



The Haunted Looking Glass

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The Haunted Looking Glass is the late Edward Gorey's selection of his favorite tales of ghosts, ghouls, and grisly goings-on. It includes stories by Charles Dickens, Wilkie Collins, M. R. James, W. W. Jacobs, and L. P. Hartley, among other masters of the fine art of making the flesh creep, all accompanied by Gorey's inimitable illustrations.

ALGERNON BLACKWOOD, "The Empty House"

W.F. HARVEY, "August Heat"

CHARLES DICKENS, "The Signalman"

L.P. HARTLEY, "A Visitor from Down Under"

R.H. MALDEN, "The Thirteenth Tree"

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, "The Body-Snatcher"

E. NESBIT, "Man-Size in Marble"

BRAM STOKER, "The Judge's House"

TOM HOOD, "The Shadow of a Shade"

W.W. JACOBS, "The Monkey's Paw,"

WILKIE COLLINS, "The Dream Woman"

M.R. JAMES, "Casting the Runes"

The Haunted Looking Glass Details

Date : Published February 28th 2001 by NYRB Classics (first published 1959)

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Download and Read Free Online The Haunted Looking Glass Edward Gorey (Editor) , Robert Walser

From Reader Review The Haunted Looking Glass for online ebook

K says

These stories work so hard to bring the horror.

Mindi says

An excellent collection of ghostly tales, gathered together by the immensely popular artist and master of the macabre, Edward Gorey. Gorey sketched an illustration for each story, thus making this superb collection a must for every lover of a good scary story, and certainly any collector of Gorey's art.

Georgie says

A great collection of classic chillers from a variety of authors. The collection includes three of my favourite tales - 'Casting the Runes' by M.R. James, 'The Signalman' by Charles Dickens, and 'The Monkey's Paw' by W.W. Jacobs. Other favourites and new discoveries (for me) were 'The Empty House' by Algernon Blackwood, 'August Heat' by W.F. Harvey, 'The Shadow of a Shade' by Tom Hood, and 'The Body Snatcher' by R.L. Stevenson. All the stories were good though. What makes this collection extra special is that the tales are chosen by Edward Gorey, a fantastic illustrator who captures humour alongside a creeping sense of horror in his work. Each story has a title page which includes an illustration connected with the tales which capture their creepiness perfectly.

Perri says

I just read and was mesmerized by Edward Gorey's book, The Willowdale Handcar, and had to find another. This book has is a collection of stories he chose and illustrated. I had only read one before (The Monkey's Paw) and there were several works by other famous authors -Charles Dickens, E. Nesbit, Bram Stoker, Robert Louis Stevenson. I would describe the stories as classic gothic- lots of haunted houses and ghosts. The Illustrations were typical creeper Gorey. Would make a terrific Halloween reading

".. every word of this story is true as despair.."

Kaethe says

I just received a replacement copy for the missing-who-knows-how-long hardcover from my collection. Guess what I'm looking forward to for All Hallow's Read? Perfect!

Emily says

This is one of the most interesting books I've read of late, I must say. It's a collection of short fiction from the turn of the last century, writer Edward Gorey's favorites, and they range from odd to downright spooky. It begins with explorers in a haunted house, and over 250 pages manages to cover much of the breadth of late Victorian English ghost stories.

Each tale is definitely unique. A couple involve haunted houses, some demons from hell, mysterious magic, ancient curses, strange events, and normal humans on the underbelly of society, afflicted with a dose of the supernatural. There are both long ones, nearly novellas, and more succinct pieces. None are truly gruesome or horrifying, with the exception of "The Body-Snatcher", but rare are the pages that will not send chills down your spine. These writers were the masters of their times, thrilling audiences from newspapers and bookstands. These are tales to be told in the cover of darkness, where the shadow takes firm grip upon the soul of the unwary, tales to be told aloud, for the chuckle and boom of a voice will bring their ghosts to life.

To those who would enjoy such tales, and I believe that includes a very wide range, this book is probably one of the best samplers of the genre, a solid footstep from which more can be found. Certainly several of the authors I've already sought out more from. At least some of the stories are bound to appeal to almost anyone, especially on a foggy night around a fireplace. Some are better than anything I've ever read from Stephen King and other modern dealers of this type. Not to mention that I simply enjoyed the archaic dialect of these, being a fan of the old styles. You will not regret picking this book up, as it so forcefully captures the imagination. Not all so captured me, but as I said, variety is the key here, and something is bound to appeal to everyone.

