



## **Tales from the Black Meadow**

*Chris Lambert*

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The stand out entries include "Beyond the Moor" a poem about a maiden accosted by a bandit who remains unafraid due to having been to the "beyond" of the title and returned. Also of note are "Children of the Black Meadow" where a bereaved mother resurrects her deceased kids as blackberry bramble homunculi; cyclical damnation tale "The Coal Man and the Creature" and the paranoia-inducing sucker punch "The Watcher From the Village" ... this is a collection that strongly invites a second reading.. - STARBURST MAGAZINE "A banquet of weirdness..." - Hypnobobs

..".visceral dread slowly rises from its mustiness..." - Mythogeography

"A fine piece of British Hauntology" - Gareth Rees Author of Marshland

"Properly spooky and really well written." - Sebastian Baczkiewicz - Creator of Radio 4's Pilgrim

"Tales from the Black Meadow" features a blend of weird and disturbing short stories. This collection is well worth checking out for its originality and chilling tone." - Phil Syphe Author of Cash 'n' Carrots and other capers

"very atmospheric black and white illustrations courtesy of Mr Nigel Wilson" - Hypnobobs

"Lambert manages to create genuine atmosphere and spine-tingling moments... but he also injects some black humour and much appreciated wit." Steevan Glover - Author of The Frog and the Scorpion

When Professor R. Mullins of the University of York went missing in 1972 on the site of the area known as Black Meadow atop of the North Yorkshire Moors, he left behind him an extensive body of work that provided a great insight into the folklore of this mysterious place.

Writer Chris Lambert has been rooting through Mullins' files for over ten years and now presents this collection of weird and macabre tales.

Marvel at tales such as The Rag and Bone Man, The Meadow Hag, The Fog House, The Land Spheres and The Children of the Black Meadow.

What is the mystery surrounding The Coalman and the Creature?

Who or what is The Watcher in the Village?

What is the significance of the Shining Apples?

Why is it dangerous to watch the Horsemen dance?

Beautifully illustrated by Nigel Wilson these tales will haunt you for a long time to come.

"Can you tell me, maiden fair Can you tell me if or where I shall see my child again Walk upon the fields of

men? Will she ever stumble back From the meadow all a'black?

## **Tales from the Black Meadow Details**

Date : Published April 20th 2013 by Createspace Independent Publishing Platform

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Author : Chris Lambert

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# From Reader Review Tales from the Black Meadow for online ebook

## Tom Breen says

Occupying the same rough terrain as other sterling examples of English pseudo-folk weirdness such as "Discovering Scarfolk" and the League of Gentlemen, this volume purports to be an anthology of folk tales, traditional ballads, songs, and other scraps of lore collected in a mysterious region of northern England by an unfortunate scholar named Roger Mullins.

Rather than a "novel in short stories," the seemingly disjointed tales add up to a brooding, atmospheric portrait of life around the eponymous Black Meadow, full of thick mists, mysterious lights and even more mysterious darkneses, and travelers who have a tendency to wander much further from the beaten track than they'd intended.

Although the pieces all have aspects of genuine folklore and folkloric collection about them - the writing is straightforward rather than decorative; the motifs are often at least slightly familiar - Lambert mines this idea for an array of bizarre and unique images, from a family made of blackberry tangles going about their daily business (or trying) to a house and everything in it made of inexplicably solid fog.

Throughout, the stories are enhanced by the eerie, effective illustrations of Nigel Wilson.

The longest tale, "The Meadow Hag," is perhaps the best, but other highlights for me include "Children of the Black Meadow," "The Standing Stone," "The Watcher from the Village," "Beyond the Moor," "The Long Walk to Scarry Wood," and "The Stone Steps."

There's apparently also an album of music composed to accompany the book and further expand the mythos of the Black Meadow, which suggests the extent of Lambert's commitment to his idea. Too often horror fiction settles for treading old ground, so an utterly distinctive work like this is welcome indeed.

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## L.M. Cooke says

This book is presented as a collection of researched myth, poetry and local lore about the Black Meadow and the inhabitants of the mysterious village that periodically appears on the Meadow when the mist rises...

Each entry adds to the mythos of the Black Meadow, building up a picture of life in the mysterious village and how the inhabitants are affected by the strange things that happen to them or around them. The Meadow is home not just to the village, but to a range of different beings, a hotspot of folkloric happenings.

It is well construed by the author, and works well as a pseudo-folkloric study. The studies evoke folk tales that you already know, but twist them into something new, something dangerous. And always, the mists soon shroud what is there.

Dare you venture into the mist?

