



A Rival From the Grave

Seabury Quinn

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The fourth of five volumes collecting the stories of Jules de Grandin, the supernatural detective made famous in the classic pulp magazine *Weird Tales*.

Today the names of H. P. Lovecraft, Robert E. Howard, August Derleth, and Clark Ashton Smith, all regular contributors to the pulp magazine *Weird Tales* during the first half of the twentieth century, are recognizable even to casual readers of the bizarre and fantastic. And yet despite being more popular than them all during the golden era of genre pulp fiction, there is another author whose name and work have fallen into obscurity: Seabury Quinn.

Quinn's short stories were featured in well more than half of *Weird Tales*'s original publication run. His most famous character, the supernatural French detective Dr. Jules de Grandin, investigated cases involving monsters, devil worshippers, serial killers, and spirits from beyond the grave, often set in the small town of Harrisonville, New Jersey. In de Grandin there are familiar shades of both Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, and alongside his assistant, Dr. Samuel Trowbridge, de Grandin's knack for solving mysteries—and his outbursts of peculiar French-isms (grand Dieu!)—captivated readers for nearly three decades.

Collected for the first time in trade editions, *The Complete Tales of Jules de Grandin*, edited by George Vanderburgh, presents all ninety-three published works featuring the supernatural detective. Presented in chronological order over five volumes, this is the definitive collection of an iconic pulp hero.

The fourth volume, *A Rival from the Grave*, will include all the stories from "The Chosen of Vishnu" (1933) to "Incense of Abomination" (1938), as well as an introduction by George Vanderburgh and Robert Weinberg and a foreword by Mike Ashley.

A Rival From the Grave Details

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Author : Seabury Quinn

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From Reader Review A Rival From the Grave for online ebook

Dale says

The conceited blonde French occultist rides again!

Jules de Grandin was an occult detective in the same vein as Carnacki the Ghost-Finder and John Silence. The stories were published in *Weird Tales*, a 1930's and 1940's pulp magazine that also featured the stories of HP Lovecraft (Cthulhu Mythos) and Robert E Howard (Conan.)

De Grandin is a Frenchman, small and blond haired with tiny feet. He is irascible and totally convinced of his own importance. He appears to be an expert in any type of monster hunting, from vampires to ghosts. He knows strange lore from many lands, having actually lived for a time in such far-flung locations as Laos and Tibet.

As a detective, he is a former member of the French *Sûreté*. Sometimes the stories feature a colleague of de Grandin, the diminutive Inspector Renouard.

According to an official list of Jules de Grandin stories, there is perhaps enough left for one more volume. I'm looking forward to it. I want to touch briefly on each tale. I try to give no spoilers, but a warning here soothes the folks who fear them!

- “The Chosen of Vishnu” deals with a Western woman who was raised in a temple in India. Upon escaping to the USA, she is tracked by devotees... Kudos for the marigolds!
- “The Malay Horror” concerns a lady haunted by a most unusual ghost...
- “The Mansion of Unholy Magic” is a story of the Putnam Mansion. The estate is haunted by crowds of bloodthirsty cadavers...
- “Red Gauntlets” is a case of possession by an evil spirit...
- “The Red Knife of Hassan” presents the case of a woman’s body dredged from the bay. It sets in motion a battle with an ancient cult of assassins.
- “The Jest of Warburg Tantuval” concerns a man who plans devilry for his son and wife. It will be from beyond the Grave! Best in Book!
- “The Hands of the Dead” is about a young woman maimed by a horrible accident. After surgery, she finds she has skills she did not have before...
- “The Black Orchid deals with a man and his niece. For some reason, they are suffering from blood loss, as if a vampire was loose in the house...
- “The Dead Alive Mummy” is a dark tale of an unearthed mummy. The tablet in its sarcophagus promises that the mummy will live again...
- “A Rival from the Grave” involves a man named Frasier Taviton. When his wife passes away, he remarries. The event sets off a horrific haunting. Kudos for the use of x-rays! Who you gonna call?
- “The Witch House” tells the story of a young woman accused of witchcraft and drowned as punishment. After 200 years, another young woman finds herself in danger. What a strange little white kitten!
- “Children of the Bat” is a story of a deadly lady. A woman is found crucified to the wall of a nightclub, the victim of a Mexican Secret Society. A message is found inscribed on a bat’s wing left at the scene...
- “The Devil’s Palmist” is a tale of a religious icon concealing a secret evil...
- “Pledged to the Dead” is about the graveyards of haunted New Orleans and a pale young lady apparently living there. Kudos for the snake!
- “The Living Buddhess” features a young woman possessed by an Oriental spirit...
- “Flames of Vengeance” deals with a family under a curse that was first placed on an ancestor while he was

in India...

- “Frozen Beauty” presents the tale of a young woman whose body has been frozen in dry ice...
- “Incense of Abomination” concerns devil worship and young men driven to suicide...

This book is great! The volumes are nice and look good on the shelf. I give it five stars and look forward to volume five!

Quoth the Raven...

Steven Middaugh says

Fun pulp as always

As with the first three volumes from Night Shade Books, Jules De Grandin strikes again, thwarting evil at every turn whether by human or supernatural by design. As always, this is fun pulp. But, not to be construed as unimportant like the literary critics would like you to believe. This straight forward prose may not be fancy, so what?

Annarella says

This was a great discovery!

I read one story at a time and it was wonderful and entertaing.
A very good book, highly recommended!

Tracy Rowan says

Old genre fiction is often delightful, sometimes perturbing, and almost always informative in terms of the history of the genre in question. The Jules de Grandin stories were new to me, as was the author, Seabury Quinn. The stories in this volume, #4 of 5, were all published in *Weird Tales* in the 1930s, and though obviously dated, they are still remarkably fresh and appealing.

De Grandin is an occult detective, in much the same way Harry Dresden is. Though not the first of his kind, de Grandin was extremely popular in his time. There's a bit of Sherlock Holmes about him, which never hurts, but his adventures are lively pulp stories with vaguely sexual overtones, and filled with one-dimensional villains (often non-white, about which more in a moment) and beautiful young women in grave danger. It's all good fun. Mostly.

The part that isn't is, of course, the author's treatment of non-white characters as monstrously evil, depraved, stupid, or just quaint. He sometimes writes them with cartoon accents and inflections (The rendering of an elderly Chinese servant made me cringe.) To a lesser extent, the women in the stories are simply objects to be rescued, lusted after, or used. That it was the common way of writing this genre of story in that era isn't really good enough to make it acceptable, but it does go a long way toward explaining what's going on. A

thoughtful reader can certainly enjoy the stories without endorsing the more questionable elements.

So, read them for fun, and for the sake of the history of this genre. And don't skip the introductions which are informative and interesting. If you're a fan of the genre, these stories are real pleasures.

Karl says

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