



## Red Phone Box

*Salomé Jones (Editor/Contributor), Warren Ellis (Contributor), Tim Dedopulos (Contributor), Dan Wickline (Contributor), Robert Bal (Contributor), Thadeus E. Brown (Contributor), Joff Brown (Contributor), Steven Sautter (Contributor), more... Uri Kurlianchik (Contributor), Sezín Koehler (Contributor), Chris Bissette (Contributor), Gethin A. Lynes (Contributor), Tamsyn H. Kennedy (Contributor), David Church Rodríguez (Contributor), Peter W. Dawes (Contributor), Gábor Csigás (Contributor), J.F. Lawrence (Contributor), James 'Grim' Desborough (Contributor), Kara Y. Frame (Illustrator), Hollis Dorian (Contributor), Remittance Girl (Contributor), Lacie Grayson (Contributor), Kate Harrad (Contributor), Matthew Scoppetta (Contributor), Joe Silber (Contributor), Francesca Burgon (Contributor), Chuck Walker (Contributor), Cvetomir Yonchev (Contributor), Thadeus E. Suggs (Contributor) ...less*

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**Shatter a mirror, and rearrange the pieces. What shapes will you find in the splintered glass?**

Sinister forces roam London's streets, skulking through the neon-lit rain. They are not alone. Haunted by memories of the man who abandoned her, Amber goes walking in the deep night. The phone box she enters takes her on a journey she could never have imagined, one in which the past and the future will be rewritten. Others follow in her footsteps, their lives intertwining, and the fate of the world hanging on their dance. Safran, pawn of unfathomable powers. Jon, who has lived and died and lived again. Gloria, who only intended to annoy her daddy. Cory, from a different world, on a desperate quest for allies. They and others will find themselves swept up as the playthings of gods who have managed to get along peacefully for millennia — until now.

**Red Phone Box** is a darkly magical story cycle, a network of interweaving tales by a dazzling range of masterful authors, including *Gun Machine's* Warren Ellis. Let them take you to a very different London — one that hides on the other side of the fractured glass.

**Red Phone Box** is waiting for you...

### Red Phone Box Details

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Genre : Anthologies, Fantasy, Fiction, Horror, Short Stories

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## From Reader Review Red Phone Box for online ebook

### Christa Seeley says

This review originally posted at More Than Just Magic

The Red Phone Box story cycle is one of the most imaginative and unique stories I have read in a long time.

I can only begin to imagine how much time and hard work went into assembling this collection. I've had some experience with anthologies myself and I know how difficult it can be to organize a project around so many different contributor's – each with their own schedule and deadlines. But what Salomé Jones has done with Red Phone Box is on a whole different level. This isn't just a random selection of stories. Instead this book is made up of various pieces of a larger puzzle. And each piece carries the distinct style of it's author. Jones has arranged the stories in such a way that the story unfolds slowly for the reader, the mystery building bit by bit.

Some of the stories were incredibly interesting. I particularly enjoyed the story of Amber, Stuart and Jon and how each installment left you wondering what was real and what was imaginary. And I liked how the characters Amber/Stuart/Jon interacted with would pop up in other stories. It kept me alert, constantly looking for clues or hints dropped by the various contributors. You never knew exactly where each story was going to take you – only that the mysterious Red Phone Box was going to show up at some point.

However, while some of the stories were fascinating, others left me wanting more. The characters would come out of nowhere, or the plot would be jerky or just plain confusing and sometimes the style itself just didn't work for me. I found myself either loving a story or wanting to skim through it. There wasn't a lot of middle ground, which made some parts of the anthology feel disjointed. Had some of the rougher stories been smoothed out a bit more I think this collection could have been truly great, but ultimately it fell just a little short of that goal.

At it's heart Red Phone Box is a very atmospheric and dark story. Imagine Doctor Who and the TARDIS but much darker and more disturbing. It's a great concept and will keep you on your toes. If you're looking for a more unusual read or one that will allow you to flex your puzzle solving skills, this is the book for you. But if you prefer more straightforward narratives you may want to pass.

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### Becky says

I have to start off by saying that I loved this book! I loved the structure (fairly short pieces) and the concept (twenty-eight different authors but all the stories are interconnected) and found that the overall execution was pretty phenomenal. While my fondness for short stories continues to grow (and I'm a pretty huge fan of them these days) I still really adore the idea of a themed collection. I think it makes it easier to get into even for folks who don't like shorts since the collection can somewhat be considered a longer piece. It's true, though, that there are a number of different characters and a slew of things going on in RED PHONE BOX so it's still very much a short story collection, just a little... different than usual.

It's amazing that with so many contributors this story cycle - as they call it - (I like that!) doesn't really feel disjointed. Instead, I found each author's piece flowed easily into the next. And with the stories as short as they are I was sucked into this collection much the same as I would be with a full length novel. Don't get me wrong, each contributor does have a very distinctive voice of their own but I think the central connection of

the phone box itself really propelled each story into the next. There are also a few recurring characters and stories throughout the collection that gives it an overall momentum as well.

