



Nocturnos

John Connolly , Carlos Milla Soler (Translator)

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El autor de la célebre serie de novelas policíacas protagonizadas por Charlie Parker despliega su reconocido talento para lo sobrenatural en diecinueve escalofriantes relatos de terror. En la estela de maestros del género, desde M.R. James y Ray Bradbury hasta Stephen King, Connolly ahonda en los miedos más profundos y arraigados: niños perdidos, forasteros atormentados y portadores de extraños virus, criaturas del submundo y demonios depredadores surgen en los ambientes más anodinos... o en los parajes más aterradores, como casas malditas, rectorías solitarias o pantanos de aguas densas. Entre guiños a obras maestras del género, vueltas de tuerca a figuras prototípicas como los vampiros y realidades engañosamente idílicas, los cuentos se internan en ese terreno en el que el hombre está inerme ante fuerzas todopoderosas. Aunque muchos de sus protagonistas son víctimas de sus desmedidas ansias de éxito, de deseos insatisfechos o de sentimientos espurios, lamentamos tener que decir que no siempre es así: a veces el Mal se ceba en los más inocentes. Y un consejo: si deciden leer este libro de noche, iluminen su entorno con algo más que una vela.

Nocturnos Details

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From Reader Review Nocturnos for online ebook

Melanie (TBR and Beyond) says

I really have a love and hate relationship with horror short stories. Every now and then I really love one and it affects me. Yes, Shirley Jackson I'm talking you! This was my first book by John Connolly and it really wasn't the best one for me to pick. I should've started with "The Book of Lost Things." I will still get to that one though, I think it will be more my style.

I listened to this one on audio. It took me forever. To be fair, it always takes me longer on audio because I'm antsy. I've been trying to get better at listening to them though because they can be an amazing thing. That was not really the case with this one. Narrator, Jeff Harding, did horrible accents. I cringed every time he did a woman's voice. It probably took away from a lot of the stories.

I liked a couple of the stories. Most of them I had a hard time keeping focus because I kept getting bored. I did like Cancer Cowboy, New Daughter and the one about the clowns (can't think of the name right now).

I can't really personally recommend it since I didn't enjoy it but I also wouldn't say not to read it. Lots of people seem to really like this one, so if it sounds like something that might interest you then go for it. It certainly wasn't badly written. I would NOT recommend the audio on this one though.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

A really good collection of short stories that I read in the beginning of 2014. Usually, the quality of short stories varies very much, but I think this is one of the best collections of short stories I have ever read. Then again, this is John Connolly, writer of the excellent Charlie Parker series. So of course, these stories must be good!

Ctgt says

Pretty good collection, I really enjoyed The Cancer Cowboy Rides Again, The Underbury Witches, Nocturne and Deep, Dark Green. But the Charlie Parker novella The Reflecting Eye pushed it up to 4 stars.

7/10

Kevin says

In every one of these short stories Connolly succeeds in raising my neck hairs, even if at times it is only a small bit. I like to think that I'm immune to the average horror story atmospheres and tropes which is to say

that for an author to have any pull on my emotions they must do either A) take the normal horror game to new heights or B) Do something completely off the wall altogether. Connolly does a mixture of both of these options which produces many diverse and refreshing stories. I really appreciate it when an author can mould both a plot and character so well in under twelve pages, especially from an author who is in no way renown for his skills at the short story. Having said that, Connolly is not going to win any prestigious literary awards for work like this, but it definitely serves for those not wanting to sleep too soundly at night or who are interested in feeling the side effects of book induced paranoia.

I have saved "The Reflecting Eye", i.e. the Charlie Parker novella, until I have finished reading Every Dead Thing. I can only imagine what sorts he will achieve when his canvas is expanded from twelve to four hundred pages.

Phrynne says

My only problem with John Connolly's short stories is just that - they are short! When I read his books I want at least 450 pages of goodness. Nevertheless Nocturnes is really good.