My personal favorites were probably Harvey's "August Heat" and James' "Casting the Runes", on opposite ends of the book, nicely pulling me in and leading me out. "Heat" is short, sweltering, and eerie, ending in such a way that is simply too powerful; "Runes" about a the thrilling unraveling of a mystery surrounding a warlock who hexed a man. "The Thirteenth Tree" is perhaps not the most exciting, but definitely is mysterious. The title of "A Visitor From Down Under" has a double meaning, and the story embodies the psychadelia and madness of the period. Rats both haunt and protect a university student in "The Judges House", but little can stop the real horror that lives there. In "The Monkey's Paw" one wish brings ruin on a family, and a second used in desperation seems to bode more.... "The Empty House" casts its siren call over an old woman, who brings her nephew in only to witness an invisible murder. The namesake of "The Signalman" has some ability to see future accidents. And in the bloody "Body-Snatcher", medical college students must take criminal steps to ensure a supply of cadavers, until one turns on them.

Dawn says

A selection of ghost stories by the likes of Algernon Blackwood, Charles Dickens, Bram Stoker, Robert Louis Stevenson, Wilkie Collins, etc., all selected by Edward Gorey. What's NOT to love?

Excellent collection of gothic Victorian ghost stories - it's the perfect read for late fall / early winter nights.

Mimi says

Designed to induce dread and provoke horripilation rather than send you screaming into the night, this is a reissue of Edward Gorey's 1959 selection of favourite ghost stories – each prefaced by its own pen-and-ink Gorey illustration. The book contains a host of familiar classics from Dickens's poignant *The Signalman*, (look out for the vintage BBC version) to M.R. James's masterful *Casting the Runes* (inspiration for one of my all-time favourite Halloween movies *Night of the Demon*) to Jacobs's eerie *The Monkey's Paw* alongside offerings from writers such as R.H. Malden, L.P. Hartley and E. Nesbit, twelve stories in all. Ghosts, ghouls and Gorey what more could anyone want as the nights draw in and firesides beckon?

Shirley says

Wonderfully chilling book. These are all horror classics, stories that I've seen referenced or parodied by modern writers, but never read in the original. Except for the Dickens story (I've never enjoyed Dickens), each one was thoroughly absorbing. The number of Gorey illustrations is the only disappointing part - there's only one per story and some of them really don't do justice to the spine-tingling qualities of the story they depict. Fabulous collection!

Chris says

So the great Gorey and I have some of the same tastes in fiction. And we both like cats.

Some of these stories are well known - such as "The Monkey's Paw", which is one of those stories that never grows stale at all. Others are not, such as "August Heat", a rather chilling tale. What is interesting is that Blakwood's story "The Empty House" and Wilkie Collins' "The Dream Woman" make use of rather strong women, where as the others don't. In fact, Nesbit's story seems to be also poking fun at the classes and the differences between rural and city folk.

Carissa says

This was a good read. The stories weren't terribly long and I passed the autumn day away reading. The stories are older or they have an old quality about them. They're thrilling in a different sense, I suppose, than horror books that are produced nowadays. My favorites are "The Empty House" and "The Dream Woman". I also enjoyed reading "The Signalman" which I had previously heard as an audio-recording. The recording was called "Classic Ghost Stories" and all of the works had been written either by Charles Dickens or M.R. James, my favorite of which is "The Mezzotint".

Peter says

A wonderful collection of ghost stories.

If you have Dickens "The Signalman" and M. R. James "The Casting of the Runes" included, then you know you are on to a winner.

Highly recommended... HAPPY CHILLS!

Miriam says

My favorite stories were M.R. James' "Casting the Runes" and E. Nesbit's "Man-Size in Marble," although the latter was a bit sad -- I liked her newlyweds so much that I really wanted them to have a happy ending. I could've read a ghost-free novel about them writing and painting and studying folklore and being sweet in their odd little cottage. Kind of a funny coincidence: I felt the same way about Patricia McKillip's short story The Kelpie, which also featured turn-of-the-century artistic types.

The Literary Chick says

Exquisite ghost stories from the masters. Fun pinning out which modern horror writers read (and borrowed from) which master or mistress. And there is no beating Gorey's illustrations.

Edwina Callan says

I really enjoyed this collection of Ghost Stories, which includes works by Charles Dickens, Bram Stoker, Robert Louis Stevenson, M. R. James, and others.

There were several that I have read many, many times over the years, which were well worth a repeat read, and, best of all, I did discover a few new to me gems that I loved, such as "August Heat".

Highly recommended to anyone in search of a quick & creepy Halloween read.
