



# Stage Whispers: The Collected Timmy Quinn Stories

*Kealan Patrick Burke*

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**Stage Whispers: The Collected Timmy Quinn Stories** Kealan Patrick Burke

\*Updated to include NEMESIS, the final, novel-length volume\*

Available for the first time in one volume, the complete collection of stories featuring Timmy Quinn, whose terrifying journey began in the 2004 Bram Stoker Award-Winning story THE TURTLE BOY.

Over the course of thirty years, we follow Timmy, a boy cursed with the ability to see ghosts and doomed to serve them, into adulthood, as he battles murderers and monstrous revenants in his struggle to find those responsible for violating the veil that separates the realm of the living from the land of the dead.

Included in STAGE WHISPERS, you'll find all the books in the series (over 200,000 words): THE TURTLE BOY, THE HIDES, VESSELS, PEREGRINE'S TALE, and the concluding novel-length volume, NEMESIS.

This edition also features a sneak peek at NIGHT FALLS ON MEMORY LANE, the first in a new series featuring Cassandra Quinn.

## Stage Whispers: The Collected Timmy Quinn Stories Details

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Author : Kealan Patrick Burke

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# From Reader Review Stage Whispers: The Collected Timmy Quinn Stories for online ebook

## Chris says

We travel a long way with Timmy Quinn in Stage Whispers. Through time, across oceans and other stygian bodies of water of darker importance, through years as he grows from a sensitive boy into a haunted man, and through the curtain that leads us to The Stage where we encounter vengeful and vicious beings that are more than ghosts. If anyone is thinking of reading the Timmy Quinn series, I would recommend this book for continuity and maximum impact of the story. Plus there is a great introduction and some author notes along the way.

Stage Whispers flows from act 1 (The Turtle Boy) a very emotional story of innocence lost which introduces us to Timmy Quinn; through act 2 (The Hides) in which we learn more about The Stage and that this isn't just a ghost story---there is much more at stake; on to act 3 (Vessels) which deepens and darkens the story immensely and where we learn that the vicious creatures on the Stage are not content to be "noises off" much longer and will soon rend the curtain entirely, cross the Stage and enter our reality; and finally to act 4 (Peregrine's Tale) which serves as a pause to Timmy's story, and introduces us to characters who had merely been behind the scenes up to that point, and ends with a shock to set up what is sure to be a cataclysmic act 5.

This work (what do you call a series of novels that collectively have the structure of a play?) is full of emotion. The images of rivers and bodies of water that, as did the river styx, serve as bridges between the living and the dead, resonate and leave after-images after the stories are completed. These characters, especially Timmy Quinn, are well drawn and you feel for them. The reader is not just cringing from a monster; we are horrified because we are moved by the characters and are affected when they suffer, especially in Vessels when the hungry ghosts make it much more personal for Timmy. The creatures of the Stage, and their familiars, especially the carnivorous turtles, are dangerous and become more and more aggressive and free to move about the world with each act of the play as the holes in the curtain become broader. By the time we get to Vessels, Timmy's days of the safety of being merely an unwilling spectator, much as an audience is protected from the carnage on the Stage, are gone. The curtain is falling apart and we are all about to wind up a part of the action.

Act 4, Peregrin's Tale provides the set up, with another tragic tale of a different young boy, for what is to come. With the final bombshell at the end of act 4 we have enough tension, and enough unanswered questions, to whet our appetite for act 5—The Nemesis. As any good Shakespeare scholar knows, act 5 is the showdown and this promises to be a good one. In the meantime, I will just mill around the lobby a bit, look at a poster or two, get a drink maybe, and wait for the call that announces that the final act is about to begin.

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## Shandra says

### Buddy read with Athena.

**Initial thoughts:** An interesting, creepy tale. Review to come.

## **Review:**

**Actual rating: 3.5-3.75 stars. No spoilers.**

Burke has such a skill at writing original, dark tales. I've enjoyed everything I've read by him. He has yet to let me down.

This is a collection of stories in the Timmy Quinn world. It's a very interesting concept that Burke hashes out well. He builds the characters and the world in a great way. As is his fashion, he doesn't believe in just giving you creepy. No, he wants you to develop sympathy and bond to his characters. He has serious skill in that department.