It did help that it includes a Charlie Parker novella, The Reflecting Eye, especially as it is about The Collector who features so notably in the main series. I enjoyed that very much. Another novella length piece, The Cancer Cowboy Rides, was wonderfully disgusting, telling the tale of a man carrying and passing on a fearsome disease.

Of the short stories I really enjoyed The Inkpot Monkey and Miss Froom, Vampire, but none of the stories let the book down. Connolly has just the right touch when it comes to spooky. The creepiest tale of course had to involve clowns. Some Children Wander by Mistake shows a whole new aspect of these unpleasant creatures and quite frankly I hope never to see a clown again.

Really enjoyable and I do not know why I waited so long to read it.

Victoria says

This is a book of short stories, so I would think that the best way to respond would be to each one individually ... all 15 (though there is, apparently, a different version with even more stories - so it looks like I will be buying the updated copy at some point!):

"The Cancer Cowboy Rides" - This was a quite chilling and remarkably grotesque story about a living cancer, embodied in "Buddy". A truly disgusting story, it was certainly entertaining and a quite solid short story.

"Mr. Pettinger's Daemon" - A much shorter story, but no less eerie and very reminiscent of The Descent... this one would be good for expansion, as many questions to the nature of the Beast have gone unanswered. The most interesting tidbit was the reference to the cannibalism of WWI... I wonder if that is actually based on historical record.

"The Erlking" - An eerie short story that reminded me of The Book of Lost Things more than anything else he's written so far. I thought I read somewhere that this one was going to be expanded into a screenplay, that I would certainly be interested in seeing! This one is the most fairy-tale-like so far.

"The New Daughter" - Yikes... this was by far the creepiest story... and the best so far as expansion into a

movie, I think. This one is my favorite so far... so creepy! I do hope that the movie is made! I would definitely see it - though I might be a bit scared to!

"The Ritual of the Bones" - Ehhh... gross, but this one wasn't as darkly enchanting as the previous two. All in all, an average scary story.

"The Furnace Room" - An interesting twist of Hear-No-Evil, See-No-Evil and Speak-No-Evil, mixed with the Fates... fun and quick, but not terribly thought provoking.

"The Witches of Underbury" - The is was a very interesting short story and it would be interesting to learn if the actual witches in that town are based on a true story.

"The Inkpot Monkey" - A "cute" scary story, focusing on the "hazards" of writer's block. More funny and quaint than creepy, but still an enjoyable story.

"The Shifting of the Sands" - The problem with these short stories is that they are so... short. They are intriguing and do have a beginning, middle and usually a rather haunting open ending, but the would be better with more detail, stronger characters... in other words, length.

"Some Children Wander By Mistake" - A clown story - yikes! Though a pretty typical scary story and not too terribly unique.

"Deep, Dark Green" - Something about this short story reminded me of a poem... there was just something oddly poetic about it.

"Miss Froom, Vampire" - What a fun little vampire story! I just love a fun vampire story - who doesn't?

"Nocturne" - A more typical ghost story - still eerie, but not anything very remarkable.

"The Wakeford Abyss" - Spiders!!! Yuck! Also reminiscent of The Descent... I wonder if Connolly has read that book...

"The Reflecting Eye" - I was surprised that this Charlie Parker story was included, though I did enjoy it and it did bridge some of the gaps around his daughter's birth. He is a very good writer, with a real talent for humourous dialogue, building suspense and inclusion of "normal" paranormal activity. The ending certainly surprised me, though some questions were left quite unanswered. It just makes me eager for the next Charlie Parker novel!!

Upon Re-Reading "The Reflecting Eye": This Charlie Parker novella, within Connolly's Nocturnes, a collection of spooky stories, chronologically follows The White Road in the series. Fitting in with the overall collection, this one has a strong supernatural bend to it. It also includes series regulars and introduces characters who will come to play larger roles in the books to come. Samantha, Charlie and Rachel's daughter, is born here and the enigmatic Collector makes his debut as well. Though he is certainly a darker character, I have always found the Collector to be a particularly intriguing character and it is surprising to me that this slim novella contains so much pivotal action to the overall series and the character arcs.

