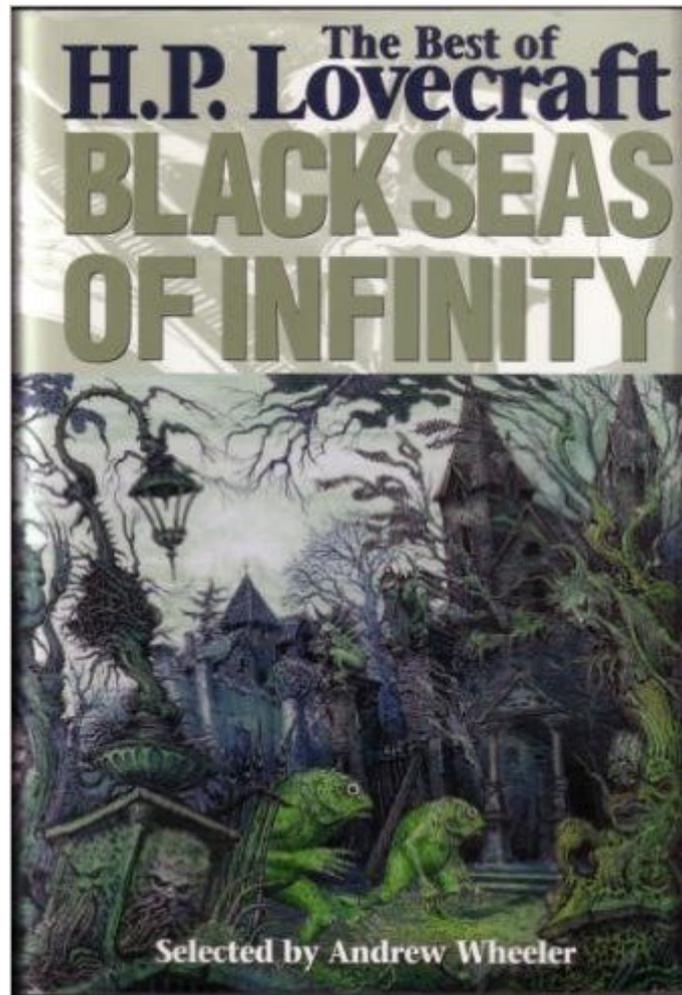


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Black Seas Of Infinity: The Best Of H.P. Lovecraft



Synopsis

BLACK SEAS OF INFINITY

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, a handy note: if you find this collection, and you're thinking of buying it (a decision I thoroughly endorse), do yourself a favor and check to make sure that you're not missing, say, page 490-508. Because I can tell you, from experience, that getting 80 pages into "At the Mountains of Madness" and suddenly realizing you're missing 18 pages of the story? Not a fun time. It's the only sour note I can say that I have about this book, though, which is easily the single best anthology of Lovecraft's work I've found to date. Containing a wide range of the master's work, from "The Call of Cthulhu" and most of the major Mythos stories to standalone works like personal favorite "In the Walls of Eryx," editor Andrew Wheeler clearly picks from a fan's perspective, but his order (grouping stories that echo each other, setting short stories between longer ones) is great, and his choices superb. As he says in the introduction, not all of the best stories are here, but there's not a bad one in the batch. A great introduction for anyone just coming into Lovecraft's work, and a solid, spectacular collection for any diehard fans. No one unsettles and horrifies like Lovecraft, and if you've never read his surreal, nightmarish visions, you're in for a massive treat, and some of the best and most horrifying tales of all time. Any serious fan of horror owes it to themselves to find this volume - provided, of course, that it has all of its pages.

Editor Wheeler has assembled an excellent Lovecraft overview and collection. The book contains 19 stories and totals out at 536 pages. It also includes the following: Introduction by editor Andrew

Wheeler by Lovecraft Appendix A-History of the Necronomicon by Lovecraft Appendix B-Notes on Writing Weird Fiction by Lovecraft Appendix C-Some Notes on Nonentity Appendix D: Chronology of the Fiction of H.P. Lovecraft In these stories I found several themes that I greatly admired - Lovecraft frequent usage of New England and Essex County as a setting for many of his stories and the consistency of his horrific rational. Included are some of my most admired stories: The Call of Cthulhu; "The Shadow Out of Time"; "The Lurking Fear", "The Thing on the Doorstep"; "The Dreams in the Witch House" and the masterpiece "The Shadow Over Innsmouth". Also included in this collection is, in my estimation, one clunker "At the Mountains of Madness". The story is interesting but it is so bloated and repetitious about 50 pages could have been jettisoned and what remains would have been a much better story. A thoughtful quotation by Lovecraft opens the book. I will include here because I agree with the truthfulness of it. "The most merciful thing in the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents. We live on a placid island of ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far. The sciences, each straining in its own direction, have hitherto harmed us little; but some day the piecing together of dissociated knowledge will open up such terrifying vistas of reality, and our frightful position therein, that we shall either go mad from the revelation of flee from the deadly light into the peace and safety of a new dark age". HPL "The Call of Cthulhu" 1926

Nineteen stories from H.P. Lovecraft, the master of American weird fiction and horror-fantasy. In Lovecraft's dark and sinister tales, beneath the superficial veneer of human civilization on Earth, unbelievably ancient and evil alien beings lie dormant. They wait for the time when they will awaken and reclaim the planet, devouring, annihilating, and enslaving the irrelevant human presence. In these stories of bizarre magic, unspeakable cults, cyclopean lost cities, and archaic lore, Lovecraft's erudite and pedantic investigating narrator often delves too deeply into mysterious circumstances and places, discovering more and more about the terrible truth of humanities' impending doom! H.P.L., who was sadly penniless and obscure in his own time, has become legendary as an inspirational ground-breaker in the literary realms of fantasy, horror, and science-fiction! Some of the classic Lovecraft stories to be found inside: The Call of Cthulhu, The Color Out of Space, The Shadow Out of Time, The Lurking Fear, Pickman's Model, The Shadow Over Innsmouth, The Festival, At the Mountains of Madness...

You've heard the name "HP Lovecraft" bandied about the horror writers table and don't know where to go. You are overwhelmed by the selection of his stories, reprinted again and again and can't

decide which one to pick up first. Well, this collection served as my introduction to the writer and it is fantastic. First off, the introduction and appendices are great resources if you get hooked (as I did) with finding other books about Lovecraft. But you only get hooked if you read his stories, and the collection here covers the gamut! A great balance is struck between Lovecraft's two main story cycles - the famous Cthulu Mythos and The Dream Cycle - as well as a few of his non-cycle stories. The most important works - "Call of Cthulu", "At The Mountains of Madness", "Shadow over Innsmouth" - are included; two of those mentioned are at least novella-length also. More importantly, there are two of Lovecraft's revision stories (both on par with the rest of the work in this collection) included. This means, as a neophyte to Lovecraftian horror, you get a great dose of the most famous works as well as a smattering of his lesser known - but equally strong - writings. Not only that, but around at least two or three of these stories have movies based on them (one was an episode from the first season of the Masters of Horror series). I can't recommend this collection enough!

I have collected nearly all of Lovecraft's stories in several books. This book is a very good sampling. If you only want a single book with the best of Lovecraft, this would be it.

Lovecraft is the best horror writer ever! LOVE his work.

It's H.P. Lovecraft- what more can you say!

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