

## Tales of Terror

Welcome to the world of horror fiction, where monsters roam the streets, vampires attack at night, ghosts haunt every home, and mayhem is the norm.

Armstrong, Kelly. *Bitten*.

Elena Michaels is the only female werewolf in existence. After ten years of living with the pack, Elena moves to Toronto seeking to live a normal life among humans. When some mutts (werewolves not living in a pack) start torturing and murdering, Elena is called upon to help track them down and end their killing spree before the werewolf clan is exposed.

Bachman, Richard. *Thinner*.

In this, Stephen King's best known work writing as Bachman, an overweight attorney accidentally kills a gypsy woman. Although he manages to wrangle himself out of a legal conviction, the gypsy's husband places a curse on him, causing the attorney to continuously lose weight.

Bloch, Robert. *Lori*.

Lori returns from college to find her home burning with her parents trapped inside. While dealing with her loss, Lori discovers an odd connection to a mysterious stranger, Pricilla Fairmount. She begins having terrifying nightmares and hears ghosts calling to her.

Bradbury, Ray. *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. 1962

When a carnival comes into a small Illinois town a week before Halloween, two adolescent boys are forever changed by its secrets, mysteries, and horrors.

Brite, Poppy Z. *Drawing Blood*.

Cartoonist Robert McGee's depression led him to kill his entire family, sparing only his young son Trevor, before committing suicide. As an adult, Trevor returns to his childhood home in Missing Mile, North Carolina to confront the ghosts of his dead family as well as his own demons.

Campbell, Ramsey. *The Influence*.

Queenie, a British spinster, has terrorized her family for years. With her death comes a well earned respite from her horrible reign, or does it? It soon becomes apparent that Queenie cannot rest until she has inflicted more damage upon the family.

Campbell, Ramsey. *One Safe Place*.

Suzanne Travis gets a job at an English university teaching a course on violence in film and relocates her husband, Don, a bookseller, and twelve-year-old son, Marshall, from Florida to Manchester. However, the Travises are soon caught up in a deadly feud with the maniacal Fancy family. A widening circle of brutality soon surrounds the family and threatens their safety.

Gaiman, Neil. *Neverwhere*.

Richard Mayhew is your average young Londoner, until he stops to help a young homeless girl he finds on the street. His one moment of selflessness leads Richard into “London Below,” a dark and magical parallel city under the familiar streets of his hometown. But before he can return to the world above, Richard must battle monsters and henchmen, visit with a fallen angel, and find his own inner strength. *Neverwhere* is a dark fantasy masterpiece.

King, Stephen. *Carrie*.

In King’s first novel, Carrie White does not fit in anywhere—not at home or at school, but when she discovers her own telekinetic powers, she begins to use them to extract revenge.

King, Stephen. *Cujo*.

After being bitten by a rabid bat, Cujo, a 200 pound Saint Bernard, begins terrorizing his owners and a neighboring family. The terrifying tale of a pet gone mad is heightened by the well-told narrative of the lives of its victims.

King, Stephen. *The Shinning*.

Jack Torrance brings his family along on his new job as the winter caretaker of Overlook Hotel in Colorado. In true King fashion, we find that this is not your ordinary hotel, as it is haunted by spirits which are trying to overtake the family. *The Shinning* is both the quintessential haunted house story and one of King’s best novels.

Klause, Annette Curtis. *Blood and Chocolate*. 1997.

Living in a Maryland suburb, sixteen-year-old Viviam Gandillon falls in love with sensitive and gentle Aiden. But Vivian is a werewolf and Aiden’s human, making this coming-of-age story a bit complicated.

Koontz, Dean. *Cold Fire*.

Imagine you can foresee people’s deaths and intervene to change their fate. Jim Ironheart has had this gift for most of his life. After witnessing his powers in action, Holly Thorne, a newspaper reporter, devotes herself to understanding Jim and helping him overcome the personal demons his powers invoke.

