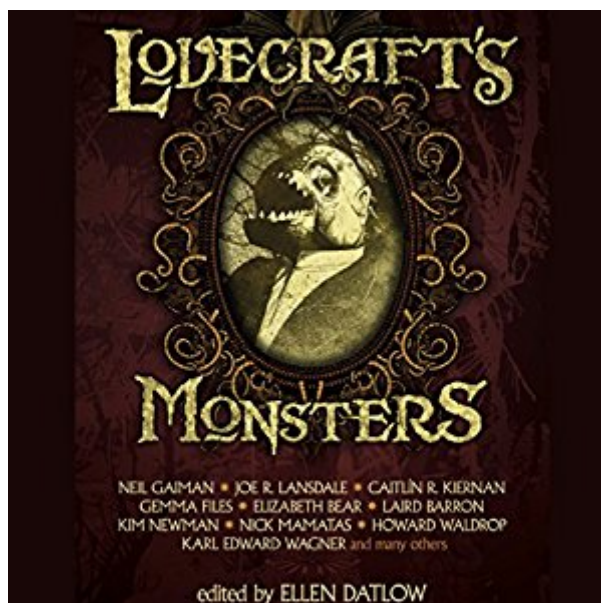


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Lovecraft's Monsters



Synopsis

Prepare to meet the wicked progeny of the master of modern horror. In Lovecraft's Monsters, H. P. Lovecraft's most famous creations--Cthulhu, Shoggoths, Deep Ones, Elder Things, Yog-Sothoth, and more--appear in all their terrifying glory. Each story is a gripping new take on a classic Lovecraftian creature. Contributors include such literary luminaries as Neil Gaiman, Joe R. Lansdale, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Karl Edward Wagner, Elizabeth Bear, and Nick Mamatas. Legions of Lovecraft fans continue to visit his bizarre landscapes and encounter his unrelenting monsters. Now join them in their journey...if you dare.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book starts off with a great story by Neil Gaiman titled, Only the End of the World Again. We find a werewolf in Innsmouth who incidentally saves the world by stopping the arrival of the elder gods. It is an enjoyable read because of its comical aspects. In the story, Red Goat Black Goat, by Nadia Bulkin, two well-off children on a farm estate learn the harsh lessons of the goat god, and why you should never scoff at its rules. The Same Deep Waters as You, by Brian Hodge is a top story in the collection. A woman who is known as an animal whisperer is brought to a secretive Atlantic Island prison to assess the prisoners. The prisoners are the last surviving population of Innsmouth, deformed and fish-like, and unable to speak. They have begun a new ritual. They are all facing the same direction in unison towards the ocean. They are waiting for something. Something wonderful. And then we have the story by Thomas Ligotti called Sect of the Idiot, which I had already

read in his anthology, *Songs of a Dead Dreamer*, but was happy to revisit here. A man enamored by a small but unusual town unlocks a hidden cosmic horror. As his curiosity leads him into the malignant hidden underbelly of the town, he will forever become a participant in the madness. This is close to reading an actual story by Lovecraft if he were alive today. Ligotti has all the mannerisms, atmosphere and stylings of Lovecraft without ever feeling derivative and he rarely touches upon tentacles or Cthulhu things from the sea. Next we have a Lovecraftian Southern Horror story, *The Bleeding Shadow*, by Joe R. Lansdale. This one connected with me because it incorporates music, blues specifically, and updated the old crossroads story. As always, Joe relayed the tale with a distinct character and a wonderful character voice. There are some other high points in the book and some stories I liked less. As with all collections there are stories that you will favor. I've listed my favorite here and these alone made Lovecraft's Monsters worth a read.

Lovecraft's Monsters is a collection of Lovecraftian tales edited by the great Ellen Datlow that was published in 2014. Some of the top names in weird fiction are included in this collection and it delivers the goods! As Robert Price has said, there is a difference between Cthulhu Mythos stories and Lovecraftian stories. Cthulhu Mythos stories are pastiches of H.P. Lovecraft; such tales typically involve a specific set of tropes such as referencing forbidden tomes and uncovering the existence of ancient alien civilizations and entities that are so advanced and different from us that some would consider them gods. If you are looking for pastiches of the Cthulhu Mythos then *Lovecraft's Monsters* is not for you. However, if you are looking for interesting and different Lovecraftian tales, again applying Price's terminology, then this is the book for you! Lovecraftian tales are broader in scope and presentation, focusing more on the cosmic horror of Lovecraft's themes and monsters. Also, these tales are not limited to stuffy New England academics uncovering eldritch horrors. Many of the tales are set in different times and cultures but at the same time explore the cosmic horror associated with Lovecraft's entities. While all of the tales are good, some really stand out. For example, I have not read Thomas Ligotti's *The Sect of the Idiot* since the 1990s and I forgot how powerful it is in its cosmic horror. *Red Goat Black Goat* by Nadia Bulkin is a loose interpretation of Shub-Niggurath from a different cultural perspective and is absolutely fascinating. Another favorite of mine is by Brian Hodge called *The Same Deep Waters as You* and involves the Deep Ones and Cthulhu. Other authors contributing toward this excellent collection include Neil Gaiman, Laird Barron, Fred Chappell, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Joe R. Lansdale and John

Langan, just to name some of them. Ms. Datlow put together a first rate collection of Lovecraftian stories focusing on the old gentleman's entities and I can't recommend the book enough!

A suitably creepy set of stories by various authors inspired by the monster's of H. P. Lovecraft. Some stand out more than others -- The Same Deep Waters as You (by Brian Hodge), Children of the Fang (John Langan), and Remnants (Fred Chappell). Which brings me to the main reason I typically avoid short stories, the best of them leave me wanting a full story to explore the characters and situations. But for those looking for an eldritch horror or a mind-bending (literally) inhuman villain or a shoggoth or ghast, you could do far worse than this collection.

Book was a mix of stories/collections/poems that I really enjoyed and other that I had to force myself to get through. I would recommend it if you know that the person will appreciate it, definitely not my favorite collection series of all time

Oddly enough, Neil Gaiman's story was one of the few "4 Star" stories in this collection. Most of them promised the well-known but disturbing world of Lovecraft and his contemporaries, until you stepped through the door - and only once it had slammed shut behind the reader, do you realise that this ain't your Old Uncle Howie's stories....Ellen Datlow is a name synonymous with excellence in horror collections, and this is another fine example of her ability to find the right story for the right moment in a collection. If you are a fan of horror, in all it's forms, then this is the right collection for you.

It's a pretty satisfying collection of homages to H.P. Lovecraft's monsters. As with any collection, I personally like some stories more than others, and even though Neil Gaiman's story (the first one) is apparently in other anthologies (per other reviews), I hadn't read it yet so I was pretty pleased- I like his writing. I love that there is a Monster Index, that was a nice bonus I didn't notice before I bought it.

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