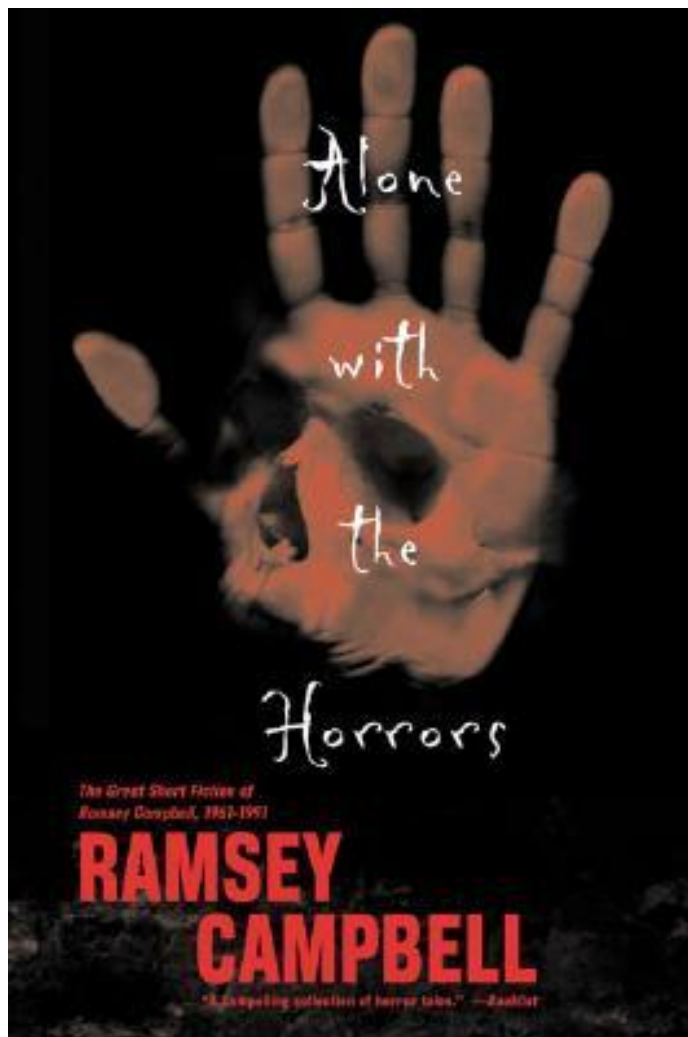

Ramsey Campbell

Alone With the Horrors: The Great Short Fiction, 1961-1991



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Author: Ramsey Campbell

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Description

Ramsey Campbell is perhaps the world's most decorated author of horror fiction. He has won four World Fantasy Awards, ten British Fantasy Awards, three Bram Stoker Awards, and the Horror Writers' Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Three decades into his career, Campbell paused to review his body of short fiction and selected the stories that were, to his mind, the very best of his works. *Alone With the Horrors* collects nearly forty tales from the first thirty years of Campbell's writing. Included here are "In the Bag," which won the British Fantasy Award, and two World Fantasy Award-winning stories, "The Chimney" and the classic "Mackintosh Willy."

Campbell crowns the book with a lengthy preface which traces his early publication history, discusses his youthful correspondence with August Derleth, illuminates the influence of H.P. Lovecraft on his early work, and gives an account of the creation of each story and the author's personal assessment of the works' flaws and virtues.

In its first publication, a decade ago, *Alone With the Horrors* won both the Bram Stoker Award and the World Fantasy Award. For this new edition, Campbell has added one of his very first published stories, a Lovecraftian classic, "The Tower from Yuggoth." From this early, Cthulhian tale, to later works that showcase Campbell's growing mastery of mood and character, *Alone With the Horrors* provides readers with a close look at a powerful writer's development of his craft.

Insightful reviews

Nancy Oakes: Ramsey Campbell is one of my favorite horror writers, because, for the most part, he writes horror that is cerebral -- much like Lovecraft, this man has the ability to set the scene and build up the feelings of horror in the pit of your stomach, then leave it all to the reader to figure out what's just happened or is going to happen next. I bought this one because of the Lovecraft influence on some of Campbell's stories and was not at all disappointed. However, beyond Lovecraft's influence, Campbell has a wonderful style all his own which will leave you wanting more at the end of most of these stories. I didn't like a couple of these, but you know, when you have an anthology, you can't expect to like each and every story between the covers. However, if you want a good sampling of Campbell's work, then this is definitely the book to start with before you branch out (and you will...this man is a genius).

There are 37 stories here so I can't possibly comment on all of them. Suffice it to say that I definitely recommend this for those who like to think about what they're reading as far as horror goes; if you are into the slasher/guts/gore crap then you may find this one tame.