This is definitely one I recommend to anyone willing to try out something a little different - and a little dark. This is, as the cover says, a darkly magical read. There are bits of fantasy and bits of horror and lots of weird!

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## David says

“Too many cooks spoil the broth,” the old saying goes, and for the most part, that’s true—especially when you’re writing a novel-length story. Novels are usually written best by one or two authors; more than that, and it tends to turn into a jumbled mess.

That is precisely why Red Phone Box is so impressive. Edited by Salome Jones, Red Phone Box is a “darkly magical story cycle” written by 29 different authors—and for the most part, it works.

(Full disclosure: I won my copy of the book in a Twitter contest, and it is signed by most of the authors.)

The story begins in modern day London, and travels to other alternate Londons throughout the course of the book. The means to communicate with and travel to these otherwhens is via—you guessed it—a red phone box.

Each chapter is written by a different author (although some writers pen several chapters overall), so at first it seems like a collection of short stories centered around a phone booth. Soon, though, it becomes clear that all these characters are connected in some mystical way. Characters begin to recur across chapters and interact with other characters.

What starts as a jumble of thread slowly gets woven into an urban fantasy involving shapeshifters, wizards, Egyptian gods, and the everyday mortals that have somehow gotten pulled into the battle between the somewhat good and the cruelly evil. The broader story begins to emerge as the threads weave together and the tapestry begins to form.

The challenge of reading Red Phone Box is trying to keep track of who everyone is and what they were doing the last time you read about them. Fortunately, there’s a complete list of characters in the back to help you keep them all straight, but I did have to flip back to previous chapters at times to remind myself what a character was doing the last time they appeared. Ultimately, though, everyone is in one place and the story really blasts off.

Red Phone Box is filled with strange, colorful, frightening, and intriguing characters. It’s a fun book that is, by turns, funny and sad, mysterious and magical, sweet and horrifying—sometimes all in the space of a page or two.

One final note: I’m not sure if this is true of every printed copy of the book (mine is a special hardcover edition) but my copy is a pleasure to hold. The paper used is a heavy, glossy stock that’s smooth to the touch and gives the book a very pleasant heft. I don’t normally notice how a book is put together, but this one’s beautiful. Kudos to publisher Ghostwoods Books for printing a really gorgeous book.

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## **Sara Reis says**

I'm glad I won this book in Goodreads' Giveaway.

This book was an extraordinary achievement. I wonder how hard it must have been for writers who never met or spoke to each other to create this interconnected stories and make it work so well.

The only downfall for me is that there are far too many characters and it was very hard to connect with them.

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## **Nicole says**

Red Phone Box is a mystery in book format that unfurls in an infuriatingly teasing way through dozens of chapters which are in fact short stories written by 28 different authors, all interlinked. I supported the Kickstarter project to get the book published and started reading it as soon as the electronic copy was sent to me - while at the beginning I wondered where the story was going, by the end I couldn't let go and was completely hooked. It has romance, magic, technology, dark humour, violence and fantasy and could be described as a maze with several dead ends but an amazing conclusion.

While it can be confusing at times due to the sheer amount of characters and the constant changes of point of view, do refer to the Dramatis Personae the editors have kindly provided following requests.

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## **Konstantine Paradias says**

Red Phone Box is an epic game of Exquisite Corpse, featuring 28 great authors, that pretty much blew my mind. While the sheer tenacity required to pull this project off blows my mind, Salome Jones did make it through and brought a great story cycle to life, with the added benefit of a number of short stories and continuities that you can enjoy, if you find the overarching plot to be too much for you.

Also, during my review, I contacted the writers and explained that the book needs a Dramatis Personae cheat sheet, because of the mind-boggling amount of characters, which the editors promptly introduced in no time flat. That's a 10/10 in my book.

For a full review of the book, visit my website at: <http://shapescapes.blogspot.gr/2013/0...>

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## **Simon Proctor says**

First up a couple of disclaimers, this review is based off an ARC provided to me to review the book, so I won't be picking holes in the layout or editing here. And it was free so feel free to take whatever I say with a pinch of salt.

Also I'm good friends with one of the writers, they know who they are, and fleetingly thoughts about writing for the anthology as well, so again take me thoughts with however my salt you'd like.

Personally I found it a hard book to read, not a bad book but due to it's structure I found it at times hard going. To understand why it took me a week to read it you need to understand what you have before you. The original plan was quite simple, a collection of short stories that each featured the Iconic British Red Phone Box. Now being a child of the 70's I have fond memories of these impressive pieces of British

engineering, including a memorable party when I was very young were there was one in the back garden. The fact that a few of them remain, much like the blue police boxes you see dotted about selling coffee, gives me a little burst of nostalgia. But back to the book, a short story collection featuring a phone box. Except, and this is what I understand from conversations I've had and the foreword to the book itself, the plan changed. A number of the initial stories had a modern day magical fantasy theme. The box wasn't just a place for tramps to relieve themselves, though it is mentioned a couple of times, but something more, something that changed things.

