



Where You Live

Gary McMahon , Niall Parkinson (Illustrator) , Ben Baldwin (Illustrator)

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Horror is everywhere...

It's waiting behind a closed door, sitting in an ordinary chair, or following you on a country walk. Perhaps it's washed up on a tranquil beach, hanging at a local skate park, recorded on an MP3 player hard drive, or even embedded somewhere deep within the design of something as simple and innocuous as a supermarket barcode.

Horror is everywhere, in the shadows and in the light.

It takes on every shape, comes in every conceivable size.

But most of all it's right where you live.

Quotes:

Gary McMahon is a spellbinding storyteller.

- Graham Joyce

Gary McMahon's horror is heartfelt, his characters flawed and desperate...

- Tim Lebbon

Gary McMahon is one of the finest of a new breed of horror writers.

- Steve Rasnic Tem

Where You Live Details

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Author : Gary McMahon , Niall Parkinson (Illustrator) , Ben Baldwin (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Where You Live for online ebook

Kevin Lucia says

WHERE YOU LIVE is a horror collection that stirs emotions and provokes thought. These aren't simple riffs on overused horror motifs, rather they are tales examining this complex, confusing, often disturbing thing called "the human experience." McMahon's tight, precise prose cuts to the bone with surgical precision, laying out the common fears that plague all of us. Not to harp on the title overmuch, but these horrors don't live in dank caves or moldering, Gothic castles or moonlight cemeteries. These horrors hit close to home, sometimes too close. They hit us where we live.

Ian Bain says

A few fine spooky stories, but the quality is uneven throughout this collection, and every POV character seems to be the exact same person (middle-aged, teacher/writer, bad relationship, etc).

Joshua Gage says

Where You Live is a varied collection of short stories by Gary McMahon. McMahon is an award winning author of both novels and short stories, and this collection gathers some of his best together. The bulk of this collection was originally published as a limited edition book from Gray Friar Press titled It Knows Where You Live, but the current collection expands that previous collection with newer stories and makes it available to a wider reading public. Overall, Where You Live is a really satisfying collection of horror pieces.

Instead of falling back on cliches, McMahon either aims for a haunting mood that produces fear and discomfort in the reader, or takes a classic trope (a monster in the dark or a ghost in the shadows) and reinvents it in a contemporary style. Readers will constantly be surprised and intrigued by the stories in Where You Live. It is an exciting collection of stories that fans of horror are sure to enjoy.

Full review here: <http://cemeterydanceonline.com/2016/0...>

Frances says

On the plus side; very evocative writing in terms of description, and unafraid to get outright weird. Reminded me of some Ramsey Campbell that I've read.

That said, came away from the collection with the feeling that there was a certain uniformity (felt like with two exceptions, the protagonists were universally failing to cope with adult life in the form of either jobs or relationships), and there wasn't always a lot of space for the horror to develop before they came to a bad end.

Monique Snyman says

Where You Live by Gary McMahon is a collection of short stories that is guaranteed to give you the heebie-jeebies. It's thought-provoking, intelligent, scary as hell, well-written, and pretty much everything you want when reading a collection of horror short stories. I was thoroughly impressed by how imaginative and creative the tales were ... Definitely worthy a read, especially if you're in the mood to be frightened.

Books says

Thoroughly frightening, often surrealistic and with a great deal to think about, Where You Live takes the reader into the frightening world of pure horror and dark fantasy. A school trip gone horribly wrong, scary, mythical sea creatures and the monstrous nature of all consuming love are just some of the horrors you will encounter in this book.

Not only do these stories contain descriptions of hauntings, nightmarish apparitions and violently insane individuals, it also takes an in-depth look at the darkness in the minds of people. Most of these tales explore the extent to which the human mind can be warped by despair, disillusionment, depression and truly negative circumstances.

I liked the fact that most of the main characters were thoroughly, and often disgustingly flawed, thus making them scarily realistic. In some of the stories I had to wonder what was really happening to the character and what was simply horrors conjured up by the person's own fearful, desperate or vengeful psyche.

"I had nothing else to give, nothing left to offer up as a sacrifice. The best of me had withered long ago; all that remained was dust and shadows."

The author is a master at creating atmosphere; from sleazy to menacing to the suspense created by severe hatred and revenge; while the message remains:

"Beware the darkness. It is watching. It knows where you live..."

As the whole book is set in England, these stories are all so totally and uniquely British that it felt as though I was walking the streets and lanes of English towns and cities with the characters. The vivid descriptions of rainy weather and seedy circumstances added to the depressed tone of the book. Fortunately this collection contains one story with a happy ending. Which one? Read and find out.

Although sensitive readers and the faint-hearted may balk at some of the tales in this anthology, it is perfectly suitable for avid horror and dark fantasy fans. (Ellen Fritz)

Grampy says

Reviewed by Lee Ashford for Readers' Favorite.

