



Three Tales from the Laundry Files

Charles Stross

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Enjoy two short stories and a novella from the Laundry Files. Originally published on Tor.com, these stories by Charles Stross continue the adventures of the Laundry, a secret division of the British government dedicated to tracking down and containing breaches of reality by occult and otherworldly threats.

"An entertaining mash-up of Lovecraftian mythology and an extremely twisted take on a fantasy trope."--*Publishers Weekly* (on *Equoid: A Laundry Novella*)

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Three Tales from the Laundry Files Details

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From Reader Review Three Tales from the Laundry Files for online ebook

Todd says

It's a good collection of tales from the "Laundry Files" (though all of the shorts are also available individually). My favorite, by far is "Overtime". Dark and hilarious. I highly recommend these books to all of my friends who are into British comedy and Lovecraftian horror - they are terrific mash-ups of the two genres. Fans of our webseries "Exorcists Local 667" (exorcistslocal667.com) would also likely enjoy these books.

I also read two shorts that are not included in this collection, "The Concrete Jungle" (included with the first book, "The Atrocity Archives") and "Pimpf", (included in "The Jennifer Morgue").

Rob Trans says

Three Tales From the Laundry Files continues the story of a British counter terrorism unit that fights supernatural and alien threats told through the eyes of an employee, Bob Howard. The three novella/short stories are "Down on the Farm (Laundry Files #2.5)," "Equoid (Laundry Files #2.9)," and "Overtime (Laundry Files #3.5)." Two of the stories are in the field and the third is set at HQ with a Christmas theme. Each starts slow, but they all get better the further in you get. All of them are quick, engaging reads, although Stross continues to be enamored with computing jargon and the vernacular of the Laundry's trade. I plan to continue reading this series.

Down on the Farm (Laundry Files #2.5)

In "Down on the Farm" Howard investigates a message reporting patient abuse at the 'Farm,' a facility to help Laundry agents recover from mental breakdowns or to provide long term care. His bosses send him with the feeling they have been less than forthright with him. As you might expect, not all is what it seems at the Farm. Howard unravels a mystery and barely escapes with his life.

Equoid (Laundry Files #2.9)

In "Equoid" Howard is given a file with letters written by H. P. Lovecraft that explains the trauma that led him to author the books and stories he is famous for. We also learn unicorns are real and as that they are not the creatures popularized in our culture. It explains much of the lore associated with them. The author writes too much of the story in Lovecraft's style.

Overtime (Laundry Files #3.5)

In "Overtime" Howard loses out on getting Christmas leave due to his being the hospital when the requests went in. He opts to work the normally quiet holiday for massive overtime pay. We learn a little bit about Santa Claus and the coming end of the world alluded to in other Laundry file books.

Ruth Feathers says

Don't read Equoid at bedtime if you want to sleep. Bob is at it again in this little collection of Laundry stories.

R says

As usual Bob is the antidote against IT fever... ;)

Jutta says

Really fun

I quite enjoyed these short stories. I've always liked the novels and these were a good addition to the series.

Alan says

I think I enjoyed these short stories more now that I have a couple of Stross's Laundry novels under my reading belt. I found myself settling more into the tone and world Stross is creating here, as I do have additional Laundry titles in my TBR stacks.

The general idea of the Laundry is that it is a branch of the British Intelligence/Civil Service. The catch is one might be recruited for the Laundry against their will as in this world higher mathematics is what is used to summon demons. Bob, our POV character, was recruited in such a manner from his private sector computer job (and you do not get to reject an offer from the Laundry).

Down on the Farm has Bob going to check out a supposed security breach at the institution where the Laundry sends those Laundry employees who have been damaged by its battles against incursions from those who shall not be named. This is arguably the weakest story out of the three. Equoid deals with unicorns in a manner that I had never thought of, and gave us a view of a different type of Laundry operation (a type of op glimpsed at in the second Laundry novel). Overtime is a mildly amusing take on working the Christmas holiday.

I would recommend this volume more for Stross or Laundry completists than for the casual reader. Equoid does stand on its own, as does overtime, but neither is so outstanding that I would tell someone to go out and buy this collection now.

Robin Edman says

I love Laundry stuff, I do. But I don't dig on the style of the short stories. But the concepts are just so clever that you should plod through them anyway. If you like this sort of thing, that is.

Deborah Replogle says

Mathematics as magic, crimefighting like James Bond.

Gabriel Clarke says

I had managed expectations about this trio of Laundry tales but thoroughly enjoyed all three. Perhaps the more modest scope and necessarily economical story telling works in their favour compared to the novels which, much though I love them, can get a little repetitive.

Wayne says

My reviews of the three offerings in this book are handled separately, so look them up. Down on the Farm, Equoid, and Overtime. Great mini collection, great series, and fine author! Bravo on all counts. Looking forward to the next Laundry Tales novels!

Ville says**I love the Laundry**

They say it is a collection of short-stories but the first one is an almost full-length novel. Whats not to like?
