



The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales

From Oxford University Press

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The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales From Oxford University Press

"But sometimes when I wake in the grey morning, and between waking and sleeping, think of all those things that I must shut out from my sleeping and waking thoughts, I wonder was I right or was he? Was he mad, or was I idiotically incredulous? For--and it is this thing that haunts me--when I found them dead together in the vault, she had been buried five weeks. But the body that lay in John Hurst's arms, among the mouldering coffins of the Hursts of Hurstcote, was perfect and beautiful as when he first clasped her to his arms, a bride."

E. Nesbit's "The Hursts of Hurstcote" is only one of the many stories found in *The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales*, the first anthology of this spine-tingling genre. Though Gothic fiction has generally been identified with Walpole's "Castle of Otranto" and the works of Ann Radcliffe, these thirty-seven selections compiled by Chris Baldick provide a unique look at the genre's development into its present-day forms. We see standard gothic elements of incest, murder, and greed in "The Poisoner of Montremos," a late eighteenth-century story by Richard Cumberland. We find in Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" the tale that set a new standard of decadence for Gothic stories. In Hawthorne's "Rappacini's Daughter," a young girl is raised on the very essence of poison. In Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily," a woman's death satisfies a neighborhood's curiosity with a bizarre discovery. In other tales, a ghost reveals his sin of parricide, madness drives a man to murder, and a young girl spends her lifetime locked in a single room. All these stories and more contain the common elements of the gothic tale: a warped sense of time, a claustrophobic setting, a link to archaic modes of thought, dynastic corruption, and the impression of a descent into disintegration. Yet they also reveal the progression of the genre from stories of feudal villains amid crumbling ruins to a greater level of sophistication in which writers brought the gothic tale out of its medieval setting, and placed it in the contemporary world.

Bringing together the work of such writers as Robert Louis Stevenson, Eudora Welty, Thomas Hardy, Edgar Allan Poe, William Faulkner, Isak Dinesen, Arthur Conan Doyle, Joyce Carol Oates, Jorge Luis Borges, Eudora Welty, Patrick McGrath, and Isabel Allende, *The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales* presents a wide array of the sinister and unsettling for all lovers of ghost stories, fantasy, and horror.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The fog-enshrouded castle, the crumbling family manor; old secrets unveiled, curses cast, chains clanking, fear and trembling; dread, decay, disintegration, death--each of these trademarks of the well-made Gothic tale is vividly represented in this comprehensive anthology. Informatively introduced and chronologically arranged, the 37 stories showcase the Gothic tradition from its late-18th-century inception up to the present. Included are genre classics from such illustrious practitioners as Poe, Hawthorne, Lovecraft and McGrath, as well as gems from literary masters like Faulkner, Welty, Oates and Borges, all of whom dabble(d) to fine effect in the form. Among the highlights are "The Parricide Punished," an anonymous entry from 1799 set in an enormous castle and narrated by a guest whose visit becomes a waking nightmare; Eden Glasgow's "Jordan's End," in which a long history of family madness gives rise to a most untimely death; F. M. Mayor's "Miss DeMannering of Asham," the story of two women on holiday who get more local color than they bargained for when they learn the shocking truth about DeMannering's dead infant; and especially Ray Russell's bizarre "Sardonicus," whose title character gives the kind of villainous performance that evokes Vincent Price in his horror-movie heyday.

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Review

"The perfect book to put beside the bed of a timorous guest you wish would go home."--*The Economist*

About the Author

About the Editor:

Chris Baldick is a Lecturer in English at the University of Lancaster. He is the author of *In Frankenstein's Shadow: Myth and Monstrosity in Nineteenth-Century Writing* (1987).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cory Kyle:

The book The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable considerably more increase. Book can for being your best friend when you getting anxiety or having big problem along with your subject. If you can make reading a book The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales to become your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You could know everything if you like open up and read a e-book The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this e-book?

Edward White:

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or details even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is certainly always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you is you don't know which you should start with. This The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

Lauren Robinson:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their own reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the publications. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write on their book. One of them is this The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales.

Greg Butler:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book is usually option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales can be great book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

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