



The New Lovecraft Circle

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H. P. Lovecraft was the eerily prescient genius who first electrified readers in *Weird Tales* magazine. His tales changed the face of horror forever and inspired the bloodcurdling offerings of a new generation. These brilliant dark visionaries forge grisly trails through previously uncharted realms of mortal terror.

THE PLAIN OF SOUND by Ramsey Campbell: In the beginning they could find no source for the throbbing vibrations; in the end they could find no escape.

THE HORROR ON THE BEACH by Alan Dean Foster: Along the coast of Santa Barbara, the mighty Pacific Ocean can no longer contain—or conceal—an ancient, insatiable evil stirring in its depths.

THE KISS OF BUGG-SHASH by Brian Lumley: It mattered not how innocent the students' motives seemed; the demon had been summoned, and the price had to be paid—every last red drop of it.

THE FISHERS FROM OUTSIDE by Lin Carter: A man obsessed with unlocking the secrets of a race older than time would not be disappointed—doomed perhaps, devoured possibly, but definitely not disappointed.

AND TWENTY-ONE MORE TALES OF FEAR . . .

THE STONE ON THE ISLAND by Ramsey Campbell

THE STATEMENT OF ONE JOHN GIBSON by Brian Lumley

DEMONIACAL by David Sutton

THE SLITHERER FROM THE SLIME by H. P. Lovecraft

THE DOOM OF YAKTHOOB by Lin Carter

THE KEEPER OF THE FLAME by Gary Myers

DEAD GIVEAWAY by J. Vernon Shea

THOSE WHO WAIT by James Wade

THE KEEPER OF DARK POINT by John Glasby

THE BLACK MIRROR by John Glasby

I'VE COME TO TALK WITH YOU AGAIN by Karl Edward Wagner

THE HOWLER IN THE DARK by Richard L. Tierney

THE WHISPERERS by Richard A. Lupoff

LIGHTS! CAMERA! SHUB-NIGGURATH! by Richard A. Lupoff

SAUCERS FROM YADDITH by Robert M. Price

VASTARIEN by Thomas Ligotti

THE MADNESS OUT OF SPACE by Peter H. Cannon

ALIAH WARDEN by Roger Johnson

THE LAST SUPPER by Donald R. Burleson

THE CHURCH AT GARLOCK'S BEND by David Kaufman

THE SPHERES BEYOND SOUND (THRENODY) by Mark Rainey

From the Trade Paperback edition.

The New Lovecraft Circle Details

Date : Published (first published 1996)

ISBN :

Author : Robert M. Price

Format : Kindle Edition 480 pages

Genre : Horror, Lovecraftian, Anthologies, Cthulhu Mythos, Fiction, Short Stories

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From Reader Review The New Lovecraft Circle for online ebook

Jeannie Sloan says

I really enjoyed this book. The stories did get a little redundant but the book is supposed to be about the Mythos. I read a story or two and then read something different so I didn't get sick of the theme. All in all a nice book to have in my 'Lovecraft' collection. The stories had the flavor of being 'older' which I much prefer to the newer Mythos stories. I liked Cthulhu 2000 but I liked this book much better.

Ruth says

I read a handful of the stories before I gave up. Some of them were decent. Some were mediocre. Some were downright bad. None was worth a second read. I keep hoping that I'll find Lovecraftian mythos fiction I can really enjoy, but most of it just isn't interesting.

I suggest reading Fall of Cthulhu Vol 1: The Fugue instead. It's very different but also much better.

Jc says

I guess these stories would seem fantastic and horror-filled for a 12 year old boy who hasn't read much. But, I just found them dull and repetitive. I know that many find the Lovecraft cycle fascinating, and there is a cult (if not cultic) following. But, well, bleh. I read through the stories mostly out of respect for the editor, whom I know and whose scholarly work I rate highly. And a couple of the stories are okay, including the one Bob himself wrote. But, the worthy material takes up about 80 pages of the 450. The material that is worth reading here was done better by Poe nearly a century before Lovecraft. Most pulp fiction era novels, and most modern comic books, are written more skillfully.

Jon says

This is a bit of an unusual Lovecraft collection. A good deal of these stories are far more mythos/Derelth inspired. The hard-core Lovecraft fan is likely to be put off adventure tales of folks racing for an elder sign to stop the unspeakable horror that the cultists are trying to raise. [return][return] That being said, there's a pretty wide range of Lovecraftian inspired stories, including several humor pieces. There's also a stated goal in the introduction on using lesser published stories (at the time of this collection, at least). I don't know if I entirely agree on the editor including some of the early work of several writers. [return][return] If you're a completist of the Lovecraft mythos, this is a must-buy. There's some very good stories I haven't seen elsewhere. If you wash your hands of anything with a Derelth influence, you're probably not going to like a good chunk of the stories in this collection. [return][return] If you're a fan of Lovecraft or some of his followers, I'd say this collection is certainly worth tracking down to borrow. Just feel free to skip over the stories that aren't in a style to your liking and you'll probably find a few that are.

