



Widowmakers: An Anthology of Dark Fiction

Pete Kahle (Editor) , Brett Williams (Contributor)

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widowmaker [wid-oh-may-ker]

noun

1. A thing with the potential to kill men.
2. A dead branch caught precariously high in a tree which may fall on a person below.
3. A dark fiction anthology of prodigious size; large enough to use as a doorstep... or crush a man's skull.

A few months ago one of our own, James Newman, was severely injured in a freak accident. He's known universally in the horror fiction community as a truly great guy, and, when the news broke of the incident there was no shortage of people who wanted to help. Inside the pages of this collection, you will find tales that are lighthearted mixed in with stories that will fuel your nightmares, each one with the potential to be a WIDOWMAKER.

The following 47 fellow authors and poets have contributed their words to this benefit anthology and 100% of the proceeds will go to help the Newman family. Enjoy this massive collection and thank you for your aid.

Blake Burkhead
Bracken MacLeod
Brandon Ford
Brett Williams
Brian Hodge
Brian Keene
Charles R Rutledge
Donn Gash
Ed Kurtz
Elizabeth Massie
Evans Light
Gary A. Braunbeck
Gary Fry
Glen Krisch
J.F. Gonzalez
Jack Bantry
James A. Moore
Jeff Strand
Jenny Orosel
Joe Miles
John Palisano
Kit Power
Mark Allan Gunnells
Mary Genevieve Fortier
Maurice Broaddus
Mercedes Murdock Yardley
Michelle Garza & Melissa Lason
Mir Plemmons

Norman Prentiss
Patrick Lacey
Paul Anderson
Pete Kahle
Peter Giglio
Ray Garton
Robert Essig
Ronald Kelly
Rose Blackthorn
Shane McKenzie
Shawna L. Bernard
Sheri White
TG Arsenault
Tim Marquitz
Tim Waggoner
Todd Kiesling
Tom Martin
Tracy L. Carbone
Usman Tanveer Malik

Widowmakers: An Anthology of Dark Fiction Details

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From Reader Review **Widowmakers: An Anthology of Dark Fiction** for online ebook

Taylor says

The best word I can use to describe this anthology of dark fiction would be *unexpected*. There are surprises at every turn. These stories aren't all meant to induce full-blown terror; some of them will creep up on you quietly. Those types of stories tend to be my favorites.

All the stories were good, but these were the ones that stood out to me the most:

Evergreen

Gorgeous descriptive language depicting nature's beauty (with a twist).

Hearts in Reverse

Humans and monsters live side by side in a semi-post apocalyptic world not completely unlike our own. An interesting take on the 'monster' genre depicting the many depths of human emotion - discrimination, fear, unconditional love.

She Called Him Sky

This story reads like a twisted fairy tale, unexpectedly poignant & poetic.

Our Lady of Sloth and Scarlet Ivory

This story had me intrigued as the background of the story was slowly revealed. It explores the psychological & physical effects of a woman's prolonged captivity. Harrowing and resonant.

Dead Gods

This caught my attention and had me intrigued throughout. Magical realism with a slow descent into darkness, and then out of it. The story kept turning and twisting into something completely unexpected and I really enjoyed it.

ArborEATum

A sinister story steeped in religious symbolism & fanaticism. Could not stop turning the pages!

Overall this was a highly enjoyable anthology that I highly recommend!

Steve says

I'm really glad I was reading the electronic version of this book; the print version would crush a reader's legs! Story after story, 47 in all, and most were good to very-good. There are a few that are outstanding, and a few that left me feeling "meh", but overall a good anthology to read for the season. Additionally, the proceeds of the sales of this book benefit a well-liked author of this genre. That alone was enough for me to buy the book.

Rebecca McNutt says

Widowmakers is a great Halloween read (even though it's almost Christmas). Dark horror mixes with comedy in this book and creates some really impressive stories.

