



The Whisperer in the Darkness

H.P. Lovecraft

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This is a short novel by Lovecraft mixing horror and science fiction. The story introduces the Mi-Go, an extraterrestrial race of strange fungoid beings and makes many references to the Cthulhu Mythos.

The Whisperer in the Darkness Details

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Author : H.P. Lovecraft

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From Reader Review The Whisperer in the Darkness for online ebook

Morgan says

My favorite Lovecraft tale because this takes place in Vermont. Not only that, one of the few writers I feel that actually gets Vermont and doesn't have a tourist feel. Oddly, I felt right at home reading this story. I mean, it mentions the Rutland Herald (a local paper I see daily). I also like this one because it was creepy. Not really a fan of horror writing, but Lovecraft hits the spot.

Kirsten says

A wonderfully eerie and creepy tale of strange goings-on in the mountains of Vermont. Strange beings - alien? - are visiting the mountains for some kind of mineral and trying to stop investigations by locals and a folklore professor from Boston. Loved this story for its atmospherics and science fiction terror.

Lory Humble says

V hrobce ★★★★★

Výpov?? Randolpha Cartera ★★★??

Barva z vesmíru ★★★★★

Hr?zný sta?ec ★★★★★

Hudba Ericha Zanna ★★★★?

Šepot ve tm? ★★★★★

Rytina ★★★★?

Chladný vzduch ★★★★★

Divák ★★★★?

P?ípad Charlese Dextera Warda ★★★★?

Takže se?teno podtrženo: 4,5 ★★★★★

Amorfna says

I za ovo dugujem recenziju

Mike Hankins says

This is a collection of classic Lovecraft short stories I read a while back. What I love about him, is how creepy he can make everything seem, the sense of dread and foreboding that his thick prose can create. This guy wrote decades ago, but his stuff can still give me nightmares. I especially like how, it's not about gore, or

violence, or murders, or the kind of stuff modern slasher horror is about... Lovecraft's stories about about humanity realizing how tiny and frail it is, encountering powerful creatures that are beyond explanation... things that shouldn't be here, that have no business being in our world... or maybe it's that we have no business being in "their" world. The monsters here are creepier for being rarely (if ever) seen. The way his monsters hang on the edge of existence in your mind makes their threat seem more dangerous, and far more scary.

The exception to this is stories like "the mountains of madness," which, although perhaps his most famous of the ones in this collection, was, I thought, by far the weakest. This is because it reveals way too much of the mythology behind his creatures. The mystery, the dreaded sense of "other-ness" is what gives these stories their chilling feeling, when we know too much they cease to be scary.

Some of these stories might be hard to get through, they are often a little longer than they probably need to be, and his style of summing up conversations, and rarely putting actual dialog in, can be off-putting to some readers, although I kind of enjoyed it and thought it added to the mood. Their style and vocabulary are a little dated, but not nearly as much as you might expect.

If you're a fan of otherworldly horror in the vein of Steven King, definitely check this stuff out.

Melora says

Not really scary, but sort of creepy and weirdly engaging. I got a kick out of what must be one of the earlier instances of the "still-functioning-brain-in-a-jar" trope, and also from the thrill that the discovery of Pluto obviously generated. More sci-fi than horror, which was fine with me. 3 1/2 stars, rounded up by coin flip.

Jonso says

No creí que fuese posible pasar miedo con un libro hasta este. Me ha encantado.

Karl says

Lovecraft Illustrated Volume 9

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Cover and interior Illustrations by Pete Von Sholly 2015

Gorgona Grim says

Odličan izbor Lavkraftovih priča objedinjenih na jednom mestu, a moram pomenuti i fantastičan dizajn same knjige, u izdanju Orfelina, koji je zaštitni znak edicije "Poetika strave".

Svaka od ovih priča je podsetnik da stvari nikada nisu onakve kakvim nam se čine na prvi pogled i dvojaka opomena: da nikoga i ništa ne uzimamo zdravo za gotovo i da, šta god da učinimo i koliko god da pokušavamo da predvidimo rasplet događaja, tu igru gubimo.

Pored klasika "Šaptač u tami", izdvojila bih priču "Hladan vazduh" i "Ljubav prema mrtvima". Najjezivije priču za mene su one u kojima strah ima ljudsko oblikovanje.