"Where You Live" by Gary McMahon has been lauded by The Guardian as being "Firmly in the front ranks of the new wave of British horror", and I didn't see a thing that would make me refute that declaration. This book includes nineteen horrifying tales of the macabre, guaranteed to keep you awake at night... or at least

have you sleeping with a light on.

Gary McMahon has assembled a few tales from a previous limited edition anthology of his, added a number of new tales, including some never before published, with “Where You Live” being the rather outstanding result. The tales in this collection run the gamut of the horror genre, and will awaken in you just about every emotion of which you are capable.

“Where You Live” is very well written, well edited, and well worth reading. Some of the stories in here will definitely hit you “where you live”, perhaps coming too close for comfort. At least one story – one which really stuck in my head – is incredibly sad, in spite of its dose of horror. Others may not be what you consider scary, but some of them definitely will.

I know everybody has different tastes, but I’m betting everybody will be touched by at least one of these stories, and probably a lot more than one. Gary McMahon may be in the front ranks of British horror, but he is welcome to send his tales across the pond for our enjoyment, too. McMahon is a natural horror writer, and worth keeping an eye on.

Luke Walker says

Another superb collection of short horror from Gary McMahon. Personal favourites: Alice, Hanging Out At The Skate Park; Sounds Weird; It Knows Where You Live; and Small Things.

Ross Warren says

The latest collection from the prolific pen of Gary McMahon takes twelve stories from his sold out, very limited, collection *It Knows Where You Live* and adds to these an additional seven stories. McMahon is a great proponent of the short story and the selection on offer here maintains his reputation for strong, emotionally impactful fiction. My only criticism is with the layout of the collection which rather than combining all the stories into a cohesive whole they are separated into two sections, one of stories from the original collection and a second, titled 'Other Monsters', with the new material. I would have liked to have seen more consideration given to the story order to heighten the reader's experience.

The stories offered up here are never less than engrossing and a significant number extremely strong with a couple, 'You Haven't Seen Me' and 'Alice, Hanging Out in the Skate Park', that are still permeating my mind several days after I finished with the collection. Both of those stories are from the new material and as such were newer to me having read the original collection previously.

It's nice to see a great number of the original collection becoming more widely available, although one of my favourites from that version 'Hope is a Small Thing Dying in a Bin Behind an Abandoned Kebab Shop' hasn't made the cut, and this would be a perfect collection to give as a gift to introduce a new reader to the exceptional short fiction of Gary McMahon which reflects and exaggerates the grim reality of Britain's crumbling urban societies. Short horror fiction doesn't get more essential than this.

Stewart Horn says

Gary McMahon's name crops up a lot these days. There's hardly a magazine or an anthology in the genre that doesn't feature him. The simple reason is he's really good.

McMahon's characters tend to have real world problems: isolation, depression, disassociation; relationships are failing or already over. There aren't many happy well-adjusted people in this book. Nor many jokes.

When the bad thing happens, it often resonates with the character's inner state, reinforcing the horror, making it worse for the character and more intense for us. There's also a feeling that it's the character's fault: that their internal condition has reached into the void and summoned the monster that can properly ruin, or end, their lives. This is most obvious in stories like *It Knows Where You Live*, *You Haven't Seen Me* and *The Grotto*.

Some of the stories make metaphors or clichés literal, and the results are both nightmarish and tinged the blackest humour. *When One Door Closes*, *Hungry Love*, *Truth Hurts* and *Sheep* are the best of these. In another, *Alice*, *Hanging out at the Skate Park*, he seems to have spotted a cool phrase and tried to think of the worst thing it can possibly mean.

Another group of stories are more standard horror fare, but from the literary end of the horror spectrum, and some are strange and abstract. *Sounds Weird*, *Barcode* and the stunningly good *You Haven't Seen Me* are in this category.

In short, this is a man who understands how horror works and how to creep through a reader's defences. Genuinely creepy, literary and beautiful.

A fine collection from one of the best writers currently working in the genre.

Josh says

In 2012, Gray Friar Press published a very limited (100 copy) run of Gary McMahon's collection *It Knows Where You Live*. This isn't so much a reissue as a companion piece. It features most of the previously published stories as well as seven others, five of which are original to this collection.

McMahon's writing is set firmly in the quiet horror camp, focusing on atmosphere and character rather than gore and shock factor. The horror stems from deep-seated fears and anxieties inherent in the human condition, particularly within Western society. Economic uncertainty, failed and failing relationships, invasion of privacy, mental illness, paranoia and addiction, all are present. Characters are largely poor, alienated, or distraught, and the situations they end up in are like waking nightmares tailor-suited to their particular hangups.

