



Best New Horror

Joe Hill

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This short story was originally published in Joe Hill's collection 20TH CENTURY GHOSTS.

Eddie Carroll is sick to death of editing the collection America's Best New Horror, sick of reading through second-rate stories in order to find the few "best new." But one afternoon he stumbles across a new story so remarkable that he soon embarks on a quixotic quest to find its author - a quest he may not live to regret.

Best New Horror Details

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Author : Joe Hill

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Andrew Lennon says

That was really good! I enjoyed it a lot!

Was really creepy, although I think if it was possible I would love to read "button boy" in full!

The thought of that story creeped the hell out of me!

All reviews can be found at <http://lennonslair.blogspot.co.uk/>

Jonathan Echevarria says

Best New Horror was one of the few Joe Hill stories that wasn't completely for me. A big part of it appealed to me as a fan of the horror genre. As a kid I have always loved horror movies and they are a big part of my childhood. I was able to relate to the main protagonist named Eddie Carroll who longs for that "surprise" he use to feel watching horror movies when he was younger. The is something I have a problem with, whenever I go to see a new horror movie with hopes of being "surprised" or at the very least entertained. (*Yeah, I know how jaded I sound.*) Becoming disenchanted with a hobby is always a disappointment no matter what your age is. (*Especially one that you are passionate about.*) It makes me wonder if Joe Hill has ever felt this way at one point or another.

A few other aspects I really enjoyed about this book is that this story takes place in a neighboring town that I lived right next to. (Poughkeepsie, NY.) I loved how certain locations were referenced, I believe Joe Hill went to college at Vassar which is like ten minutes away from where I live. As a fan this is really cool to me. The other aspect to the story that I find fascinating is his detailed description of horror conventions, which is (*if you have ever been to one*) really cool. So overall I would say I was very pleased with more then half of this novella, at least until I got to the ending of it.

The only thing that really pulled me away from the overall plot was the short story Eddie reads called "Buttonboy." If you have ever seen a Texas Chainsaw Massacre movie, then you'll have a great idea of what "Buttonboy" is all about. I get why people find gore scary and at times it can add to a story's shock value. (Sometimes in a good or bad way.) Now I know as a horror fan I should probably be used to gore and torture. But something about Buttonboy really felt out of place to me, I wasn't expecting it from Joe Hill I guess. I kept waiting for something original to happen with this plot thread, but I kind of knew where it was heading and wad unsatisfied when my assumptions turned out to be true. Perhaps my expectations were just too high I suppose.

Overall I give it a solid **3.5 stars out of 5**. It had some really good parts and I felt connected to the background elements. But the ending and grotesque nature of the "story within the story" made me distance

myself from it a little bit. Maybe I am just to hypersensitive. lol

Beth Roberts says

This short story encompasses everything I love in horror fiction: sympathetic characters, immersive storyline, pop culture references, quality writing and a believably freaky element of the grotesque.

Alex says

BEST NEW HORROR just pinned my ears back, and what told me I needed to pay attention to Joe Hill. The layers of frame story and well developed characters really showcase Joe's skill as a writer. That it's also a love letter to the original Texas Chainsaw Massacre is just icing on the cake.

Shannon says

I love Joe Hill. The more I read of his books, the more I love his stuff. This was a short story, and it was quite fantastic. It's creepy, with some skeezy characters, and I love the way Hill has both a real world element interspersed with both the Button Boy story and other aspects of come to life Horror. I must get hands on more of his books.

Jonny says

This story does everything that a quality horror story should. Eddie Carroll proves to be a protagonist that anyone with any experience in the publishing field can relate to. He's disenchanted and jaded, understandably so.

In publishing, editors are constantly looking for that one gem, the story which will set the literary world on fire. It's not easy, since every submission claims to be exactly that. Every writer claims to be Hemingway, every book is boasted as the next coming of Les Miserables. What makes this story so impacting is that Joe Hill understands that, and characterizes it perfectly. When Eddie Carroll finds such a story, he's desperate to have it. That desperation is captured in the pages of this tale, through his unrelenting search for the story's author.

Through his odyssey, Eddie fights through many trials, from annoying agents to unhelpful city workers, even self-involved bloggers. When the story ends, the reader is filled with the soul-sucking realization that the story hasn't ended, never will end, possibly hasn't even begun yet, and yet, it's over. It's the frustrating "so, what happened next?" feeling that the legends of horror (Lovecraft, Poe, Hitchcock) mastered, and Joe Hill captures perfectly here.

Joe Hill is quickly becoming the new face in horror, horror for the next generation. If this story is any evidence of what he's capable of, the genre is in good hands.

Maggie Leroy says

It gave me nightmares, not many stories are able to do that to me! Really loved this one!

Jennifer Giles says

This story haunts my dreams...infinitely creepy.

Heather says

Well this was really really creepy

Beth says

This story is terrifying.

Benjamin Stahl says

A jaded anthologist stumbles upon a new story, disturbing yet irresistable. Tracking down the mysterious author, he bites off more than he can chew, in this clever, well-ladled horror by the son of Stephen King. Good start to the man's collection. Best I have read of Hill so far. In fact, the only thing I have actually enjoyed so far from start to finish by him.

Susan says

A great, chilling story that combines so many aspects of a good, American horror story.

Eddie Carroll is an editor of an annual compilation of horror stories called "America's Best New Horror". After reciving an incredibly disturbing short story, Eddie sets out to find it's author. The search appears to be tricky at first, and horrifying at the end!

This is a story from "20th Century Ghosts", I never read the whole book yet, but after sampling "Best New Horror" I can't wait to give it a go. Joe Hill just never dissapoints!

♥?σσ?ι?♥? (Krystle) says

Creepy! Loved it!

Erin Schable says

Did someone at Best New Horror irritate Joe Hill? I found this darkly amusing. But then, I'm twisted.
