



Cold Print

Ramsey Campbell

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A collection of Ramsey Campbell's horror stories, including The Church in the High Street, The Room in the Castle, The Horrors from the Bridge, The Insects from Shaggai, The Render of the Veils, The Inhabitant of the Lake, The Will of Stanley Brooke, The Moon-Lens, Before the Storm, Cold Print, Among These Pictures Are, The Tugging, The Faces at Pine Dunes, Blacked Out, and The Voice of the Beach.

Cold Print Details

Date : Published November 15th 1987 by Tor Books (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9780812516609

Author : Ramsey Campbell

Format : Mass Market Paperback 352 pages

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

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From Reader Review Cold Print for online ebook

Andy says

I read this book back in Oct/Nov of 2012 and as someone who loves Lovecraftian tales, this was a real treat. Of the 21 stories here, I only disliked two, and quite a few were downright amazing. There's many Lovecraftian story collections, August Derleth wrote one, but his stories all follow the same formula: a man uncovers evidence of occult activity in an isolated house, perhaps his ancestors' house, then bad stuff happens. But we find a lot of variety in this collection, especially toward the second half.

The best in my opinion were "The Insects From Shaggai," "The Inhabitant of the Lake," "Before the Storm," "Cold Print" and "Voice of the Beach." The last has been hailed as Campbell's best writing ever, and I can agree at least that it's a very creepy, subtly horrific story.

Kevin Lucia says

What's interesting about this collection is that you can see the progression - not necessarily chronologically - from straight Lovecraftian pastiches, to more original Lovecraftian pastiches, to very original pieces of cosmic horror propelled the fear of the unknown and alien, without relying on any forbidden texts or strange sounding gods or ancient cults. Regardless, every story in this collection works on the mind in terrible, fierce ways...

Peter Davis-Parker says

This is an awesome book for any fans of horror anthologies and also for fans of Lovecraft fiction. I picked it up from a charity shop for next to nothing but believe me when I say without hyperbole, you can buy brand new & full price & you'd be getting a bargain. Can't recommend highly enough

David Peak says

After reading Houellebecq's *Against the World*, *Against Life* and Graham Harman's *Weird Realism*, and subsequently gaining an appreciation for what Lovecraft was doing with his prose, it's difficult to read Campbell's stories here as being anything other than shallow stylistic imitations. All of the monsters and dread and primordial jelly are present, but none of the nuance.

That being said, there are a handful of excellent horror stories to be found in this collection, particularly "The Inhabitant of the Lake," "The Faces at Pine Dunes," and "The Voice of the Beach."

Gale Blackwood says

Incredibly disappointing. As far as lovecraftian horror goes this may be the worst of it I've read so far.

The only stories that I could say were good at all were *The Render of the Veils*, *The Faces at Pine Dunes*, and perhaps *The Tugging*, although the ending of *The Tugging* was wholly unsatisfying. The others were not written well enough to be cohesive or often to even keep my interest, and when they did show horrors that were even vaguely Lovecraftian they revealed far too much about the origins and nature of these horrors to ever really be successful in the genre. The reason why Lovecraft's work is so good is because of the mystery of it, because of the vast and incomprehensible nature of the horrors presented. Here, they're shown to be almost relateable at times. At best, Campbell is a cut above mediocrity, at worst, he's repugnant

Bryan says

Suffers from the same mythos infodump as most Lovecraft followers. Lovecraft for all his faults was an excellent writer. Campbell less so. Still he's thoughtful and has his own ideas.

Ian Casey says

I have the privilege (for which I paid, admittedly) of owned a signed hardcover of the expanded version of *Cold Print*. Its 21 stories and 2 essays include all of Campbell's early Cthulhu mythos fiction, with *The Inhabitant of the Lake* collection in its entirety and miscellaneous stories published elsewhere.

The first and most recent piece is 'Lovecraft: An Introduction' from 1990. At the risk of suggesting the book goes downhill from there, it's my favourite piece and the most engaging yet erudite defence of Lovecraft's worth as a prose writer that I've yet seen. It makes a refreshing counterpoint to the standard narrative that he was a terrible craftsman of the language despite his exceptional imaginative vision.

