Hitchcock Presents* book, titled *Ghostly Gallery*, and I didn't really like it. I remember thinking it was way too whimsical and childish, having never come close to scaring me. In retrospect, I think I approached that one from the wrong angle, because apparently it was written with the intention of appealing to children who are scared easily but still enjoy a good horror story. The point of this, however, is that when I started reading this book, I was surprised by how much darker and more violent these stories

were. This is the kind of stuff I would have expected from Mr. Hitchcock. And while he didn't write them - only compiled them into this one edition - they do, for the most part, feel like the sort of stories he might have made into films. At any rate, it was fun visualizing these stories in the style of a Hitchcock film. While this book wasn't quite amazing - consisting mostly of average, though reasonably entertaining stories - it was, overall, a decent book, and I had a good time reading it. Stories I would like to draw particular notice to are Richard Matheson's *The Distributor* (an incredibly funny and dark social comedy about one man turning the rest of the neighbourhood against each other by stirring with their fears and prejudice); *Hijack* (a very Hitchcockian story about a flight crew pulling off a fake hostage crisis in the air); *The Invisible Cat* (a simple but effective story about someone escaping from a mental institution and wreaking fear and havoc over a small American town); and *The Odour Of Melting* (a very harrowing story about a man who survives a plane crash in the ocean, which escalates into brewing tensions and imminent nuclear war between America and Russia, because the one man who knows the truth after rescuing and keeping the survivor as prisoner on his yacht will not tell the rest of the world the truth that he has the pilot and that the plane was merely dysfunctional).

On the negative side, there were a lot of detective stories, and while these were certainly not bad, I just didn't care for them that much. With the exception of *The Pattern*, which I thought was strangely very good. And I would also like to give an honourable mention to *The Income Tax Mystery*, for surprising me and shifting from a quasi-detective-story into a somewhat nice and anticlimactic ending which ends with the investigator and the suspect sharing a couple of drinks. Overall, *Stories To Be Read With The Doors Locked* was a solid compilation, not really scary except for the odd exception, but definitely worth your time if it happens to be sitting there and gathering dust in the back of your bookcase.

Tabbitha Lindsley says

This book is a collection of short stories that won't scare you but will certainly entertain you. Some of the stories are just okay however some will surprise you. This was an okay book and good when you have a little bit of down time.

Toni says

This isn't the first book I read since the godawfulness that was the Twilight Series, but it IS the first I had to review.

I'm not done yet, but I think it's safe to say that Hitchcock put together a marvelous collection. I haven't gotten far enough into the book to understand why I should feel the need to "lock my door" (although I did want to slap some characters), maybe that bit of paranoia is on the way. Thus far, there have been stories that seemed worthy of a Hitchcock movie and others seemed straight out of the Twilight Zone.

Overall, the writing, characterization, and storytelling are marvelous and I highly recommend this book to anyone. Except for the extremely paranoid and easily frightened, that is.

Gary Newsom says

Giving it five stars because none of the stories are 'bad' (yes, some are predictable, or have a disagreeable

ending, but not bad), and especially for the Harlan Ellison story, which is in my top 5 of short stories.

Shannon says

I discovered this book in my dad's attic when I was 12, and even though I still can't watch horror movies, this collection of short stories kept me up late — reading AND not being able to sleep. Timeless, creepy stories — I wish I could find that old, musty, dog-eared book and give myself a good old-fashioned freak-out.

melydia says

A mixed bag in terms of quality, as I've come to expect from short story collections. Some of them were quite clever, but after a while I started to anticipate the "twist" endings. I guess that's what comes of reading too many mystery tales in a row. Some standouts were the stories by Roald Dahl and Theodore Sturgeon. Not a bad read, but I probably won't pick up any more of these collections in the future.

Bharath Thampi says

One more to my list of Hitchcock's collections :)

This one is not really the eery/creepy sort, works more on the element of surprise. Not bad, overall. A couple of them in particular amused me :

Royal Jelly (Roald Dahl)

The Distributor (Richard Matheson).