Mizuki says

Group read with Literary Darkness GR group

When reading this book I kept thinking: "I'd read something like this before!", so perhaps I did read plenty of those short stories from somewhere else in the past.

Plus, John Connolly's themes, style and writing reminds me strongly of Clive Barker's short stories, I'm not saying who is ripping off who, but the resemblance is still strong.

Jaksen says

Absolutely fabulous collection of horror stories. Loved it, loved it, loved it!

I first picked this up to read the novella at the end, as it concerns a 'villain' who shows up in the Charlie Parker series which Mr. Connolly also writes. It was obvious - in this other book, a novel - that I had missed something, though it was made clear who and what this villainous person was. Still, he had a back story and I hadn't read it. So...

I read that novella first and it fit into the series perfectly, precisely, pointedly. Then I read all the other stories. Some are long shorts;, some are shorter, but not a one is less than wonderful. Scary, poignant, heartfelt, horrifying, weird, creepy - you name it, it's here; and better yet, Mr. Connolly is a skilled and articulate writer. I just love his descriptions. Transitions, dialogue, setting, sense of place and all that, it's here in spades.

He has another collection; I'm going to read that one, too. Can't wait!

And by the way, I read most of this particular book while alone in a spooky house with the windows open (screened windows) and the sounds of screech owls and crickets and the occasional cries of children at play in the background. (And yeah, in the dark of early evening.) Loved that, too.

Five glorious stars.

Oscar says

El irlandés John Connolly es mundialmente conocido por las novelas protagonizadas por Charlie Parker, y ha demostrado más que de sobra su capacidad para crear atmósferas sobrenaturales. Siempre pensé que Connolly sería un buen escritor de relatos cortos, y con 'Nocturnos' lo ha conseguido con creces. Sus relatos recuerdan a los autores de fantasmas más reconocidos, M.R. James, E.F. Benson o Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, pero también hay elementos de Stephen King, e incluso algo de Clive Barker.

A lo largo de los diecinueve relatos incluidos en 'Nocturnos', Connolly nos acerca al horror más primario, la mayoría de las veces desde un escenario cotidiano, y otras veces desde lugares macabros y tenebrosos. Son relatos de corta extensión, excepto el primero. En ellos nos encontramos los elementos más comunes del mal: un enigmático vaquero que se dedica a contaminar a otras personas, criaturas ocultas en iglesias, bestias subterráneas, embalses malditos, extraños payasos, brujas ocultas, mujeres lobo, elfos, vampiros. En resumen, estamos ante una muy buena colección de cuentos que disfrutará cualquier amante del género.

Ignacio Senao f says

Señores que este jefazo es todo un ESCRITOR. Es lo primero que leo y no descarto leer sus novelas detectivescas (aún sabiendo que no me gusta ese género).

Buen terror y tratante de todo su ámbito, con el clásico de fantasmas, psicológicos y otros de criaturas

monstruosas. Enfermedades oscuras y confusiones familiares.

Ninguno malo, lo cual es un éxito en una recopilación de relatos.
Si te gusta el terror: LEANLO.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

The cover says this book is terrifying and delightful I don't know about terrifying, but it is mostly a delightful read.

Framing a collection of short stories, three of which had never previously been published are two novellas, The Cancer Cowboy Rides and The reflecting Eye which features Charlie Parker.

There were a couple of short stories near the beginning of the collection I did not particularly like, but the rest were really good, particularly the Inkpot Monkey. In my opinion, the two novellas were the highlights of this collection.

A good read.

Brandon says

I'll be the first to admit I'm not a huge fan of short story compilations. While I've only read a handful of collections, I find they take a lot of effort to get through. It's not that the quality of the work isn't up to par with that of a full length novel, it's just the ending of one story followed by the beginning of another can sometimes come across as exhausting. You get all invested in a story and it's characters and all of a sudden, it's over. Then, you begin again.