Thee_ron_clark: This book is comprised of what is said to be some of Campbell's best short

stories over the course of three decades. It was an alright right all in all. I felt some of it was a bit dated, although it might have simply been borrowed from and used in later literature and film. I also ended most of the stories with little satisfaction, almost as if I had just completed watching a dry episode of *The Outer Limits* or something. The first story in the book not only borrows from the mythos of H.P. Lovecraft, it steals his writing style as well. A few of the stories were excellent reads and it was not a total waste of time. I suppose I was simply hoping for better.

Martin Mcgoey: This book was one of the longest, most tedious reads I've encountered in quite some time. It was certainly one of the worst collections of short stories I've ever read. Really it's only saving grace is that Campbell seems to have come up with an effective formula for his fiction: a guy with a sketchy and mysterious past finds himself becoming increasingly isolated throughout the story and encounters terror along the way before facing a disturbing realization. Obviously Campbell's a huge fan of Lovecraft in this respect, but whereas Lovecraft's fiction creates atmosphere and has a sense of continuity, Campbell tries to cram it all into stories that are seldom more than 10 pages. That's quite a lot to ask of any author. I feel like Campbell's formula works for a few of the stories, which is why I'm not giving this one star. He clearly has a talent for prose as well. But the formula isn't fun to read over, and over, and over, and over. I first came across Campbell's fiction in another anthology and enjoyed it because I didn't go through it 37 times. What a bunch of crap. Hands down, one of the worst horror collections I've ever read. For all the acclaim he's gotten, I feel as if there's something I genuinely don't understand about this guy's work.

Marvin: This definitive assortment merits at the least 3 stars for its huge retrospective of 30 years of Ramsey Campbell's brief fiction. It collects 35 of his top together with all of an past anthology titled *Darkish Feasts*. It's the excellent assortment to find and determine Campbell's literary output. But that is not a simple factor to do. whereas Campbell could be a eerie yet powerful writer, he's additionally a section frustrating. At his best, he can evoke a kind of city unease. He can be one of many first horror writers within which the time period city myth may work however it is a wholly diverse kind of city delusion from the type we're used to now. Campbell combines city blight, suburban malaise, and the post-modern socio-psychological angst and combines it with mental and supernatural horror. His first writings have been Lovecraft imitations yet he then grew to become adept at blending the Lovecraftian horrors with daily British relatives and culture. it is a great combine whilst it works. But that is the problem. It usually doesn't. The author's variety might be obtuse and over-introverted. His descriptions should be mangled and he occasionally stops the motion with a bevy of descriptive phrases. the common horror readers raised on King and McCammon will locate his stories too introverted. in spite of the fact that those that like their horror to be atmospheric and implied will locate a lot to like. Campbell is obviously an bought taste. So i will suggest this as an exceptional advent to Campbell. in the event you take pleasure in those tales i'd suggest you learn one in every of his novels. I tremendously desire his longer fiction. i will name this one at 3 and a part stars.

Andy: no longer each tale here's a masterpiece, yet a couple of are, and there is sufficient solid ones to make this one of many greater horror tale collections i have read. I love Campbell's style, he is one of many few writers who nonetheless sometimes creeps me out. a few of these are rather viscerally unsettling, like "The Brood" or "The Interloper" for example. Others like "The finish of a Summer's Day" lingered in my brain and in basic terms hit me a bit later

