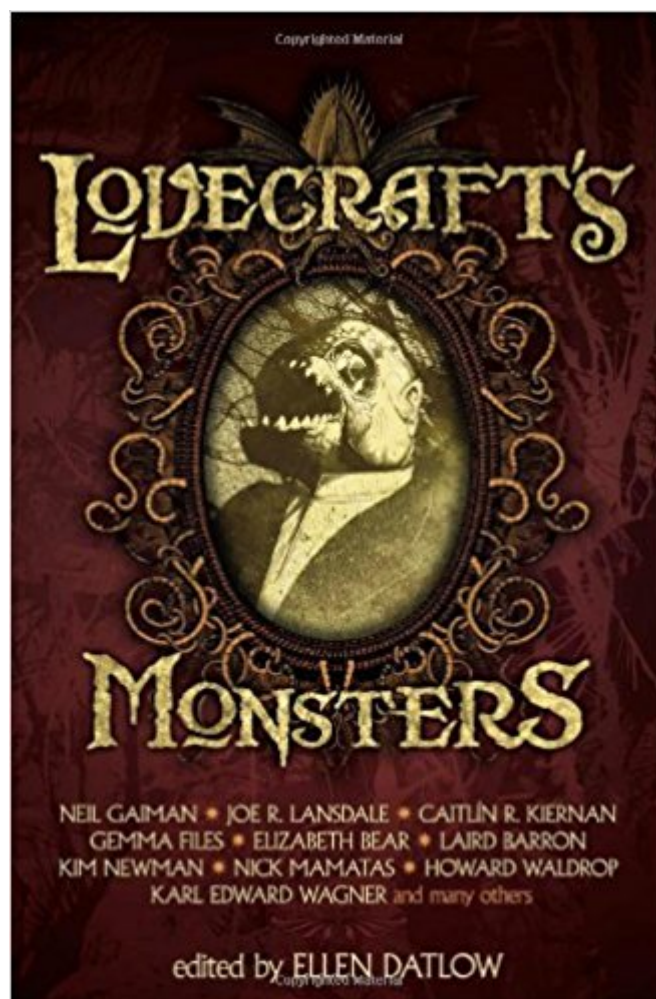


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Lovecraft's Monsters



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, and each is accompanied by a spectacular original illustration that captures the monsters' unique visage. Contributors include such literary luminaries as Neil Gaiman, Joe R. Lansdale, Caitlín R. Kiernan, Karl Edward Wagner, Elizabeth Bear, and Nick Mamatas. The monsters are lovingly rendered in spectacular original art by World Fantasy Award-winning artist John Coulthart (*The Steampunk Bible*). Legions of Lovecraft fans continue to visit his bizarre landscapes and encounter his unrelenting monsters. Now join them in their journey...if you dare.

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Customer Reviews

What do you get when you take some of genre fiction's biggest names and ask them to write original fiction based on H.P. Lovecraft's works? The answer is simple: you get an amazing and diverse treasure trove of stories. As an avid fan of Lovecraft's monstrous creations, THIS is the anthology I've been waiting for. And it certainly does not disappoint. The stories here are unique and wonderful, showcasing the best of Lovecraft's wicked imagination and the endless talents of several of today's finest authors. I never seem to get tired of Lovecraft-inspired stories and books. Every year, they seem to get better and better as new (and veteran) authors add their

creations to the canon. I would daresay Lovecraft is even more popular now than he was when he was alive. And hopefully, this is a trend that will continue for many, many years. Each story in LOVECRAFT'S MONSTERS is written well, and there is a very nice diversity of prose between the various authors. I particularly like how each storyteller highlights a unique take on these already-published creatures; the ability to bring forth something new from something that already exists is a true testament to each writer's talents. In addition to the writing, each story is painstakingly illustrated by noted artist John Coulthart. Reading Lovecraft is one thing, but seeing the man's creations in ink is something on a whole different level. I love this aspect of the book, as it gives an even more heightened appreciation of the monsters within the stories. My favorite story in LOVECRAFT'S MONSTERS is "Only the End of the World Again" by Neil Gaiman. In this tale, a werewolf has a run-in with an avatar of the Deep Ones, sea-dwelling gods that are older than time.

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.

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