Ruby Tombstone [With A Vengeance] says

Read as part of the Chaos Reading Emergency Group Read for True Detective & The Yellow King. So far, this is the creepiest of all the Lovecraft stories I've read. There were genuine goosebumps involved. I wish I had the time right now to read all of the Cthulhu mythos stories..

This was a great story, and certainly my favourite Lovecraft to date. What a pity the audiobook version I listened to had a narrator with such poor English language skills! I couldn't believe it - every word with three syllables or more either had an extra syllable added on, or removed. I don't think he got a single one correct. Ever come across a word you've never seen before while narrating an audiobook? No worries - you just make up an alternative word and say it with confidence. The only people who'll notice are... **those of us who've ever read a book, seen a movie or heard someone speak before.** *facepalm*

Daniel says

I am going to write something that may ban me from the esteem of many genre readers for life. So be it, I gotta say this: Lovecraft was not a good writer.

As evidence of this, I give you one of his most popular stories, "At the Mountains of Madness". The story starts off great with a narrative told in a cautious tone; the descriptions of arctic exploration; the ensuing discoveries that hint at great and awesome things - I really dug these ideas; and the subsequent violence that suggests something truly wrong is going on. The story then follows two men to the Mountains of Madness, and everything is fine - creepy, well told, interesting - until they find some murals depicting the lives of the Old Ones, and they decide to decipher them - right there. And what does Lovecraft do with his story that, so far, has drawn the reader in and set the stage for something odd and scary? He infodumps about the Old Ones for many, many pages - and with that, all narrative momentum is killed, the main characters forgotten, and everything that follows is made routine.

I like Lovecraft's ideas, and I will continue to read his stories; I cannot, however, understand the hype that has built up around his legacy. Maybe it was cool to like him when fewer people did.

Tobin Elliott says

This, to me, is the stereotypical Lovecraft near his worst. The absolute worst is when he has a character detailing dreams. But this? This comes very close.

When you get right down to it, nothing really happens throughout this story. The narrator details a few letters, eventually makes his way to the letter writer's home, we're told of some of the secrets he learns from Akeley—never ever shown, because that's simply not how Lovecraft rolls—then the narrator gets creeped out, makes a weird discovery, and bolts from the house. The end.

Lovecraft himself sums it up quite well on page 84 with the line:

The only thing that saves this is, between all the tell and the foot dragging, there's some wonderfully creepy ideas in there, but they're never brought out. Lovecraft himself sums it up quite well on page 84 with the line: **"...their frightful effect on me was one of suggestion rather than of revelation."**

Not one of his better ones.

Lindsay says

This story was written shortly after the discovery of Pluto, and Lovecraft endearingly wasted no time pinning down the new planet's identity to Yuggoth, home of The Elder Ones :-) There are some seriously mindbending celestial phenomena proposed here, part of what makes Lovecraft so unique and appealing to me. It is also yet another great dark, brooding, suspenseful tale where he reveals and holds back just enough to leave you with that delicious signature flavour of fear of the unknown.

Katy says

Please note: This novella is included in *The Complete Works of H.P. Lovecraft*, which can be downloaded for free from the CthulhuChick website. (Links where formatting is allowed)

Synopsis: An Arkham university professor is contacted by a farmer living in a remote part of Vermont, who claims to have evidence of aliens living in the hills and mining a mysterious metal. After visiting, the professor becomes alarmed at the mysterious change in the behavior of the farmer, including his assertion that the aliens can extract a human brain and keep it alive in jar for eternity

My Thoughts: One of the best things about reading Lovecraft is the way he structures the story, slowly building the details, slowly building a creepy atmosphere, moving forward and back to great effect, and then dropping a bomb on the reader with a sudden revelation at the end. Sure it's a structure that eventually was taken up by many mystery and suspense writers and used to the point where it has become a cliche, but in Lovecraft's time it was still new and fresh, and reading it with that in the back of one's head lets one enjoy it anew. This would be a great choice for someone wanting to sample a classic Lovecraft to start with, as it brings together a number of his ongoing themes - the Elder gods, those Outside, even to a certain degree the

dreamworlds.

Jon says

It's strange to have someone so verbose so copiously use the phrase "terrible *beyond description*".