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## **Rob Wickings says**

North of R.A.F. Fylingdales, on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors, lies a place known locally as the Black Meadow. It is a place that has been the nexus of folklore, songs and stories for a very, very long time. Strange things happen in the Black Meadow. There is a mist that will rise from the woods even on a clear and cloudless day. There are things in there, the stories say. A man made out of rag and bone. Dancers with horses heads and men's bodies. And a village that will appear and disappear without a trace,

The Black Meadow has devoured many souls over the centuries. The songs and stories that have developed in the local area warn against the place and even now, should the mist rise, people will not leave their houses until it has dissolved again. It is these disappearances that have sparked interest over the decades, with a Royal Commission in the 1930's under Lord Thomas Brightwater tasked with the investigation of the mysterious incidences. That inquiry was plagued with controversy, and Brightwater abandoned it, and his political ambitions under a cloud of opprobrium.

In the late 1960s Professor Roger Mullins of the University of York picked up where the Commission had left off. His initial exploration of the folklore around Fylingdales led him in strange directions, and his research took an increasingly esoteric turn. He disappeared in 1972, and he has never been found. The Black Meadow has a way of keeping its secrets to itself.

Or perhaps not. Mullins left behind a stack of research material that have formed the basis of a new examination of the phenomena and folklore of the Black Meadow by author and hauntologist Chris Lambert. Chris's book of tales, beautifully illustrated by Nigel Wilson, gathers many of the best known tales and poems in a neat little volume.

It seems, however, that the more you try to explore the phenomena of the Black Meadow, the less clear it becomes. You become mist-blind, and the truth slips through your fingers like fog.

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## **PrettyFlamingo says**

A good collection of spooky folklore tales and poems set in North Yorkshire with some fabulous illustrations by Nigel Wilson. I found the content spooky and scary but a little samey and very steeped in old folklore and local customs; I was surprised not to find any contemporary stories. The Rag & Bone Man was quite upsetting and stayed with me long after I had finished reading.

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## **Tom De Ville says**

A charmingly presented collection of spooky stories and folksongs gathered from a supposedly cursed region of the Yorkshire Moors.

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**charlotte says**

the illustrations are scarier than the stories - I love them- the stories themselves are pretty meh

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**Rob Menzies says**

Merry olde English psuedo folk tales! Weird and wonderful stuff! Great! Gies more sir!

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**Katherine says****EXCELLENT**

I couldn't recommend this book more if you are into weird tales, ghost stories, time travel and fairy tales. There is something so unique about Black Meadow that despite the bad things that could potentially happen to me if I visited I would go in a heart beat. A truly imaginative collection of stories reminiscent of things like the SCP Foundation and The League of Gentlemen (BBC). I am forever jealous of Lambert for putting this together and I want to be considered as first in the queue if there is ever another volume.

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**Bjorn says**

As promised, here is my review. This review is prompted in part because I received a free copy of this book through Goodreads for the purpose of reviewing the book, and in part because I enjoyed this book more than I thought I would when I began reading it.

A mostly spoiler-free summary: This is a collection of short stories, short poems or verses, and illustrations that all revolve around "The Black Meadow" and the strange town that appears and disappears whenever a preternatural mist or fog arises. Each of the stories focuses on some type of uncanny or supernatural event that happens in conjunction with this town, ranging from sentient blackberry-vine children to unrealized time travel to a myth about why the town disappears that features a resilient, hardworking man and the devil.

Most, if not all of the stories and verses are free-standing, and often read (at least at the beginning of the collection) as a series of folkloric tales rather than a "story" per se. Therefore, this collection is essentially a literary equivalent of the "found footage" trope employed by so many recent horror films; it even proposes to have been collected by a professor who has presumably since disappeared.

When I first began reading this collection, I was not sure what to think of it. To be honest, I was not sure I wanted to finish reading the book after having read the first couple of stories. I was turned off by the lack of character development, the simplicity of the narrative style (which felt to me more like a detailed story outline than an actual "story"), and the lack of dialogue. However, I kept on reading, and I'm glad I did because the stories became more like the Grimm fairy tales the further I got into the book.

Overall, this is a nice collection of short stories that can be enjoyed by people of almost all ages. The folkloric narrative style gives them a "spooky ghost story" feel without crossing the line into horrific or gory detail (of which there is either none or very, very little). The poems are nothing special, but quite a few (though certainly not all) of the illustrations lend a nice, atmospheric touch. I enjoyed this book quite a bit, and although I have not yet listened to the soundtrack nor the "documentary" about the mist that accompanied my copy, I like the idea of multi-media storytelling. This collection is certainly not a bad way to spend \$8, especially for the quality. Definitely recommended.

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## **Phil Syphe says**

"Tales from the Black Meadow" features a blend of weird and disturbing short stories and several short verses. The haunting tone is consistent throughout each narrative, reflecting the author's enthusiasm for his subject matter. My personal favourite is "The Fog House", which is one of the lighter tales, featuring a splash of humour.

This collection is worth checking out for its originality and chilling tone. I'm not a fan of poetry, be it proclaimed the best or worst in the world, but the verses a few, so if anyone else feels the same way about poems, don't be put off, as the unique collection of prose tales are a good read.

The book also features some excellent illustrations.

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