whereas i used to be mendacity in bed, and stored me up for a while after. Meanwhile, "The Voice of the Beach" is not precisely a terrifying story, however it needs to be one of many best, such a lot skillfully written horror tales of any era. That acknowledged i actually do not believe Campbell's writing type is fitted to everyone, like Ligotti, you both "get" him otherwise you do not (probably much more real in Ligotti's case.) additionally it is a assortment i would suggest examining over time, Campbell's writing certainly has definite tropes which recur. there is definitely a proportion of duds here, and many the extra surreal, over-stylized later tales are usually not to my taste. There's 37 tales here, i am simply going to offer a short evaluate of my favorites...Cold Print - this can be one I learn a few years ago, this tale brings Lovecraft right into a gritty, seedy city landscape. The Interloper - I learn this one a couple of 12 months ago, and in the beginning i presumed it had a few creepy moments, yet felt a piece rushed. nonetheless though, it certainly left an effect and used to be one among just a handful the following that surely crept me out. university associates wander into an underground catacombs choked with spider webs and a terrible beast. the tip of a Summer's Day - This tale quite crept me out later while i presumed approximately it. A newlywed couple are taking a guided journey of a cave while the consultant seems the sunshine for a minute. whilst he turns it again on her husband has been changed by means of a stumbling blind man. The significant other - Stephen King loves it, that is gotta suggest anything right? this can be one other stable creepy one, this one has a great, very frightening finishing I thought, it relatively holds it truly is punches until eventually then, development effectively. a guy attracted to outdated fairgrounds explores one and starts off seeing the ghosts of his useless mom and dad within the distance, and reliving youth fears. Call First - this is often one I learn years ago, it is a particularly simple horror story, yet effective. a guy who works in a library is curious why an previous guy continually calls his condo ahead of he returns home. Baby - This used to be a very good one, gritty city horror, nice new release of atmosphere. The horror parts are saved relatively imprecise and unpredictable, it really is extra refined and powerful via keeping it really is punches till the top too. A bum makes a decision to kill an previous lady who lives less than him and pushes a toddler carriage around, and is rumored to be a witch. The Chimney - this can be a very creepy story, the best non-Lovecraftian Campbell tales i have read. the top is a bit vague, yet i admire it. A timid boy fears anything lurks in his bed room chimney. he's instructed approximately Santa and fears the idea, yet understands he'll need to face the presence eventually. The Brood - this can be one of many scariest tales i have ever learn via anyone. if you happen to in simple terms learn one tale by means of Ramsey Campbell, enable it's this one. It's powerful, atmospheric, totally skin-crawl-inducing and that i simply fairly get pleasure from it starting to end. a guy notes a crazy, sinister previous lady who wanders the road in entrance of his residence and appears to be like accumulating animals and taking them into her dilapidated previous condo around the street. The Voice of the seashore - I learn this a number of years in the past and nonetheless examine it Campbell's top Lovecraftian work. it's totally refined in the way it transitions us from a stunning bland scenario to at least one of in some way totally plausible otherworldly weirdness. acquaintances holiday in a seashore cottage and observe the ruins of a city, and an previous diary. one of many males turns into obsessed, or even possessed through a presence of the beach. Out of Copyright - This tale is either creepy and completely hilarious. A horror anthologist attempts to take credits for re-writing the incorrect writer and reveals himself suffering from a dusty presence. The express is going On - This was once Campbell at his best, this can be the kind of story/setting the place his creepy touches and information relatively paintings to create a best surroundings of dread. the most effective within

the book. a guy suspects thieves may be able to input his store at evening via a storeroom attached to a long-shuttered theater nextdoor. He spends the evening and explores the creepy previous place. listening to *Is Believing* - This used to be a really bizarre story, i really beloved this one much more than many different tales in right here which i'd say are most likely larger higher stories, yet anything approximately this one fairly appeals to me; the wet, the decay. a guy hears a strange, rainy, dripping broadcast on his radio the place everyone is pursued via something, which begins to parallel his personal life. *The palms* - Very unusual story, i do not comprehend precisely what occurred here, and ordinarily i do not like tales that depart this a lot vagueness, yet this one has an outstanding creepy surroundings and in addition sufficient creepy imagery to maintain the reader interested. a guy stranded in an odd small city reveals himself misplaced in a giant, likely never-ending building, with horrors in the back of each door. *back* - just like "Again" this felt like good, out of date "Tale From the Crypt" style horror; suspenseful, gross, no longer attempting to be overly unique yet it's totally impressive. a guy enters the window of a home to enable the previous lady in who owns it and has forgotten her key, yet whereas attempting to open the door he discovers more and more creepy things. *outdated outfits* - This was once a good story, i actually love the concept that the following and that i concept it was once well-executed and creepy. a guy employed to wash out an outdated spiritualists' condo takes a raincoat and begins researching issues that are someway transported to the pockets. *the opposite part* - nice tale here, this one has a neat "Rear Window" believe to it that works very well, the ambience of city decay is well-done and it has got a creepy clown in it, what extra are you able to ask for? A instructor observes a determine dancing in a burning development via his binoculars, and keeps to work out it attacking humans close to the ruins after dark. there is different tales with good, unique principles in them. tales like "Where the guts Is" a couple of guy who loses his reminiscence as his outdated home is remodeled, or "Boiled Alive" a few guy who unearths himself residing within the horror movie that his cellphone quantity was once featured in -- sturdy ideas, yet i did not imagine they have been as potent finally because the others.

Tracy Walters: i'm a tremendous fan of horror stories....so i used to be very excited to eventually learn this book. HOWEVER.....this booklet used to be particularly the letdown. many of the tales have been so extraordinary they have been difficult to understand what Ramsey Campbell was once attempting to say in them. Out of the 37 tales within the book....only one was once totally very good and price examining within the book...."Heading Home". I nonetheless cannot get that tale out of my head.....it will hang-out me for the remainder of my life.....great writing. I determined to not hold this ebook in my own library for i'll by no means learn it again. So off it is going into the wild for somebody else to discover and optimistically they could make feel of what the writer was once attempting to say in his stories.

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