While I enjoyed this set of stories, it's always difficult to rate a collection of stories. Some are usually better than others. The final story was very long, and dragged for the most part. I was really into the story and engaged up until the final story. I feel like it could've been done differently. But, with that being said, there is no love lost here. I'm definitely still a Burke fan and will continue to read his stuff!!! The man has talent for sure!!

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## **Athena Shadbearer says**

### **Buddy Read with Shandra**

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## **Richard Wright says**

Collecting four novellas which together follow the character of Timmy Quinn, a boy who sees ghosts and is forced to help them find peace. The opening entry, *The Turtle Boy*, is the best of the lot, introducing Timmy as a child. As ghost stories go, it's a modern classic. A tale of childhood and innocence into which horrors intrude, the story is unsettling and novel, and the collection never quite reaches its heights again. That's not to say that what follows isn't excellent. *The Hides* and *Vessels* both rejoin Timmy later in his life, as he goes to increasing lengths to distance himself from the increasingly aggressive and demanding dead and finds that there is no escape.

If there's a frustration in reading the books as a sequence, it's that it becomes notable how much of the key development is happening between the books rather than during them. The stories were initially released individually, over several years, and the decision to allow major events to happen in the space between would have given weight to the sense of time passing, of catching up with character in each new book. Read as a continuous volume though, it becomes a failing rather than a strength. It's a minor problem, not with the stories but with the collected format, and Burke makes up for it with his unusual and potent take on ghosts and hauntings.

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## **Keith Chawgo says**

*'Stage Whispers'* by Kealan Patrick Burke is a collection of his Timmy Quinn novellas in one volume.

*The Turtle Boy* is a well written tale with vivid characters that captures a small town in 1970's America. What starts out as a run of the mill story, quickly turns into a supernatural ghost story with enough twists and turns which keeps the reader interested.

The story is written in the third person but interestingly enough only shows things from Timmy Quinn's point of view which makes an interesting read. The pace is quick and well thought out and characters are displayed in a natural sense.

The main complaint I have about the story is that the villain of the piece is a bit two dimensional and one of the twists is a bit too easy. This could have been cleverer in its reveal to keep the reader on their toes.

I did enjoy the ambiguity at the end and I did enjoy that everything was not totally wrapped up in a neat little bow.

*Hides* is the next volume which starts out with a two chapter episode dealing with a farmer and his son who doesn't live up to father's expectations. This two chapter story was really well done and placed Timmy into his teenage years. The next part of the story deals with family and the past. This leads Timmy and his father to his grandmother's house in Ireland.

Burke gave an excellent description of Ireland and the town itself which he captured brilliantly. The shoreline, houses, old factory and the winding streets are all captured beautifully. I lived in County Clare for a year and used to frequent the surrounding area and trust me, he captured it fantastically. I do understand that he does come from there but it takes a true talent to make you feel like you are there.

When Timmy arrives in Ireland, things take a turn with skeletons popping out of the closet and the dark town history comes to light. The action is fast paced and a real page turner that scared and exhilarated in equal measures. When the scares come in, this is where the story becomes its strongest. The imagery is very crystalline description providing an ending that is very moving and stays transplanted in your memory long after reading.

*Vessels* is the final novella which starts to connect the dots to what is happening to Timmy. We find Timmy alone on an island outside of Dublin after a life changing experience that happens to one of his parents. Timmy is now Tim and he is ready to just give up on the world. All is going to plan until a presence makes itself known who is ready for revenge.

This is very cleverly written and this does move the saga forward towards its climax which should be out at the end of September/beginning of October 2012. This was an exciting read. I enjoyed the way that all the points started to come together to form the bigger picture.

It was good to have a character from the past make an appearance but would have liked them to play a bigger part overall. Saying this, they do play a huge emotional part to the story which will hopefully lead to the conclusion when it comes out.

This, I felt was one of the strongest of the novellas as it started placing pieces of the puzzle together to start forming a bigger picture.

*Perrigrine* is a story written like a fairy tale that turns to nightmare. This was exceptionally written and the tone is slightly different than the rest of the novellas concerning Timmy Quinn. The story is a side story to the rest of the series and gives a bit of background history to what is mentioned in 'Vessels'. I really liked

this story and found all the characters very interesting and pushed me to finish this in one sitting.