In many of the stories, the natural and supernatural are at times nearly indistinguishable, in much the same way as the characters' internal and external landscapes. In *When One Door Opens*, for instance, the old adage that gives the story its namesake is given a literal interpretation. In this story a job seeker finds himself unable to open any doors at all. He makes his way around as best he can, only to find himself in a labyrinthine succession of invisible lines he simply can't cross. It's a physical manifestation of the helplessness and isolation that circumstance has placed on him. The objective reality or unreality of the situation becomes almost irrelevant, as it's all very real to the character. This coupling of intense

introspection and outward dread appears throughout the collection, and works on the reader's mind and nerves to great effect.

The stories share a lot of the same themes but vary widely in subject. Facades crack and identities shift, dreaming houses haunt people, darkness and claustrophobia chill to the bone, visions of an alien world couple with regret and despair for our all too human one.

Fractured relationships figure prominently in some stories. *Truth Hurts* is a brilliant take on abusive relationships, looking at the ways in which both truth and lies can hurt people. The twist here is that the scars left behind are physical ones.

In *It Knows Where You Live*, an emotionally detached husband finds himself obsessed with an obscure horror film that inexplicably arrives in the mail. It's an unsettling tale in which the lines are blurred between observer and participant in life and death.

While the writing is atmospheric and the stories have a powerful emotional resonance, there's often a lot of ambiguity in the finer details, leaving the reader with something to think about long after finishing. It's not an easy task to pull off. Writers like Ramsey Campbell and Shirley Jackson have produced some excellent work in this regard, and McMahon follows in their literary footsteps.

This is true horror. If there are ghosts here, they're the ghosts of aspiration, of hope and civility. The monsters are the unspoken things lurking in the shadows of places and the recesses of the mind. Gary McMahon has quietly written his way into the upper echelon of contemporary dark fiction writers, and *Where You Live* is a collection not to be missed.

originally posted at <http://www.hellnotes.com>

David Richardson says

I received this book for free from the Goodreads first-read giveaway. I thought this was a really good collection of short stories, Most are not TERRIFYING, just more like really disturbing. They all keep the title theme "Where You Live". The scary things are right there in your neighborhood, your house, or even inside you!

Martin Rose says

I received *Where You Live* by Gary McMahon as an ARC and this fascinating bundle of alternately weird, surreal, haunting and horrifying tales is my first exposure to the author's work. One expects a certain amount of fluctuation in a short story collection but McMahon has a very consistent voice and vision as he unfolds one story after another.

For just a smattering, there's well conceived stories that also provide a backdrop to current socio-economic situations today, such as "When One Door Closes" in which Nick finds himself with the troublesome proposition of being unable to open doors and thus, is consequently trapped in room after room; a personal favorite was the creepy story "The Chair" in which Ben, a boy struggling with his medication and his neglectful and alcoholic mother alone, notes the empty dinner chair outside the house -- certainly a symbol of alienation and despair. We revisit Ben when he grows up in "The Table" and the results here are equally

creepy and suspenseful. One can only hope Gary McMahon revisits Ben in a longer work in the future, but for now, one must be satisfied with mere glimpses.

Also noteworthy were "Truth Hurts," giving life to the metaphorical phrase, "Down" in which several classmates become lost in a cave that claims their supervising teacher, "The Row" depicting a series of eight houses slated for demolition but hold a distinctly eerie atmosphere well above and beyond the usual haunted house fare, and "Sounds Weird," for which I'll just chime in that if *my* MP3 player ever does that, well . . . I'm probably in deep shit.

All and all, a good book by an author with an understanding of how to use language to good effect -- used poorly, these stories could easily have gone in the wrong direction and been terrible, but he uses a very sober and direct approach to give the viewer an inside look at what ghastly horrors lurk around any corner.

S.P. says

As the publisher's note states, "horror is everywhere." Gary McMahon has a gift for spotting the discarded toy on the lawn that indicates something sinister is going on inside the house. His use of highly recognizable settings and situations is designed to draw the reader in, but also to leave us no critical distance, no safe place in which to process and objectify (and neutralize) our fear.

Usually when readers praise a writer's imagination they're impressed by the number of whimsical places and creatures he can describe. But it requires a powerful imagination to explore our dread of mortality within the common spaces of modern life--between the office and home, or on a weekend drive in the country--and to make the exploration compelling. McMahon has imagination to spare. He visits seemingly ordinary people just before they encounter or admit something terrible. More often than not, the horror they face corresponds to inner turmoil. Husbands and wives all but wreck one another with love. Fathers are so afraid of failure and vulnerability, they become the monsters their children dream about.

If the settings and characters seem, at first glance, mundane, remember that these are only starting points. The explicit dangers of the actual world, where everyone must die, are woven together with the mysterious and the numinous, often in magnificent patterns.

McMahon clearly aims to get us "where we live," offering familiar guides with nametags askew, to lead us into something horrific. And maybe home again.

Highly recommended.
