



## Black Wings of Cthulhu 2: Eighteen Tales of Lovecraftian Horror

*S.T. Joshi (Editor), Melanie Tem (Contributor), Tom Fletcher (Contributor), Darrell Schweitzer (Contributor), Richard Gavin (Contributor), Donald Tyson (Contributor), Don Webb (Contributor), Chet Williamson (Contributor), more... John Shirley (Contributor), Rick Dakan (Contributor), Jason V. Brock (Contributor), Caitlín R. Kiernan (Contributor), Nicholas Royle (Contributor), Jason C. Eckhardt (Contributor), Brian Evenson (Contributor), Jonathan Thomas (Contributor), Nick Mamatas (Contributor), John Langan (Contributor) ...less*

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This second instalment of S. T. Joshi's critically acclaimed Black Wings series contains eighteen stories by leading contemporary writers, all drawing upon themes, images, and ideas from the life and work of H. P. Lovecraft. Caitlín R. Kiernan has written a poetic reinterpretation of "The Hound," while Nicholas Royle plays a fascinating riff on the existential horror of "The Outsider." Three separate tales, by Jason C. Eckhardt, Brian Evenson, and Jonathan Thomas, ring changes on Lovecraft's seminal story, "The Call of Cthulhu." Nick Mamatas writes an ingenious elaboration of "The Whisperer in Darkness."

The cosmic indifferentism that is the core of Lovecraft's fiction is treated in various ways by John Langan, Melanie Tem, Tom Fletcher, Darrell Schweitzer, and Richard Gavin. The archaeological horror that we find in some of Lovecraft's most powerful tales is revived by Donald Tyson, while Lovecraft's media presence is made the subject of half-comic, half-horrific tales by Don Webb and Chet Williamson. John Shirley, Rick Dakan, and Jason V Brock use Lovecraft's life and outlook as springboards for imaginative tales of psychological and supernatural horror.

All in all, Black Wings II affords a rich feast of terror inspired by the twentieth century's greatest writer of the supernatural.

### Black Wings of Cthulhu 2: Eighteen Tales of Lovecraftian Horror Details

Date : Published February 25th 2014 by Titan Books (first published February 19th 2011)

ISBN : 9780857687845

Author : S.T. Joshi (Editor) , Melanie Tem (Contributor) , Tom Fletcher (Contributor) , Darrell Schweitzer (Contributor) , Richard Gavin (Contributor) , Donald Tyson (Contributor) , Don Webb (Contributor) , Chet Williamson (Contributor) , more... John Shirley (Contributor) , Rick Dakan (Contributor) , Jason V. Brock (Contributor) , Caitlín R. Kiernan (Contributor) , Nicholas Royle (Contributor) , Jason C. Eckhardt (Contributor) , Brian Evenson (Contributor) , Jonathan Thomas (Contributor) , Nick Mamatas (Contributor) , John Langan (Contributor) ...less

Format : Paperback 391 pages

Genre : Horror, Anthologies, Lovecraftian, Short Stories, Fiction, Cthulhu Mythos



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## From Reader Review Black Wings of Cthulhu 2: Eighteen Tales of Lovecraftian Horror for online ebook

### Mii says

This book is a great read!

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### Edric Unsane says

A decent collection of short Lovecraftian fictions that, at times, couldn't captivate my interest or imagination. I felt a majority of the stories in this anthology just felt flat, and weren't indicative of the Lovecraftian universe. That being said, I still liked the book, and the stories were edited well, if not curated a bit poorly. Your mileage may vary.

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### Vít says

Druhá antologie lovecraftovských povídek, stejn? jako ta první, není žádný zázrak. Ne, že by tam nebyly dobré povídky, ale je jich zatracen? málo.

Líbil se mi t?eba Odvrženec, Mrtvá média, nebo Rozkv?t a ješt? možná jedna ?i dv? další, jenže t?ch povídek je tam osmnáct a ty ostatní bohužel za moc nestojí.

Ty t?i hv?zdi?ky jsou možná i trochu moc, ale mám Lovecrafta rád a tak jednu p?idávám za snahu. Jo, kdyby se z t?í díl? ?erných k?ídel ud?lal jeden a vybraly se do n?j ty nejlepší kousky, byla by to jiná jízda.

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### Randolph says

I could only give it three stars. Too many weak stories to offset the good and mediocre. It becomes difficult for authors once confined to a sub-genre to really excel. There are just too many Cthulhu books out now, it's almost like zombie fare, there just cannot be that many good stories in a sub-genre like this. I'll stick to Laird barron and Caitlin Kiernan. My favorite was actually the Jason Brock story.