John Bruni says

To be honest, I went into this book with a pretty negative attitude. I'm not a big fan of Lovecraftian writing these days. I'm still cool with actual stories written by Lovecraft, but those written with the intent of emulating his? I've become bored with them. It's always the same thing, over and over again. Very few writers bring anything new to the mythos. I'm not talking about adding a monster here or a forbidden tome there; I mean the Lovecraftian tale has not changed with the times, for the most part. This book is further evidence of this. I've read some of the stories in here before, and I'm sad to say that not even Ramsey Campbell came through for me. H.P. Lovecraft's story was pretty funny. I enjoyed Alan Dean Foster's "The Horror on the Beach" a great deal. But apart from these two standouts, I'm not that impressed. It was cool to find a hidden illustration from Gahan Wilson, though.

John Devlin says

Uneven quality w/several of these stories being bad to mediocre, and while a few are well written, they are all burdened w/Lovecraft's mythos to the point of campy sameness

Tarl says

There are a lot of anthologies out there that present writers who are following in Lovecraft's footsteps as they play around in his mythos. This anthology is no different, though Price states that he believes these authors to be the next circle of Lovecraft writers to follow the initial circle that were friends/wrote with with the famous author. It's a good premise for an anthology, and one that is different than a lot of the 'modern' Lovecraft writers anthologies you see around these days.

My first issue with the ebook was actually a formatting/programming error that has nothing to do with the writers and doesn't play a part in my rating. I found that while reading, if I put the Kobo into sleep mode, it would jump the story back to a previous one over and over until I passed a certain point. This happened on my KoboOriginal before it died, and again on my KoboGlow. I found it to be frustrating and annoying. Coupled with a lack of cover for the epub, I felt the anthology was a bit over priced at about \$14.

I found a couple of really good stories in this collection, as well as authors I recognized among the large number of stories contained within this collection. While only one story struck me as out of place, the rest were mostly just average Lovecraftian stories. Many followed Lovecraft's style, some succeeding, some being weaker copies. Others followed Derleth's take on the mythos and I found those to be some of the lesser, more drawn out and boring, stories. Those that succeeded in presenting the mythos did so really, really well, and even some of the more average stories did a wonderful job with the material.

There was one story that stood out like a sore thumb, and it was a science fiction piece about a futuristic movie company shooting a movie about everything that happened at Dunwich. I found that this story did not fit within the other stories presented in this anthology, and actually seemed unrelated to everything else beyond the fact that Lovecraft's story was the focal point. Not only was the general theme completely different, but so was the writing style, creating what I felt was a disharmonious piece among the others. Personally, this story would have been wonderful in one of the many sci-fi Lovecraft anthologies, but in this one felt out of place.

Overall, this was an average anthology.

As I said, there are some really good stories, and some recognizable names, but all in all the stories didn't strike me as anything ground breaking for the most part. There's still some really good pieces in there, but they get dragged down by the other stories in the collection. Still, if you are a fan of Lovecraft's works, I suggest you pick this anthology up. There are some stories you may have to slug through to get to the gems, but they are worth it, and even those average stories have elements that may surprise you.

Craig M says

Mostly very good and consistent quality of the short stories contained within this collection. All of them worthy of a reading. Some of them pay more homage to Lovecraft than others, but that said they're better than average.

Michael Latiolais says

A mixed bag. Some of the stories had a good hook, while others just didn't capture my imagination. I did like the parody story(Or WAS it a parody story?). Overall, a worthy read.

Marissa says

Like most short story anthologies, there are some great ones and some not-so-great ones. Most of the stories are cut-and-paste Lovecraft pastiches (which isn't necessarily a bad thing). I enjoyed it well enough, but I don't think anything here particularly stands out as a must-read for the HPL fan.

David Davis says

3.5/5. The best stories I think were in the second half of the book.

The Artificer says

Like all Price compiled anthologies, this one is rather uneven in story quality, with Lin Carter's (as usual) and "H.P. Lowcraft's" contributions as particularly low points. Even Brian Lumley's contribution "The Kiss of Bugg-Shash" was a more than a little disappointing, and I normally quite enjoy his work.

Highlights included Ramsey Campbell's contributions (which I'd unfortunately had elsewhere already) as well as Alan Dean Foster's "The Horror on the Beach".

One thing that is happily notable in it's absence is the normally terrible spelling and editing errors that seem to accompany so many of Price's "Chaosium Cycle" books. Apparently DelRay spends more on proofreading and editing.

As another reviewer mentioned, Robert M. Price apparently theme for this collection was that these authors were to be the "New Circle" of Lovecraft's literary legacy. I thank the Great Old Ones that this did not come to pass.

If Goodreads allowed fractional stars I'd have given this collection 2.75, as is I had to settle for 3.

Scott says

A solid collection of short stories all inspired by the Cthulhu mythos. As with all anthologies, there are some weak points (hence the three stars), but overall they are good. At times they can be a little redundant, but if you enjoy Lovecraft's style, you'll enjoy this collection.

Hatebeams says

Pretty dumb, by and large. What I don't get about the Price anthologies is a general reverence for Brian Lumley as a 'masterful' Mythos writer when he's nothing of the sort.

Michael Gridley says

I'm a nut for anything Ramsey Campbell touches and this one lives up to everything I expect. Good stories, well written, by authors who respect and love the mythos.