Here is how I would rate the stories in this book:

Dagon-3/10

The Nameless City-1/10

The Hound-2/10

The Festival-3/10

The Call of Cthulhu-4/10

The Case of Charles Dexter Ward-2/10

The Dunwich Horror-7-10

The Whisperer in Darkness-5/10

At the Mountains of Madness-8/10

I was pretty much ready to give up on this book until I got to *The Dunwich Horror*. That story, and the two that followed it were pretty entertaining; though to be honest I'm not sure if I actually liked them, or if the preceding stories were just so boring that anything even moderately interesting seemed good by comparison.

Quirkyreader says

This was a fast paced story that kept me intrigued throughout.

Boris says

Dobra zbirka, ali od osam koje imam iz te edicije Orfelina, moram priznati ipak najslabija, ispod Blekvuda, Makena, Širli Džekson, Le Fanua...naravno to „slabo" je daleko od slabog i lošeg, kvalitetna zbirka ali meni bar ipak nešto ispod nivoa ostalih.

Prva i naslovna pri?a „Šapta? u tami" je vrhunska pri?a strave, jedna od najboljih, ne samo Lavkraftovih, nego uopšte. Poslednja „Ljubav prema mrtvima" vrlo uznemiruju?a, uz nekoliko odli?nih koncepata, ideja i pasusa za pri?u. Druga pri?a u zbirci „Slika u ku?i" mi je dobra na nivou koncepta i ideje, ali me samo pripovedanje nije kupilo.

Preostale ?etiri pri?e moram priznati da me nisu puno dojmile-u svima njima je puno onoga ve? vi?enog, što sam od Lavkrafta x puta pro?itao. Mogu?e da je i do mene, jer sam ve?inu onog što je na srpski prevedeno od ovog pisca ve? pro?itao, sve mi je manje više poznato i možda sam prezasi?en...možda nekom novom ?itaocu ili nekom koga je manje ?itao, bude mnogo upe?atljivija nego meni.

Ali u svakom slu?aju vredi kupiti i pro?itati, ako ništa drugo zbog naslovne pri?e Šapat u tami-koja je sjajna.

Steve Markwell says

Apparently the discovery of Pluto caused more commotion than it's subsequent demotion

—Coffey says

4.5 ??

Ines says

Prvi put se susre?em sa Lavkraftovim književnim radom i iskreno, nisam o?ekivala da ?e mi se toliko dopasti. Ova zbirka pri?a prepuna je misti?ne atmosfere koja ispunjava um ali i prostor izvan same knjige. Iako ne mogu da kažem da sam duboki poznavalac horor literature, mogu da kažem da stil pisanja odudara od svakog s kojim sam se do sada susretala. Lavkraft svojim pisanjem nekako postavlja celu mra?nu, ?udnu i misti?nu situaciju u okrilje realnosti i to je ono što je ?ini izuzetno stvarnom. ?itaju?i ove kratke pri?e, imala sam utisak da su se doga?aji zaista desili.

Izdvojila bih pri?e „Šapta? u tami" koji ukazuje na jednu perspektivu vanzemaljske inteligencije i prili?no mi se dopada na?in na koji je to ostvareno u ovoj pri?i. Nakon toga, „Slika u ku?i", koja me je svojim kratkim sadržajem i samom idejom oduševila. Ipak, „Ljubav prema mrtvima" je najstrašnija, jer je karakteriše odsustvo bilo kakve natprirodne pojave, ve? je u centar pažnje postavljen sam ?ovek i njegov psihopatski um.

Ove pri?e odaju utisak piš?evog dubokog interesovanja za sve misti?no i „neizrecivo". On je smatrao da je život užasna stvar i da užas ne dolazi, nego nas ve? uveliko okružuje. Ta ideja se provla?i kroz njegove pri?e i iako možda nije direktno iskazana, svakako nas navodi da se zapitamo ko smo zapravo mi, šta nas okružuje i kakav nas užas može do?ekati u sopstvenom okruženju a ponekad i u sopstvenom umu. Lavkraft u svojim pri?ama ne daje nikakvo rešenje na koji na?in se užas može izbe?i (osim možda samoubistvom i ludilom) i to je ono što ga toliko odvaja od drugih pri?a ovog žanra.

Ono što bih izdvojila iz pogovora urednika dr Dejana Ognjanovi?a, a što nekako opisuje Lavkraftovo pesništvo je:

„U svetu koji je mnogima snošljiv samo zbog nade da negde tamo gore postoji neki drugi, bolji svet - ima li ve?eg užasa nego aludirati da je ovaj ?emer dole samo odraz još ve?eg ?emera tamo gore?"