And so more stories were written, to tie together the disparate threads into a plot, some editing was done, names changed, references made to events in other stories. And this is where my, small and puny, brain got confused. If this was just a collection of short stories it would be fine. Many of them are brilliant and all of them tell a tale well in their limited space, a skill that I'm always a fan of. But there is also the meta plot, that you can see the initial threads of at the beginning, threads that shine brighter and brighter as you progress. Threads that make it that little bit harder to read the book because you always have one eye looking back, trying to tie things together.

Or at least I did. There will now be a dramatis personae included in the book which I received later and I think it'll be helpful, and next time I read it I'm sure I'll find it so.

I think that's possibly my best comment about the book, I will be reading it again and I'll be keeping an eye out for the sequel that is mentioned at the end. Yes it took me some time to read, but that's not a bad thing all told.

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### **Grace Troxel says**

Some of the stories exist in their own right, while others serve to further a larger plotline that can only be gleaned from reading the stories in order. It's a bit like a puzzle. As with any collection of short stories, some of them worked for me and others did not. My favorite story was "The Boxed God" by Kate Harrad, which describes a girl trapped in the phone booth in a foreign land. It was incredibly disturbing and although it wasn't as connected to the other chapters, it served to create atmosphere, and for the rest of the book, it sent chills up my spine every time someone entered the phone box. I was less sold on some of the final chapters, as I felt like the convergence of so many of the characters into one event felt a bit forced.

For my full review, please see:

<http://bookswithoutanypictures.com/20...>

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### **Heather says**

I was already expecting greatness from this book, having been a backer on Kickstarter (albeit a late one) and having gotten a good look at the behind the scene story process. I did somehow miss the fact that it had gone from being a collection of stories having to do with red phone boxes, to being a cycle of interconnected stories involving a particular phone box. This seriously peaked my curiosity; how the heck did they make this work? Well I don't know how they did it but they did! Of course, if you're anal retentive, you'll find a few stories that stick out from the main narrative but a true story lover can pull back and see that they don't detract from it but widen the universe a bit. After all, are you really going to believe that those characters are the only people ever to enter the phone box? There really weren't any stories that took away from the quality of the cycle and I thoroughly enjoyed the book, even when it did take some rather crazy turns. Upon seeing a

page announcing a Book Two my heart leapt. I've already started saving up for the next Kickstarter!

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### **Janet says**

I am just finished the red phone box, it's is a cycle of dark stories which thread together all by different authors. I was lucky enough to be selected as an advance reader, each writer brings a different twist and tone as well as new elements to the shared story telling. I am torn between not wanting to finished it and wanting to finish it to start again knowing more the second time around. <http://www.gwdbooks.com/red-phone-box...>

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### **Marjorie Ingall says**

A dense web of interconnected very short stories by a panoply of different authors centered on (duh) a mysterious red phone box in London. The stories build on each other like a game of Exquisite Corpse, and while I very much admire the work that must have gone into this and the imagination at play....well, as with the game, sometimes it works magically and sometimes it doesn't. There are elements of suspense, horror, mystery and mythology. Threads get picked up and dropped. Character development -- and for the reader, caring about a zillion characters -- is sometimes a challenge.

I would have been happy to read an entire novel about Amber, the most human, well-drawn and sympathetic (to me) character.

If you're a big fan of speculative fiction and short stories, check it out.

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### **Lola Batling says**

This story is engaging and really fuels the mind!It's written so it's easy to be read and has you breathlessly waiting on the next installment.

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### **Alex says**

Imagine if you will, a finely woven tapestry. In the very centre of this tapestry, is a beautiful red phone box. Each story line is a singular and brilliant thread, weaved amongst the others to create a collection of wonderful and addictive stories, all linked with one common theme, that central red phone box.

Some contributors have written more than one chapter, some more than others, so you're not going to see a different writing style with each chapter. Regardless of each author's style, they all manage to link together seamlessly, producing a fabulous piece of work you find you can't put down. This is not lighthearted reading, it's not something to get into if you want a lifting pick-me-up, it's more of a maze of twisted humour and drama, some of which might make you wince, whilst others will make you chuckle in horrible delight. Really looking forward to the second book.

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## **Zahide Mustafaoglu says**

I should probably admit it caught my attention only because Warren Ellis was mentioned among the contributors. But they had me by "A Note from the Editor". It's a neat project and a very good read. Even though I'm not really a fan of overpopulated, à la classic Russian, novels. Recommended for readers who enjoy weird/urban fiction.

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