



## The Nightmare Collection

*Cherie Reich*

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*Librarian's note: This is an alternate cover edition for ISBN: 1480211001 (ISBN13: 9781480211001).*

**This first edition book is no longer available. A second edition will be available again in April 2015 with its new title *Once upon a Nightmare: A Collection*.**

A legend is hungry tonight.

A child monster will get its first taste of blood in Nightmare at the Freak Show. Four friends will enter the forest one December night, but only one can survive in Once Upon a December Nightmare. Almost ten years after Cassie's December nightmare, the monster awakens to hunt again in Nightmare Ever After.

Collection includes:

Nightmare at the Freak Show - short story

Once Upon a December Nightmare - novelette

Nightmare Ever After - novella

## The Nightmare Collection Details

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Author : Cherie Reich

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# **From Reader Review The Nightmare Collection for online ebook**

## **Julie Flanders says**

The Nightmare Collection is a fantastic set of stories! The first story, a short but haunting tale called Nightmare at the Freak Show, shows the beginnings of a monster. It's a heartbreaking story, because it demonstrates how cruelty can strip away humanity and leave nothing left but a terrifying creature who only wants to kill.

Once Upon A December Nightmare is a fast-paced and suspenseful novella about a group of teenagers who find themselves lost in a forest where, according to legend, a monster is on the loose. The suspense builds with each chapter as we see the ensuing events from the viewpoints of all the characters. The reader is able to get to know the teens, which makes their night of terror even more horrifying. I couldn't put this book down until I finished.

The final story, Nightmare Ever After, takes place a decade after the events of December Nightmare and the reader gets to catch up with a survivor of that horrible night. The character who survived was my favorite of the teenagers, so I enjoyed getting to see her again. She's an easy character to empathize with and root for, and I could feel her horror as she was sucked back into the terror she thought she had escaped. This story also introduces a fantastic new character, an FBI agent named Tim who is a great addition to the Nightmare universe.

The Nightmare Collection is a fantastic collection for anyone who loves horror and suspense.

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## **Nick Wilford says**

This collection had me hooked from the first page. It takes the form of three stories of varying length - short story, novelette and novella - following the tale of a "monster" who has transformed into a killer due to cruelty and ill treatment. Cherie Reich has pulled off a very clever trick here by not portraying the creature as simply a force of pure evil, but an individual that once had the potential for kindness, but had it beaten out of him.

The story unfolds through the three installments over intervals of various years, and I was drawn in and had to keep reading. In the second story, Once Upon a December Nightmare, the suspense is built up brilliantly, allowing the reader to spook themselves out rather than relying on an all-out gorefest. There's gore too, but it doesn't become overwhelming.

In the final episode, we follow the only victim out of four to survive the beast's attack, drawn back to the dark forest once again to assist the FBI in investigating a new spate of murders. Cassie is a very well-drawn and complex character - strong for having moved on with her life to some extent and for enduring abuse from the families of those who died, but vulnerable and damaged at the same time. I was rooting for her to find some resolution to events, and some comfort and happiness. Reich masterfully interweaves the budding connection between her and FBI man Tim with the growing horror of the killings.

I highly recommend this book to all who enjoy a chilling tale of suspense mixed with moments of tenderness to balance things out.

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## Ellie says

The Nightmare Collection does just what it says on the cover – it delivers three stories that leave you with nightmares.

The first story, Nightmare at the Freak Show sent chills down my spine as I read it. Reich had me metaphorically biting my nails, as the tension slowly mounted until the horrifying conclusion.

In the second story, Once Upon a December Nightmare, Reich masterfully treats us to a story told through different character viewpoints. Like a great horror film, this allows the reader to empathise and care about each character. By the end of the story I was left wanting more, such was the skill in which Reich built both the characters and the terrifying scenario they find themselves in – alone in the woods and being hunted by a monster. That thirst for more was quickly quenched by the third story.

Nightmare Ever After, a novella length piece of fiction, picks up the story a few years after Once Upon a December Nightmare and reunites us with an old character and introduces new ones. This was by far my favourite of the three and, despite only being a novella in length, it felt as if I'd read a novel. It also reminded me of the X-files, a series I loved.

This is an amazing collection of short stories that will leave you thinking about them long after you finish. If you're a horror fiction and X-files fan, this is a must-read.

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## Christine Rains says

Three chilling tales that will keep you awake on long winter nights.

We begin with a short terrifying piece that gives the reader a peek into how a monster is born. Nightmare at the Freak Show pulls at your heartstrings and leaves you pale and horrified, sitting with your mouth agape. Cherie Reich builds great tension in this opening tidbit. It'll leave you hungry for more.

Once Upon A December Nightmare grips you with its vivid detail and nail-biting suspense. It seemed like a normal night for the young folk, but I fast on the edge of my seat, and I couldn't relax even when I reached the end. The most unique part of this story is that the reader is allowed to see through all the characters' eyes. Each of the four characters have their own sections, and it's like peeling back layers of an onion. More is revealed about the dynamics of the group and each individual's inner most feelings. Cherie does a marvelous job with characterization.

Nightmare Ever After is my favorite of the stories. It takes place a decade after the last tale, and lets the reader peek into the life of someone who survived one horrible night. Cassie is a fascinating character that must not only deal with living with the trauma of that night, but also with the fact no one believes her. She struggles with her fears, but she's a survivor. Tim is the perfect complement to her character. They're thrown into the chaos of a case that's never been solved. The mystery haunts the reader through the pages, slowly unveiling the horror. The tension builds as the number of murders grow until you're on the edge of your seat

waiting to see what's going to happen. The story has a definite X-Files feel. Though Tim is more Scully where as Cassie would be Mulder.

This is an amazing collection of horror stories. An intriguing mystery, masterful characterization, and heart pounding suspense. Oh, you'll see your fair share of horrific things, but there's so much more to these tales.

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