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### 7thTrooper says

Det är en salig blandning även i del två av denna serie. Ibland (som t.ex. "Dahlia", som var bra men obegriplig, av Melanie Tem) undrar jag verkligen varför de finns med i en samling dedikerad till skräck i Lovecrafts anda. Men det är bra ändå, precis som den första volymen. Förmodligen bättre än den, till och med. Topparna är nog inte riktigt lika höga, utom Darrell Schweitzers (även ansvarig för fantastiska "Howling in the Dark" från förra boken) novell "The Clockwork King, the Queen of Glass, and the Man with the Hundred Knives" som nog är det bästa ur bägge de volymer jag läst hittills; en slags LSD-ig saga som faktiskt får mig att tänka mer på Roger Zelazny än på Lovecraft. Jag skulle kunna gå igenom de olika novellerna en och en men det orkar jag inte, inte ens lite heller. I korthet -

De riktigt bra är nog som följer:

“Waiting at the Crossroads Motel” av Steve Rasnic Tem. Stämningen är perfekt och språket målar upp ett öde landskap med lika öde karaktärer. Språket har nog dessutom den bästa rytmen i boken.

Nyss nämnda “The Clockwork King, the Queen of Glass, and the Man with the Hundred Knives”. Härligt skruvad och med en berättarröst som passar utmärkt.

“Houndwife” av Caitlín R. Kiernan. Ett slags minneskalejdoskop mer än något annat. Har ingen aning om vad som händer men det är bra. Förmodligen bästa prosan i boken, om än i ganska hård konkurrens med “The Clockwork...”.

Det är nog dessa tre som är det bästa. Finns absolut mer som är läsvärda med. “The Abject” av Richard Gavin och “Bloom” av John Langan är bägge två egentligen inget nytt under solen men bägge lyckas ändå med läsvärda noveller. “And the Sea Gave Up the Dead” av Jason C. Eckhardt var också bra, mycket för att det är på sätt och vis en snygg blinkning åt “The Call of Cthulhu”. Don Webbs “Casting Call” är lite ojämn med lyckas ro iland det ändå med ett snyggt slut som nästan blir lite svart humor, till och med. “The Wilcox Remainder” (Brian Evenson) var kort, förvirrande och genomsyras av en så tjock paranoia att man kan skära den med kniv, vilket gillas. “View” och “Dead Media” var däremot bara meh. Samma med “Correlated Discontents” av Rick Dakan som har en snygg idé på gränsen till cyberpunk men som tyvärr inte lyckas genomföra den bra. På det stora hela är lägstanivån högre än i föregångaren och volym två är absolut värd att kollas upp.

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### **Bart Hill says**

This collection of short stories are not all based on the style of HP Lovecraft, but more in the tradition of spooky/erie tales that Lovecraft explored. In other words, it is sometimes said "Lovecraft never met and adjective he didn't like." The writes of these 18 shorts do not try to mimic his writing style, but used Lovecraft's themes to create unique, updated stories based on Lovecraft (the man) , the region (New England), and themes.

I bought this book for \$1.00, and got far better stories than I anticipated, but I also don't think I'll read any additional Black Wings anthologies.

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### **Drewms64 says**

A few good stories, a few meh

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### **Alan says**

Most anthologies are hit and miss. Sadly, I skipped along through this one as a good deal of it just didn't catch my fancy. I'm admittedly a fan of Lovecraft specifically and not horror generally. It's not fair of me to demand Lovecraft knock-offs from authors, but when things stray too far outside the Cthulhu Mythos I start losing interest. I was disappointed at the fact that several stories included in this lacked a Lovecraftian feel, in my opinion, which really undercuts an anthology with "Lovecraftian" in the title.

### **Christina Adams says**

There are a few good stories in here definitely interesting and well worth reading, with twists I didn't see coming, — but they weren't many.

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### **Aaron Meyer says**

I received this book from a Goodreads giveaway to read and review. When I seen this collection was being edited by S.T. Joshi I was rather excited and had really high hopes for the quality of tales to be read, what I got was rather middle of the road. I felt that he would of been better able to piece together a solid book of stories than he did. With that being said, it is true every story can't be perfect, especially with such a diverse bunch of writers, and there are some really solid stories that did rise to the top. I would say that King of Cat Swamp, The Object, And the Sea Gave Up The Dead, Casting Call, Correlated Discontents, The Skinless Face, and Appointed, are definitely the best stories in the book, which is about half of the book when I think about it. I would be interested in comparing these stories to the first volume, as well as the third one which came out a few months ago.

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### **Tony says**

Anthologies are always a mixed bag, and this one is a mix of good stuff and great stuff. Of all of the Lovecraftian collections, these two books would be the ones I would recommend to people wanting to know what the adjective "Lovecraftian" should mean.

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### **David Marshall says**

There are some outstanding stories here but the overall standard is slightly uneven.

<http://opionator.wordpress.com/2012/1...>

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### **Jason Brock says**

I read this a bit ago, during the proofing stage. Once again, Joshi proves why he is the master of recognizing the weird in modern literature. Do yourself a favor and pick up this book!

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### **Colin says**

Another Lovecraftian anthology I picked up for \$1 at a Dollar Tree (sadly, they did not have volume 1) . . . as with most anthologies, it's a little hit-or-miss, but far more hits than misses. There are some really

enjoyable and wonderfully creepy stories in this one. I enjoyed it.

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### **Jason Williams says**

Lovely collection of Lovecraftian stories.

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