Seeing as Connolly is one of my favorite authors, I decided to give him the benefit of the doubt and check out his short story collection, Nocturnes. It also didn't hurt that he included a Charlie Parker novella smack dab in the middle.

The book kicked off strong with The Cancer Cowboy Rides Again. Not a lot of background is given up front regarding the main character but that only adds to the horror surrounding his existence. A story about a man that needs to pass along his disease to hold off death was pretty terrifying. Solid story.

Some great storytelling with Mr. Pettinger's Daemon, Nocturnes and especially with The New Daughter. The New Daughter must have grabbed someone the right way as it was adapted for the big screen with a starring Kevin Costner. Haven't seen the film yet but I plan on it.

Without a doubt, the crown jewel of this collection is Charlie Parker's The Reflecting Eye. This is by far, one of the best Parker appearances in Connolly's canaan. Not only is the story's villain both engaging and creepy, the novella is an important one as it debuts one of Parker's most notorious adversaries, The Collector. Connolly actually re-released this tale as a standalone book last year prior to the release of The Wrath of Angels, which also involves a key role for The Collector. I believe it was a limited release but I'm sure you

can still find a few copies floating around.

Nocturnes is one of the few overwhelmingly positive experiences I've had with a short story anthology. Nothing really drags here as Connolly moves things along briskly - especially with the placement of the Parker novella right in the middle. If you're a Parker fan, you really need to read *The Reflecting Eye* above all else.

A solid recommendation from someone who at times struggles with short story collections.

Arun Divakar says

In hindsight, the title for this book was rather apt. While I did not think about it at the time of reading, all the stories here are ones where the night is dark and full of terrors. There are things here that go bump in the night and the night itself gives you the biggest bumps of them all. Connolly was not an author whose books I had read before and he did turn out to be good (in the early Stephen King kind of way). These are short stories packed with punches, teeth and claws. Here is what I thought :

The Cancer Cowboy Rides : An isolated little town to which evil comes shambling in cowboy boots. Buddy the Cowboy isn't a shade of grey, he is mindless evil with a mind as dark as pitch. The gore factor in this story is pretty high but considering what Buddy carries within him, this is quite justified. 5 stars.

Mr. Pettinger's Daemon : An old church with the images of benevolent and benign deity upstairs and something ancient and evil downstairs form the crux of the story here. This is a very small tale even by the standards of the book. Nothing very outstanding. 2 stars.

The Erlking : There is something in the woods just beyond the windows of your home and as darkness falls, the trees whisper to each other and like the darkness itself comes The Erlking. The unspeakable horror that such an entity can emblazon onto a young mind and the defiance of a child against this horror is what the tale is all about. 3 stars.

The New Daughter : We go around our lives while believing that the people and things in our life shall forever retain a semblance of normalcy. What if such a person slowly evolves into something (note the word some'thing') that you can no longer recognize ? What if that something is primal and bestial ? Now imagine if that something was your own child ! This is a creepy story and the backdrop of an abandoned home and an isolated family spreads the dread. 4 stars.

The Ritual of the Bones : The closed ranks of an ivy league school is where this tale begins and ends. While it does have its moments, this is not a great story per se. It has a faint whiff of a cliché. 2 stars.

The Furnace Room : Crime always pays in the end and so says this tale. The Furnace Room is a dreamy take on how we reap what we sow. Then again it is a very cliché story. 2 stars.

The Witches of Underbury : A centuries old curse and a trio of witches go head on with modern law enforcement (modern in the early 1900's). The strength of this tale is in the trio of witches – the solemn/serious, the flirtatious/dangerous and the unwilling/naïve accomplice. The story is slightly novella length and executes itself beautifully. 4 stars.

The Inkpot Monkey : A twisted fable with a very dark sense of humour. 3 stars.

