



Best New Horror 11

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Now in its eleventh year, this winner of the World Fantasy Award and the International Horror Critics Guild Award again showcases the finest talents writing contemporary horror fiction - established masters as well as new voices - and presents its lively review of the past year in the field of fear and terror.

Contents:

Introduction: Horror in 1999 by Stephen Jones
Halloween Street by Steve Rasnic Tem
Others (excerpt) by James Herbert
Growing Things by T. E. D. Klein
Unhasped by David J. Schow
The Emperor's Old Bones by Gemma Files
The Entertainment by Ramsey Campbell
Harlequin Valentine by Neil Gaiman
The Stunted House by Terry Lamsley
Just Like Eddy by Kim Newman
The Long Hall on the Top Floor by Caitlín R. Kiernan
Lulu by Thomas Tessier
The Ballyhooly Boy by Graham Masterton
Welcome by Michael Marshall Smith
Burden by Michael Marano
Naming the Dead by Paul J. McAuley (as by Paul McAuley)
Aftershock by F. Paul Wilson
A Fish Story by Gene Wolfe
Jimmy by David Case
White by Tim Lebbon
Pork Pie Hat by Peter Straub
Tricks & Treats: One Night on Halloween Street by Steve Rasnic Tem
Necrology: 1999 (essay) by Stephen Jones and Kim Newman
Useful Addresses (essay) by Stephen Jones

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From Reader Review Best New Horror 11 for online ebook

Mike says

2.5/5 If you're into the history of literature, this might be worth checking out - it opens with a deeply tedious but very detailed summation of the major horror works of 1999, and it has stories from some of the biggest names in the genre. But as a selection of stories, this was disappointing and weak. Only a couple are worth reading, and none are exceptional.

Andre says

As always with the anthologies in this series, it is a real mixed bag of good and bad. In this case I would say there are more good stories than bad. It seems that the short stories selected from well-known authors are often the ones that disappoint the most. James Herbert, Ramsey Campbell are examples of that, although Neil Gaiman has a surprisingly well-written entry. Personal favorites are *Lulu* by Thomas Tessier and *The Long Hall On The Top Floor* by Caitlin R Kiernan.

Tiffany Lynn Kramer says

Several of these tails fit better in the category of weird rather than horror. Others simply don't work or proved forgettable the moment of competition. Thankfully there are some fantastic ones to be found that make this collection worth checking out.

Spinwallah says

i have to say that the james herbert short was fucking awful.

Greg Kerestan says

Definitely a worthwhile entry in the series, this one contains standouts like "The Emperor's Old Bones" and "One Night on Halloween Street." My only complaint, if you can call it one, is that "Pork Pie Hat" is somewhat overanthologized, and I've seen it in at least four of these upscale horror compilations.

Clint says

There were some real stinkers here, but the awesome stories outweighed them. I don't have it with me and can't remember particulars, but the F Paul Wilson story was a cool idea, but man he sucks as a writer these

days, what a cheeseball. The story about the gay ghosts or whatever was also really bad, as well as the last story, "Tricks and Treats On Halloween Street," just eye-rollingly bad. Oh, and Ramsey Campbell, what a boring old coot these days. And James Herbert, oh god how low he has sunk! Pluses: Peter Straub! I actually hated Ghost Story so much I couldn't get through it, but his Pork Pie Hat, while not even really a horror story, is by far the best thing in the book, a very intense, complex story, excellently told, hopefully a sign that he is way on top of his game. Or was 10 years ago. "Jimmy," can't remember the writer's name, but also really long but extremely badass. Its original title was "The Thing That Raped Women," which would have made it even cooler. Neil Gaiman of course is effortlessly successful, as always. And David Schow, wow, I've never read a single story of his that wasn't balls-to-the-walls fucking awesome, and he doesn't disappoint here at all either. One story, don't remember the name or the writer, but was really good, was about a couple who take a sunny afternoon break along a cliff near the sea and see a weird little house with too-small dimensions, and odd-looking boat just off the coast, and lots of other weird shit. It was pretty awesome. I read another story by the same guy (pity his name escapes me) in another anthology I liked just as much. Have to look this guy up when I get home.

Jien says

Very disappointing. Mostly not even horror. Only one 5 star story, and two 4 star ones. One story was offensively bad. Also, serious sexism. Extremely scarce amount of female authors (2), and several of the stories had extremely sexist overtones throughout them. Details below.

1 Introduction - Excessively long and uninteresting. 0 stars

68 Halloween Street - Reread it but still didn't get it. 1 star

75 Others - Not horror. Depressing social commentary, but not horror. 1 star

85 Growing Things - Again, not horror. 1 star

92 Unhasped - Extremely tedious listing of relationships from a sexist perspective, and the twist fell flat. 1 star

106 The Emperor's Old Bones - Definitely horrifying. This one will stick with me. 4 stars

126 The Entertainment - Author is obsessed with breasts and seems to think that's the most important feature to describe about every old woman he describes in the story. He even talks about the "breast of the house" instead of "the side of the house." And the story is predictable and boring. 1 star

149 Harlequin Valentine - It's alright. 3 stars

159 The Stunted House - Okay. 3 stars

173 Just Like Eddy - Whining, melodramatic, pointless. 1 star

187 The Long Hall on the Top Floor - Well, it's something. 2 stars

199 Lulu - Not horror. 1 star

221 The Ballyhooly Boy - Build up to disappointing climax and more disappointing end. 2 stars

243 Welcome - Almost. 3 stars

265 Burden - Not a fan of the 2nd person POV. Also, not my kind of horror. 2 stars

280 Naming the Dead - Finally, a good one, interesting from the start. 5 stars

302 Aftershock - The character played the “I was a skeptic” gambit on extremely shaky evidence. Not impressed. It’s like a lesson on how not to recognize logical fallacies. And the relationship was totally unneeded and felt forced. Also, not horror. 1 star

338 A Fish Story - Not horror. Not even much of a ghost story. 1 star

343 Jimmy - Utterly horrible. It portrays women absolutely horribly throughout, every female character is like a caricature of a stereotype. It portrays rape horribly: women encourage the rape because they are curvy, they don’t mind being raped (the only problem is if the rapist is ugly, and they are more upset by his ugliness than the rape), and they immediately and completely think “oh, if he kills me it’s just an accident.” Seriously. Science is portrayed horribly, falling into the fallacious “evil science” tropes. Doctors are portrayed horribly, either being mad scientists or petty unprofessional idiots who have never heard of doctor-patient confidentiality. And to top it all off, the author is condescending to the reader. He reveals the “big twist” very early on, then has the audacity to add a sentence of “foreshadowing” in the middle, as if the reader had no idea about what he’d already explicitly said. Awful story. Truly horrendous. 0 stars (or -5, if I could)

390 White - Actually pretty good. And it was horror, unlike so many in this anthology. 4 stars

451 Pork Pie Hat - This was almost horror, but it didn’t quite make it. The Jazz wrapper was too much, and the twist wasn’t enough. 3 stars

513 Tricks & Treats - Really uninteresting. 1 star

528 Necrology 1999 - Who buys this book for these? So many wasted pages. 0 stars

566 (Useful Addresses) - Not needed. 0 stars

bluetyson says

The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 11 by Stephen Jones (2000)