The mother is terribly monstrous and the horror itself comes from her mothering skills that had an enormous pay off at the end. This is the part of the saga that made me excited about the next instalment. This warped fairy tale is what gives the saga substance.

Overall, '*Stage Whispers*' is a fantastic read and highly recommended for the paranormal audience. It has real solid mythos surrounding it and you will find yourself devouring every word, phrase and sentence until the very end. I found this a lot more comprehensible as a set than I did reading each story as a one-off.

Kealan Patrick Burke has a real talent and I am reading more and more of his work and I am starting to become a real fan. His descriptions and situations can truly become awe inspiring but at the same time frighten you with his imagery.

This is a definite must read and highly praise this ingenious series.

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### **Jodie says**

Dark but very good.

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### **Claudia says**

The final book about Timmy Quinn, "Nemesis," doesn't come out until the end of the summer. That seems much too long a wait for me. "I see dead people" almost becomes comedic when put next to the experience young Quinn has in these stories. The twist is dark and terrifying and therefore exactly what I like to read. The characters are well defined and even though each book leaps ahead several years there is still a nice sense of continuity. Although I would gladly have spent until the end of summer reading what happened during those missed years. The last book is a full novel and you can be assured I will get it on the day of its release.

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### **Denali says**

I am truly hesitant to give 1 star ratings but this was such a drop off from the first one that I came close. The Turtle Boy was a good read and so, interested in the further adventures of Timmy Quinn and impressed with Burke's generosity in giving the first book away for free, I picked up the rest of the Quinn collection. It was not very good but not so bad that I stopped reading it. While it has the characters of the Turtle Boy, they're not as fully developed, the writing is different (especially the terrible dialogue) and the haunting visions have been turned into full blown CGI set pieces.

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## **Karl says**

Contents:

9 - A Kind Of Haunting  
13 - The Turtle Boy  
71 - The Hides  
187 - Vessels  
285 - Peregrine's Tale  
317 - Nemesis: The Death Of Timmy Quinn

This is copy 47 of 75 signed numbered copies.

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## **Cats of Ulthar says**

According to the author's introduction, "Stage Whispers" contains the previously published Timmy Quinn material ("The Turtle Boy," "The Hides," "Vessels") plus the new "Peregrine's Tale." This collection will be followed by the as-yet-incomplete "Nemesis," which will finish Timmy's saga. So this volume contains 4 of the ultimately 5 stories of Timmy Quinn, conveniently placed in one volume.

Amazingly lyrical, intensely suspenseful, poetic, descriptive in incredibly imagined ways: any story of any length by author Kealan Patrick Burke is equivalent to a mind-expanding and soul-inspiring walk through a literary Paradise-the man is just that excellent. I had never read "The Turtle Boy" (apparently my education in horror has been sadly neglected after all) so I was excited to find it as the frontispiece story of this collection-even more excited from the first few sentences. How do I describe it? Author Burke himself gives a nod to Lovecraftian traditions in his "expanded introduction." "The Turtle Boy" has some of the flavor of Dan Simmons' excellent "coming of age" horror "Summer of Night." But anything to which Kealan Patrick Burke turns his pen is special-exceptional-awesome. If you've read any of the first three stories of Timmy Quinn, do buy this volume-it's a keeper. If you've not encountered young Timmy, as had been the case for me, don't hesitate-race to get it! If this is not a re-reader, multiple award winner, an utter joy and delight-then I don't know my horror, and I believe I do. Do acquire "Stage Whispers" if you can acquire nothing else.

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## **Tanya says**

I had gotten the first story for free and really enjoyed it, very spooky. I was excited to see the rest of the stories available in this collection. The 2nd and 3rd follow in the same vein. The 4th is from a different perspective and totally left me hanging.

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## **Siân Plummer (plumreads\_\_s) says**

\*4.5

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## **Kit★ says**

Review on the way!

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## **Paul Nelson says**

Stage Whispers contains the first four novella's and the concluding novel covering the life of Timmy Quinn from the young boy cursed to look on the dead, to the man fated to stop the revengeful deceased from rising.

