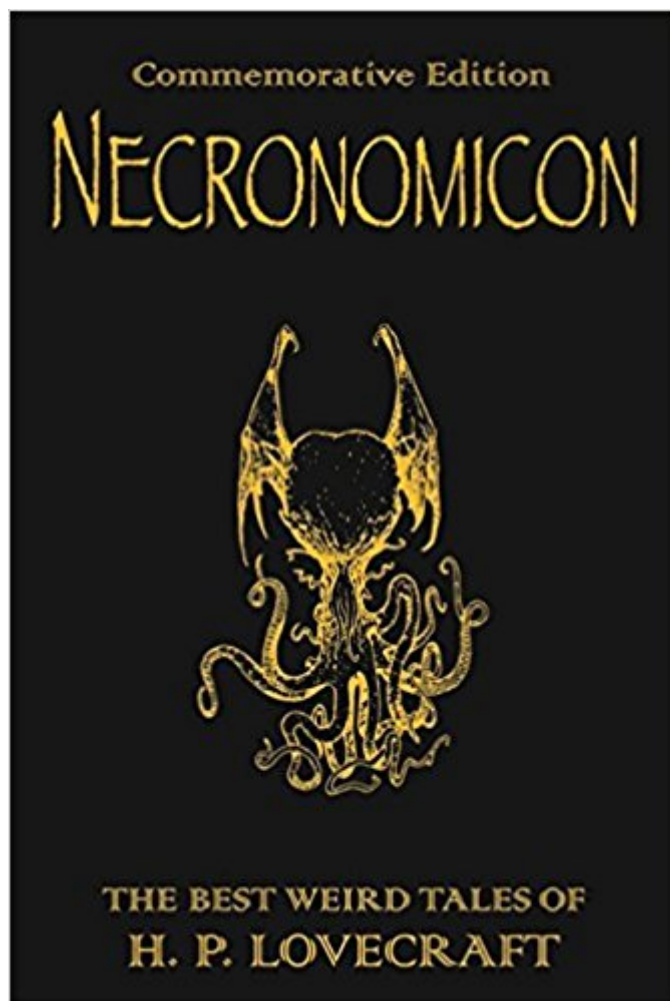


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Necronomicon: The Best Weird Tales Of H. P. Lovecraft



Synopsis

WIKIPEDIA says: 'H.P. Lovecraft's reputation has grown tremendously over the decades, and he is now commonly regarded as one of the most important horror writers of the 20th century, exerting an influence that is widespread, though often indirect.' H.P. Lovecraft's tales of the tentacled Elder God Cthulhu and his pantheon of alien deities were initially written for the pulp magazines of the 1920s and '30s. These astonishing tales blend elements of horror, science fiction and cosmic terror that are as powerful today as they were when they were first published. This handsome leatherbound tome collects together the very best of Lovecraft's tales of terror, including the complete Cthulhu Mythos cycle, just the way they were originally published. It will introduce a whole new generation of readers to Lovecraft's fiction, as well as being a must-buy for those fans who want all his work in a single, definitive, highly attractive volume.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lovecraft opened the way for me, as he had done for others before me
—STEPHEN KING
You need to read him - he's where the darkness starts
—NEIL GAIMAN
Preposterous, overblown, absurd in every way - yet with an originality that looks more powerful and convincing each time I dip into it.
—PHILIP PULLMAN

Howard Phillips Lovecraft (1890-1937) is probably the most important and influential author of supernatural fiction of the 20th century. A life-long resident of Providence, R.I., many of his tales are

set in the fear-haunted towns of an imaginary area of Massachusetts, or in the cosmic vistas that exist beyond space and time. Since his untimely death, he has become acknowledged as a master of fantasy fiction, and a mainstream American writer second only to Edgar Allan Poe, while his relatively small body of work has influenced countless imitators and formed the basis of a world-wide industry of books, games and movies based on his concepts. Stephen Jones has 100 books to his name as writer or editor, and dozens of awards in the horror and dark fantasy fields. He is one of Britain's most acclaimed authorities on horror fiction and film.

The only thing disappointing about this book is reading the last word of the last story and yearning for more. I loved this book. The writing is exceptional--what I would call prose style. Some stories, like *The Case Of Charles Dexter Ward*, are so intricately woven they left me wondering what exactly was going on but in the end I got the gist of it. *The Dream Quest Of Unknown Kadath* was obviously the inspiration for *Lord Of The Rings*, as other reviewers have stated. Indeed this is the benchmark other writers aspire to attain. And for those who want a great story on a stormy night, who want to be transported to faraway cities, encounter dubious creatures, to uplift your soul, this is the mother ship that awaits your embarkation.