As to the fiction, Campbell makes an honest assessment of it in his introduction to the 1985 edition entitled 'Chasing the Unknown'. This material is often fun pastiche but much of it is only a step or two above juvenilia and frankly isn't going to set the world on fire even for most enthusiasts.

Campbell knows this and goes into surprisingly frank detail on his process of developing and maturing as a writer (including the role of August Derleth), being at times embarrassed of his early work but proud of how far he's come. It's a pre-emptive mea culpa for readers backtracking from his later work, but even-handed for all that.

Nevertheless, this an enjoyable experience for anyone interested in the evolutionary tree of Lovecraftian fiction in the decades between its originator's death and its 21st century pop-culture rediscovery.

Rob Moses says

Pero qué gran relato de Ramsey Campbell aportando sus ideas a los Mitos de Cthulhu. Vemos en este relato otro dios primigenio quien siendo invocado por el protagonista, Sam Strutt, llega a nuestro mundo para causar terror, destrucción y sufrimiento. Sam quien pretende encontrar libros de su interés, llega a dar con un bibliotecario que le invita a su biblioteca a que se dé una vuelta, ya que él posee varios títulos que le pueden interesar. Así que Sam llega al sitio donde hay títulos de diferentes temáticas. Éste se lleva un libro el cual en cuanto lo lee por las noches llega a padecer ciertas pesadillas, así que piensa investigar el origen de esos sueños tan oscuros. Es por esto que Strutt regresa a la biblioteca pero se da cuenta de que ya no está el

bibliotecario que lo atendió la vez pasada. Sino que en su lugar se encuentra a otro hombre que le explica el origen de esos sueños, sacando así un tomo bastante grande que lleva por nombre "Las Revelaciones". Este tomo contiene grandes secretos de los primigenios y cómo invocar a algunos seres que no pertenecen a este mundo. En especial a Y'Golonac, dios de la depravación.

Revelaciones un volumen escrito por Glaaki dice lo siguiente: "Más allá del vacío en la noche subterráneo hay un pasaje que lleva hasta un muro de enormes ladrillos y más allá del muro se encuentra Y'Golonac, servido por deformes figuras ciegas que moran en la oscuridad".

Ramsey Campbell es bueno para hacer extraterrestres, se auto-deprecia en sus presentaciones, y definitivamente llega a su paso más adelante en el libro. Si te gusta la ficción extraña o monstruos extraños, vale la pena leerlo.

Henrik says

As usual--reviews coming as I read the stories. Which means that it may take a long while before this is taken off the currently-reading list;-)

SEPTEMBER 4 (IRRC):

"Cold Print":

Hailed as one of the stories that takes the Cthulhu Mythos away from mere pastiche and into modern settings and storytelling. "Cold Print" lives up to this reputation (as well as being a sort of "modern classic" in the genre), no doubt about it, but the link to that sub-genre is rather meager, in my opinion. Sure, there is Campbell's contribution to the Mythos, *The Revelations of Glaaki*, but that's about it. It doesn't even have much of an important bearing on the plot, as far as I can tell.

That said, this story about an unsympathetic protagonist with, ahem, odd sexual preferences was interesting and with astute descriptions of that character's mood, personality etc. And with a bookshop as an important setting in the story, how can I *not* like it?;-) So, in brief, I liked the story on its own merits.

SEPTEMBER 11:

"The Return of the Witch":

According to Campbell's excellent foreword/introduction, "Chasing the Unknown," this story was suggested by two HPL notes. That alone of course makes it interesting for an HPL buff like me;-)

Unfortunately I found the actual execution rather lacklustre. Admittedly, Campbell's extraordinary sense of words, persons & atmosphere cannot be denied, but the story and the plot is too much like many other, classic witch/haunted house stories.

It was an all right read, but I had higher expectations.

SEPTEMBER 12:

"Blacked Out":

Not a Mythos tale, but certainly one that follows HPL's advices on how to craft a dark, creepy story. And even though I had flashbacks to HPL's "The Shadow Over Innsmouth" this is certainly Campbell's own story.

