

(Read and download) Horror: The 100 Best Books

## Horror: The 100 Best Books

*Stephen Jones, Kim Newman*

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**Stephen Jones, Kim Newman : Horror: The 100 Best Books** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Horror: The 100 Best Books:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. No, you won't agree with every choice or every review -- but you will be introduced to some works you should read.By DACampbellA decent collection in which even the more widely read horror fan will encounter new and interesting works. The reviews range from the erudite and entertaining to the dopey and dull. Some authors know how to review a book; others do not. Again, every horror fan will have one or more "but-they-didn't-include" objections (mine: Meyrick's the Golem), but unless you're prepared to pay for a thousand-page doorstopper, this is probably as good as it gets. Good enough, in fact that I intend to purchase the companion volume.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. GREAT BOOK!By JR PintoOf course this list can't be complete (and now it is twenty years old) but it is still a great place to start for a survey of horror literature. For those of us who take horror literature seriously, this is one of the essential nonfiction books to have - along with Danse Macabre, On Writing Horror, and Lovecraft's Supernatural Horror in Literature. This is a great resource to read the masters themselves talking about their heroes and what makes good literature. Not only do we have essays ABOUT Poe and Lovecraft - we have essays BY Poe and Lovecraft, along with Stephen King, Harlan Ellison, etc. For a genre that produces so much bad writing, it is invaluable to have a guide to point us toward the good stuff.Now, of course, this list isn't exhaustive. There are many titles that are not included (which is why the book has a sequel). Tastes vary, so I'm not necessarily a fan of EVERY title selected. Also, to be original, some contributors select titles that are just NOT horror. (I think that most horror fans agree that the horror of Johnny Got His Gun is not the type of

horror we are talking about here.) Fortunately, the books are listed chronologically, with no attempt to compare their relative merits. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AWESOME HORROR REFERENCEBy bluchuchuGreat introduction to early horror stories. Great to find out what authors you like to read to see who they enjoy reading or what story inspired them to write. Great refence book...a must for any horror fan!

As Ramsey Campbell states in his foreward: "Horror shows us sights we would ordinarily look away from or insights we might prefer not to have." Nowhere is this more evident than in this collection where the editors have invited top horror writers--Clive Barker, Stephen King, Ramsey Campbell, and a host of others--to nominate and write about their choices of best books.

.com First published in 1988, *Horror: The 100 Best Books* has remained the only book of its kind: a solid (and entertaining) annotated reading list spanning the range of horror fiction from the 16th to the 20th century. The device of asking 100 horror, fantasy, and science fiction writers to write about their favorite horror books might seem at first to capture an idiosyncratic sample, but through diplomacy and diligence, editors Stephen Jones and Kim Newman succeeded in obtaining short essays on most (if not all) of the well-known classics, as well as many more lesser-knowns that are well worth discovering. Readers who follow up on these recommendations will find tips about books by writers mostly known for other genres--such as Iain Banks, Robert Holdstock, Lisa Tuttle, and David Morrell. Also valuable are write-ups on literary works not always acknowledged as horror, such as Kingsley Amis's *The Green Man*, Jerzy Kosinski's *The Painted Bird*, and John Gardner's *Grendel*. And the write-ups offer a fascinating peek into the minds of the contributors, who include just about all the top horror writers of the '60s-'80s. This 10th anniversary edition makes no changes in the list of 100 books, but updates the entries and includes a 9-page reading list of titles from 458 B.C. to 1997. --Fiona Webster The continuing growth in popularity of speculative fiction (an all-encompassing term for horror, fantasy, and science fiction) has resulted in a recent spate of suggested reading lists. Strangely enough, these two collections, while possessing corresponding publishers, titles, and concepts, utilize vastly different approaches to compile their "best of" lists. Of the two, Jones' and Newman's entry is more interesting, as they have imbued their book with a bit of novelty by garnering the opinions of 100 authors, editors, and others in the genre. Each contributor offers a personal essay on why they made their selection. Contributors include the field's current bestselling authors (such as Stephen King, Clive Barker, and Robert McCammon) as well as deceased luminaries (such as Edgar Allen Poe, Robert Howard, and H.P. Lovecraft). Chronologically, the selections range from *The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus* (Christopher Marlowe, 1592) to *Dark Feasts* (Ramsey Campbell, 1987). By soliciting the opinions of so many varied voices, Jones and Newman avoid overloading the list with personal bias, and they achieve an eclectic touch that makes the choices extremely interesting. Acknowledging the potential quirky nature of such a selection process, a further recommended reading list is appended, giving the reader enough material to keep him or her busy into the next century. Taking a somewhat converse approach, Cawthorn and Moorcock simply list their personal selections for the 100 best books in the field of fantasy. While the editors' credentials are clearly topnotch, the uniform viewpoint doesn't measure up the variety offered in Jones' and Newman's collection. To their credit, the picks of Cawthorn and Moorcock are wide-ranging, spanning from *Gulliver's Travels* (Jonathan Swift, 1726) to *Expecting Sonteaone Taller* (Tom Holt~ 1987) chronologically, and encompassing commensurate ground thematically. Indicative of the narrow, sometimes imperceptible boundary between definitions of fantasy and horror is the fact that fourteen works have achieved mention in both of these lists. Regardless of the dissimilar methods used in compiling these two listings, there's no question that both offer plenty of interesting and provocative suggestions for future reading. -- From Independent Publisher About the Author James Marriott is also the author of *Horror Films*, and a regular contributor to many magazines and websites, including cult periodical *Headpress*. Leading film critic, award-winning novelist, and frequent TV and radio broadcaster, Kim Newman is also the author of numerous non-fiction studies of horror, including *Horror: 100 Best Books*, which won the Bram Stoker Award for best non-fiction.