In *The Turtle Boy*, Timmy Quinn and his best friend Pete Marshall encounter a strange boy at Myers Pond and here starts a journey filled with terror, betrayal, murder and the discovery of disturbing secrets. This opening novella is wonderfully written and you are immediately invested in the story, gripping narrative, haunting atmosphere and consuming characterization. If you've not read *The Turtle Boy*, it's free on kindle and is well worth an hour of your time.

In *The Hides*, Timmy & his Father go to live with his grandmother in Dungarvan, Ireland and his ability to see the lingering dead, which often ends in some form of resolution is about to show dark secrets hidden by his own family. A more personal affair this time for Timmy, where *The Turtle Boy* shows a young boy developing a disturbing gift, *The Hides* delves further into his curse and the lack of control he has over it, in a truly chilling conclusion, the dead show the power contained in the rage of the unlawfully killed.

*Vessels* is the third novella and to give the story some more depth we have the re-introduction of Timmy's on/off girlfriend Kim, Timmy is seriously at odds, he wants Kim but at the same time knows that being with him will put her in danger. From the beginning Timmy hears a startling admission, the curtain had parted and the dead had come to exact revenge on one he loved but they were stopped by a voice and it's his Father who had to live with the guilt. Now he points Timmy to Blackrock Island, a place of sanctuary, a place where there's never been a reported murder.

On the Island he's drawn to the ancient chapel where he soon realises no place can be free of evil and there he hears the whispers that have blighted his life, the terrifying ghost of Edmund Brennan who was hung from the crucifix. *Vessels* builds to a tense climax as we learn more of what Timmy is destined to face and I've got to say this is wonderfully descriptive, alluding to the stage, the curtain and the vengeful dead.

*Peregrine's Tale* is the next story in the series and introduces a new protagonist, a short read that if anything could have been attached to one of the other novellas but it is important and introduces a character that's instrumental in the endgame, his purpose is certainly one to think over.

*Nemesis: The Death of Timmy Quinn* is the coup de grâce and as finishing blows go, this is sensational. *Nemesis* entwines all the threads of the previous 4 stories and so much more that we didn't even get a hint at, that I was stunned at the sheer magnitude of it all. In fact, stands up and applauds, this has to be one of the best books I've read, epic describes it perfectly. The author showed incredible imagination with the series up to this point but with *Nemesis* he smashed it out of the park.

And to end on news that this story isn't quite over yet, there is an exclusive preview of *Night Falls on Memory Lane*, the first story in a new series featuring Cassandra Quinn, Timmy's daughter, looking forward

to it.

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## **Squire says**

"All the world's a stage, Timothy Quinn, but it's not the only one..."

Timothy Quinn sees dead people. He's one of the cursed few who are able to see behind the curtain between the world of the living and the stage upon which the dead act out eternity. The dead whisper deadly secrets of both worlds to him as they use him to exact vengeance upon the living.

Stage Whispers collects the first 4 Quinn novellas and one short story (used as a prologue to the first four acts of this tragedy--the final act is still in HC.)

This is a series that friends have been nagging me to read for more than 2 years and I always found a way to put them off. My bad. From the opening lines of this work, author Kealan Patrick Burke mesmerizes with prose that is densely beautiful--poetic, eerie, desperate and melancholic--as he relates the events of 11-year-old Timothy Quinn's loss-of-innocence summer vacation (The Turtle Boy); Quinn's relocation to the birthplace of his father at 17 (The Hides); and finally to Blackrock Island off the coast of Ireland 10 years later (Vessels). Act 4 (Peregrine's Tale) is the story of Quinn's adversary's fall from innocence, setting up what is certain to be a great final act.

There's so much to love about these works. Great characterizations, moody atmosphere, true horror. The strongest of the pieces is The Turtle Boy. The Hides is a more conventional horror story, but is a terrific continuation of events. Vessels is in some ways the least successful of the bunch in that it fails to move the locale (as did the first two), but at the same time it succeeds in darkening the scope of the series to an almost unbearable point. Peregrine's Tale is the shortest and seemingly simplest of the stories, but the horrors at its dark heart are magnified by the preceding events.

But what runs through all these tales is heart. It's what makes the series so compelling. Burke makes you feel every pain and every terror that plagues Timothy and his circle. Even that of his antagonists is felt by the reader and adds another level to the horror of this masterful work.

I give Stage Whispers the highest of recommendations.

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