The fact that the story takes place in a country where the protagonist doesn't speak the language (German) sets the mood of alienation perfectly. And the things he see & experience in the small hamlet, first at a distance and later closer than he likes, are marvelously built upon each other, so there is a continuous rise of dread and expectations in the reader.

The best of it all is that nothing is ever revealed; *all* is only hinted at. Wonderful.

SEPTEMBER 20:

"The Franklyn Paragraphs":

Great, great story. This is a well-executed example of a story that takes some HPL elements (letters shared with us, the readers, to reveal horrors chiefest among them) and uses it splendidly in a modern setting and in a modern tone of voice. Modern, that is, in the 1960s and before computers. I wonder if a similar approach--but in our computer age with e-mails, attachments et al--has already been written? Could be interesting.

Again a story where not much is explained in the end, just hinted at, but it doesn't matter. The road up till then is grim and capturing in a dreadful way. Wonderful!

SEPTEMBER 23:

"The Will of Stanley Brooke":

A short tale. Campbell takes the necromancy element from HPL's *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward* and warps it into this one. It was a nice read. The execution and ending was, in my opinion, more like a "shocker tale" á la Robert Bloch than HPL.

OCTOBER 2:

"The Faces at Pine Dunes":

An example of a Mythos story that doesn't really have anything to do with HPL himself, but certainly has learned a thing or two by August Derleth and his bend of the genre. Some may see this as a detriment but I don't, in this case. It's just a fact. And when you get that you're into a nice ride of a tale.

It is, as is often the case with Campbell, about family relationship and dark secrets. *And* about witchcraft with a Mythos twist to it;-)

I liked it quite much. I found it a little difficult to follow at first, since I didn't really see what was going on, but when finally this was settled I was captured all the way to the ending's unspeakable ritual-like scene. And nice touch with the son-taking-over-the-traditions, Mr. Campbell;-)

OCTOBER 3:

"Before the Storm":

Excellent story!

The narrative is superbly strange and goes beyond what is usually done, so for a little while the reader is having a hard time figuring out exactly what is going on--and from *what perspective* we see things, creating an upsetting read.

The storyline is fairly classic, I discovered. A patient is at the psychiatric ward and is extremely paranoid and with a distorted sense of reality... Or...?;-)

More reviews to come, as usual;-)

Marvin says

A collection of Ramsey Campbell's Lovecraftian tales. This is the Campbell I like. He takes the Cthulhu Mythos and gives them his own introverted British touch. You can almost choke on the atmosphere. Some say Cmpbell is often too vague or esoteric for his own good and they would be right. However there is something quite impressive about his early Lovecraft influenced fiction.

G.R. Yeates says

This collection of Ramsey Campbell's Lovecraftian fiction is interesting for a couple of reasons. One, it shows us where the master began, weaving tales of the Cthulhu Mythos in the fictive towns of Brichester and Goatswood. The reason I have not given the collection more stars is because, for this reason, it's maybe not so satisfying as a whole as his later work. Some of the stories are fantastic, such as *The Inhabitant of the Lake*, *Cold Print* and *The Church in High Street*, whilst others follow Mythos story patterns to a point where they become overly familiar and thus conclusions are easily guessed at before they occur. This is still a very entertaining collection though for the Lovecraft fan and for those who wish to see how Ramsey Campbell has developed as an artist over the years.

mark monday says

time again for **LOVE ♥ CRAFT ♥ CONNECTION!**

this connection-collection includes hunky bachelor AZATHOTH and hot-to-trot bachelorette SHUB-NIGGURATH, as featured respectively within the stories "The Insects of Shaggai" and "The Horror from the Bridge".

Azathoth

Nickname: *the mad nuclear chaos at the center of the universe*

Likes: staring at the stars, dreaming, music - especially the pan-flute

Dislikes: judgmental and close-minded people :(

Favorite Craft: as Mr. Azathoth is roughly the size of a star, his biggest hobby is - understandably - subduing then devouring planets

What He Is Looking For: cocky civilizations interested in 'thinking outside the box', getting hypnotized en masse, and then being slowly digested.