I always swore I would never buy another edition of Lovecraft. I already own his complete works in multiple forms: a few copies of "Weird Tales," a complete set of the old Arkham Press hardcovers, S.T. Joshi's annotated editions, an Easton Press luxury edition of "At the Mountains of Madness," several comic book adaptations, and an illustrated version of "Nyarlathotep." But then Gollancz Press came along with this cool faux leather-bound "Necronomicon" and I found myself buying yet another bound volume of Lovecraft works for that most vain reason to buy a book--it looks good on my bookshelf. Obviously, "Necronomicon" is not a single-edition complete set of Lovecraft. It is followed by a second Lovecraft edition, "Eldritch Tales." Both books form a matched set with Gollancz Press' "The Complete Chronicles of Conan." The front cover it says that this is a Commemorative Edition but it doesn't say what it commemorates. The book was originally printed in 2007. If that is a significant date to Lovecraft, then I don't know what it is. And yes, all three books together look good on my bookshelf. The subtitle for "Necronomicon" is "The Best Weird Tales of H.P. Lovecraft" and arguably that is what it delivers. His most famous works are here: "The Call of Cthulhu." "The Dunwich Horror." "Herbert West - Reanimator." "The Rats in the Walls." "The Horror at Red Hook." "The Shadow Over Innsmouth." "At The Mountains of Madness." There are thirty-six stories collected in all, including Lovecraft's ghost written piece for Harry Houdini, "Under the

Pyramids."Notably missing are Lovecraft's poems. There is no "Fungi From Yuggoth." No "Nyarlathotep." The only poem included is the short "Night Gaunts" in the front and "To a Dreamer" in the back. Also not included are his revisions that he did of other writers works, many of which are almost wholly Lovecraft stories with Lovecraft re-writing over ninety percent of the story. Most what is not collected can be found in the companion volume "Eldritch Tales."The book is illustrated by Les Edwards, who does an excellent job with a series of black-and-white drawings that summon up some of the great scenes of the stories. Obviously, not all thirty-six stories are illustrated, and some of the illustrations are used more than once, but they look great. Really, Lovecraft doesn't need lush illustrations and I thought Edwards did a fantastic job. There is a nice afterward, titled "A Gentleman of Providence," by editor Stephen Jones. I really enjoyed this. Jones laid out Lovecraft's life from birth to death to beyond, touching briefly on almost everything. From Lovecraft's earliest literary efforts, to his career as an author, to his death and resurrection from obscurity by August Derleth, to Derleth's own invention of the "Cthulhu Mythos," to films and TV and comics and pretty everything Lovecraft. In a few short pages Jones is very thorough. Except for Jones' excellent afterword, I wouldn't say this is really a beginner's Lovecraft. There really are a lot of different versions available, and this Gollancz Press is largely for established fans. Still, it is an excellent book and I am glad I was lured to add one more Lovecraft edition to my bookshelf.

This is a fine book the only reason I give this three stars is blotchy ink spot on one of the pages I found reading through. Hopefully I don't find more, haven't found another ink blotch as of yet.

I love this book! I had never read anything from H.P Lovecraft before, so his style was new to me. I highly recommend picking 'Necronmicon' up. I read a story - or part of a longer story - from it every night before bed!

My 14 year old loved this book. He has read it twice already. Lovecraft is clearly a master. Excellent quality book and binding.

Awesome Lovecraft collection. Nothing really to say about the stories, because everyone knows Lovecraft is awesome (I also don't want to review all of them.) Would recommend to anyone getting into Lovecraft. If you like Lovecraft and want the rest of his major stories and some poetry also get Eldritch Tales: A Miscellany of the Macabre.

Great book by an amazing author. The only disappointment came when I tried to summon an elder god and ended up with a crabby old gentlemen who spends all days outside on the porch making sure no one walks on the lawn. He doesn't pay rent and won't leave. Great book and awesome story-lines, but be careful of the spells.

True, you're likely to get a more "complete" anthology by purchasing the Library of America collection of HP Lovecraft's work. But if you're new to Lovecraft, this is a great place to start. I bought the hardcover edition of this book basically on the phrase "bibliophile's dream" utilized in one review. Now that I have it, I have to say that's not that far from the truth. It's a really great buy for the price and the gold inlay Cthulhu on the cover is a selling point all its own. In another review, someone made note of the binding. I'm inclined to agree, it's not spectacular binding - particularly for a book this size (900 pages!). That said, I don't feel like I'm going to break it when I hold it. It's weak and not impressive but I think it'll hold. Images and heavy, bold text (such as on the inner title page) have all imprinted themselves on the immediate pages surrounding them. In my copy, there's no bleeding or anything like that but it's definitely distracting. Take it into consideration and decide just what it is you're looking for. HP Veterans might not be too impressed but it's a fine buy and I'm very happy with it. If you do buy the book, I hope it finds you in good spirits. Then corrupts them. All the best.

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