Leah Polcar says

I do not really understand all the glowing reviews this anthology has received. I really wanted to like it given that some of the proceeds go to helping an author, whose name I currently blank on, recover from injuries sustained from a falling tree branch. (Which sounds sort of like I am making this up a I review, but I am not and the guy seems sweet enough and it was more like a tree-sized branch, so it was no joke.) Unfortunately, I thought it was basically terrible. I am a huge fan of short stories and read anthologies like there is no tomorrow, so I expect to have to take some bad to read some good, but here the bad far outweighs the occasional average. There are one or two decent tales here, so I will bump this up a star, but overall finishing this became an ordeal. Sorry author dude, I wish you well, I think your friends are sweet to put this together, but I'll pass.

Evans Light says

Updated 14NOV2016:

I'll probably be working my way through this behemoth for years to come and will leave reviews of individual stories as I go, not necessarily in order.

As I'm a contributor to this anthology, I'm not going to rate stories but rather comment on them.

Death to Trees! - Jeff Strand: Not so much a story as an amusing trifle, and a fitting way to kick off the anthology.

Conversations Kill - Tim Waggoner: Very well written short story with an interesting premise that kept me engaged and guessing. The final reveal wasn't all I had hoped for, but overall a satisfying story.

Molting - Robert Essig: A nice slice of body horror delivered with finesse.

Baptism - Kit Powers: A small but potent dose of weirdness.

A Church in the Middle of Nowhere - Michelle Garza and Melissa Lason: A rather unusual tale, simultaneously familiar and strange. This reads like a fever dream, and that's a compliment. I wish it had been longer, but it works quite fine as is.

Brandy says

The stories in this collection range from a couple of pages to many pages. I think I skipped 2 stories, at the

most. That left a lot more to read! If you love horror stories & are looking for some short reading material I'd recommend this book highly. For the most part the shorter bits were the best. Have written down every author whose story I liked that was not already on my 'to read' list.

Nev Murray says

Normally I like to give a little bit of depth to my reviews telling a little about the story and what it is like. To attempt to do that with this anthology would mean a review that would be longer than some novels I've read recently.

Putting it quite simply, you will not see another book like this for a very long time, if ever. It's a benefit anthology for James Newman. He had a fight with a tree earlier this year and lost. Quite dramatically. Given the fact that he is known as one of the nicest horror authors you could ever meet, some of his buddies got together and submitted stories and poems to fill this book with the proceeds going to James to help with medical expenses.

And fill it they did! Over 800 pages with 47 stories, all by different authors make this one brick of a book and one that will stay with you for a very long time. We are talking about the best in the business in horror and dark fiction all in one place giving you the reading experience of your life.

It would be unfair of me to try and single out specific stories as being better than others because there aren't any. Every word written in this book will thrill you and scare you till your heart's content. If you like horror and dark fiction then this is a must buy for your shelf. Or at least put it on a table cause it might cause your shelf to sag a bit.

Congratulations also must go to Pete Kahle for pulling this together and editing it in such a fantastic way.

This book is a masterpiece. 15 stars!

Reeda Booke says

I have enjoyed all the stories in this collection and there are a few standouts. I particularly enjoyed Dead Gods by James Moore and ArborEATum by Evans Light.

A great collection that I highly recommend to all horror lovers out there!

Nancy A says

Really creepy,

This one was good because there were so many, I definitely got my money's worth.

I have to say this was the second anthology one of the stories I had read first as a stand alone, then in another audio collection before I found it here. There's a good reason it's been published so much, ArborEATum, by Evans Light,

is so unique, to epitomize the hypocrisy and realistic attitude of the self righteous. The christian readers might

find it in their nightmares. Remember this is my personal review, keep an open mind, don't let me dissuade you from purchasing ,all comes out well in the end.

The others were quite well written and several had new themes, with surprise endings. I'd highly recommend it for mature readers especially.

Jon Recluse says

What can I say about this beautiful, bodacious beast of a book?

I haven't been this impressed with an anthology since Kirby McCauley's DARK FORCES.

800+ pages

47 stories

Something for every taste, and not a single sour apple in the basket.

Tales gathered together from the best in the genre, from the old guard to the young guns.

This is the anthology by which all others will be measured, one that will please every horror fan, and have you filling your shelves with the works of the authors you discovered, or rediscovered, within it's pages.

And then you'll fill a shelf with the works of James Newman.....because anyone who could inspire such an incredible response is obviously someone you'll want to get to know.

Highest possible recommendation.