(((♥)))

Shub-Niggurath

Nickname: *she-goat of the woods with a thousand young*

Likes: relaxing in nature and in subterranean caves

Dislikes: uptight people, smokers (fire in general)

Favorite Craft: as a "fountain of uncleanness", Ms. Niggurath enjoys simple, primordial delights such as creating, procreating, and bubbling forth various pseudopods and crawly, flappy minions

What She Is Looking For: adventurous souls willing to live in the moment, just let it all go and try something new!

and now for the review:

2 Stars for the first two-thirds. uninspiring and only vaguely entertaining H.P. Lovecraft pastiches. of interest only to Ramsey Campbell and Cthulhu Mythos completists.

4 Stars for the awesome final third. now this is the Campbell that i am familiar with: brilliant, challenging writing; compelling use of the unreliable narrator and the tortured inner monologue; an increasingly pervasive feeling of dread tinged with a yearning desire for transcendence of some sort; chilling scenarios with often genuinely upsetting imagery and disturbing endings. bravo, Campbell! some really excellent writing in:

"Before the Storm": the inner monologues of a man transformed and the harried customer service staff forced to deal with him - a grotesque and often hilarious story.

"Cold Print": liberated but lonely gay sadist finally meets some people who understand and appreciate him. awww!

"The Tugging": my favorite story. a reporter slowly realizes that his troubling dreams, the weird criminal antics of his grandfather, and an approaching 'stray planet' are all somehow terribly linked with some, er, pretty big worldwide changes about to occur.

.....*To everything - turn, turn, turn*

.....*There is a season - turn, turn, turn*

.....*And a time for every purpose under heaven*

"The Faces at the Pine Dunes": an eventually-cosmic coming of age tale, at first rooted in prosaic, kitchen-sink realism. the young protagonist is expertly and sympathetically depicted. and that final image of his parents... ugh!

"Blacked Out": if you are in a remote part of bavaria and approach an unknown village, one preceded by a completely blacked-out road marker...

DO NOT GO TO THAT VILLAGE, DUMMY!

"The Voice of the Beach": a sinister other-dimension that once inhabited our own dimension of space seeks to return, one man at a time. perfectly drawn atmosphere and a truly unworldly horror.

Cold Print is worth seeking out for folks who appreciate literary horror - if only for those last few tales. so for those six great stories: job well-done, Campbell!

Perry Lake says

“Cold Print” is a collection of short stories by British horror master, Ramsey Campbell, all on Lovecraftian themes. About half of them are his early stories from the 60s, one is from 1976, and the rest come from the 80s.

As I had already read the two best stories in this volume, the collection seemed like Campbell's second best work. But that's hardly fair. All the stories are good; “The Tugging” and “Cold Print” are exceptionally good and the most original.

Lovecraft's stories might come across as quaint bits of New England in the 1920s, but Campbell's world is very modern and very grimy. He takes the commonplace events in our world and makes them sinister reminders of what lies beyond the veil. His half-insane narrators are the tour guides into the otherworldly realms just beyond our graffiti-scrawled streets and inhuman entities lurking in the back rooms of porn shops.

Stories like this swallow you into their vagina and give birth to you with a completely new mindset... which actually happens to a hero in one of the stories!

K.T. Katzmann says

Wonderfully British mythos fiction with a caveat.

Ramsey Campbell's creations have wormed their way into the Cthulhu canon. Who can forget the awesome cosmic wonder of Fat Naked Headless Man with Mouth Hands?

I kid. He's much more alien in the story. But still, there are nifty monsters here, and Campbell writes with a definite style.

There's one problem, and that is the question of which style you're getting.

A lot of these stories come from Campbell's early career, before he himself admits he found his voice. He's speaking in Lovecraft's style, and we all know what a Lovecraft pastiche feels like. It's surprising to realize that some creatures in my daughter's copy of *Where's My Shoggoth?* started out in stories that seem less impressive compared to Mr. Campbell's mature work.

Still, very fun stories. Campbell's good at making aliens, self-deprecating in his introductions, and definitely hits his stride later in the book. If you like weird fiction or bizarre monsters, give this one a whirl.

Brian Sammons says

No one does the Cthulhu Mythos like Campbell. He's my second favorite author of cold, cosmic horror right

after H.P. Lovecraft. Yeah, he's that good.