The Shifting of the Sands : Here's to Lovecraft and the elder Gods ! With love – John Connolly. 3 stars.

Some Children Wander By Mistake : Considering how scary clowns are, why do people invite them to be close to their kids ? Wasn't Pennywise warning enough ? 3 stars !

Deep, Dark Green : A lyrical story about a fleeting comfort that awaits the unwary in deep, dark and green waters. The story is like water as it flows all around you and as you bask in its comfort, a sudden pull from beneath drags you under and then there is only darkness. 4 stars.

Miss Froom, Vampire : A humorous take on an aging female vampire and her dull life in a small neighbourhood. What do we do with retired vampires ? 3 stars.

Nocturne : When the night falls and the last light goes out, the dead come out to play. Good old ghost story. 3 stars.

The Wakeford Abyss : Crevices in the earth within whose deep, dark hollows dwell things which are better off undisturbed. Two explorers rappelling down such a crevice come face to face with a chitinous horror. 4 stars.

The Reflecting Eye : A haunted mansion gets a full makeover in this story and it also introduced me to Connolly's iconic character – Charlie Parker. While copycat killers have been overused to the point of blandness in multiple stories, here the focus is on an entirely different antagonist. Connolly lays down the ground work for making The Collector a much more formidable presence in his books to come. This story however has a logical ending. A whodunit with elements of horror thrown in to just the right levels. 5 stars.

Mr.Gray's Folly : Connolly seems to have an attraction to ancient evil and how it can come back to haunt you after generations. Mr. Gray and his wife living in a palatial mansion fall prey to such a curse. Not a very original story. 2 stars.

The Cycle : The tale with a twist and Connolly pulls a Jeffery Deaver here. There are however clues scattered all through the story : the full moon, the aches in the body, fur and claws....'nuff said. 4 stars.

The Bridal Bed : True love beckons to one even from beyond the grave. How far would a man go to reach his one true love ? 3 stars.

The man from the second fifteen : Never stop your car on a strange and deserted stretch of the road. No matter what ! 3 stars.

The Inn at Shillingford : Do strange hotel rooms make you wonder what would really have happened in those rooms before you came in ? I don't mean the big brands but the places where when left without a choice you walk in for a night's rest ? Are there rusty, brown stains on the towels and walls ? When you go to sleep at night do you hear strange noises both within and outside the room ? Welcome to the Inn at Shillingford ! We wish you a very pleasant stay. 4 stars.

Mark says

Generally I consider most short story collections a mixed bag at best, unless your name is Stephen King. And the reason I read this one is firstly the inclusion of a Charlie Parker story, which was imho the best story in the book at the same time. Secondly I was kind of curious how mr. Connolly did do outside of "Charlie Parker universe". And while he did not really dissappoint he did not always deliver as good. I did enjoy the opening novella and the short story on the Witches, which might have been more interesting had it been taken as the seed for a novel on its own.

Most of all I find the art of short story writing to be far more difficult for any writer and Connolly does not always make the stories come alive in the same sense he does with his longer novels.

That said it was time well spend.

Tom Mathews says

This is one of the best story collections that I have read. **Nocturnes** is a great title as the stories are truly the stuff that nightmares are made of. It is rare that a single author collection doesn't have one story that would be better off in the dustbin but that is the case here. Even the worst story is pretty darn good.

On a side note, as Connolly is the author of the excellent Charlie Parker detective series I thought that some of the stories in this collection, particularly *The Underbury Witches* featuring Inspector Burke and Sergeant Stokes, could serve as a seed for another series, sort of a Scotland Yard/X-Files/Hound of the Baskervilles mash-up. Just a thought in case Connolly ever reads this review.

FYI: **Nocturnes** is considered book 4.5 of the Charlie Parker mystery series as it includes the novella, *The Reflecting Eye* which includes significant events in the Charlie Parker story arc.

Another FYI: Nocturnes II, Night Music: Nocturnes Volume Two has recently been published. I'm looking forward to reading that one as well.