Little, Bentley. *The Walking*.

After his father dies and transforms into a “walker”, an army of zombies that are instinctively traveling to the remote deserts of Arizona, private investigator Miles Huerdeen is called into action to discover what ancient evil is reanimating the dead, drawing them across country, and what will happen when the zombies reach their destination.

Lovecraft, H.P. *Tales*.

A collection of classic works by the turn-of-the-twentieth-century horror master offers insight into his unique style and includes such pieces as, "The Shadow Out of Time," "The Colour Out of Space," "The Shadow Over Innsmouth," and "At the Mountains of Madness."

*Mammoth Book of Zombies*. Stephen Jones ed.

A collection of short stories with contributions from Clive Barker, David J. Schow, Robert Bloch, Graham Masterston, Ramsey Campbell, and others all featuring the reawakened undead.

Matheson, Richard. *I am Legend*.

In this treatment of vampirism as an infectious disease, these short stories tell a tale of a mysterious plague that has swept the planet and Robert Neville seems the only man left who is immune. As the sore survivor, Neville is forced to outwit the vampires that are all after him. George A Romero adapted this plot for the movie, *Night of the Living Dead*.

Michaels, Barbara. *The Dark on the Other Side*.

Michael Collins is intrigued with Linda Randolph. She is beautiful, wealthy, has a beautiful home, and an adoring, successful husband author Gordon Randolph. Why then is she so frightened? As Collins researches Gordon's past, he comes to suspect the successful author of forming an alliance with dark forces and discovers Linda's sanity may be a casualty of Gordon's bargain.

Newman, Kim. *Anno Dracula*.

In an alternate history of the 1880's, Queen Victoria has married Vlad Tepes, better known as Count Dracula. Jack the Ripper, none other than Stoker's Dr John (Jack) Seward, is killing the vampire prostitutes living in London. Genevieve Dieuxdonne, a vampire detective, is assigned to hunt down Jack. In this vivid and graphic tale, there are also appearances of Mycroft Holmes, Dr. Jekyll, and other Victorian literature favorites.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Zombie*.

*Zombie* tells the story of convicted sex offender turned serial killer Quentin P., in diary form. Oates convincingly puts the reader into the mind of a maniac as he strives to create the perfect "zombie," a young man he can lobotomize to be his slave. Since this work is in diary form, drawings and changes in font are employed throughout. A chilling study into the darkest corners of humanity. *Zombie* won a Bram Stoker award in 1996.

Rice, Anne. Chronicles of the Vampires

*Interview with the Vampire* is the first in the series spanning through the centuries of vampire life. In an interview with a boy reporter, 18<sup>th</sup> Century plantation owner, Louis Pointe du Lac, begins the tales by making his confessions of how he came to be a vampire and his consequent torment and guilt (*The Vampire Lestat*, *The Queen of the Damned*, *The Tale of the Body Thief*, *Memnoch the Devil*, *The Vampire Armand*, *Merrick*, *Blood and Gold*).

Rice, Anne. *The Mummy, Or Ramses the Damned*.

Unearthed by an archeologist, King Ramses II, reawakens in Edwardian London. Julie Stratford, the archeologist's daughter, grows to love him and helps him adjust the modern world, but having drunk the elixir of life, he is tormented by the curse that certain hungers (for food, wine and women) can never be satisfied.

Saul, John. *Black Lightning*.

At the execution of notorious serial killer, Richard Kraven, the husband of journalist Anne Jeffords suffers a near fatal heart attack. Anne, who worked tirelessly to help convict Kraven, can now concentrate on helping her husband recover. However, a new serial killer surfaces who curiously uses many of Kraven's techniques, and this maniac begins entering Anne's home and leaving her notes. But who could be using killing methods only the dead Kraven could know about, and why is Anne's husband acting so strangely?

Saul, John. *Guardian*.

In the midst of marital troubles, Mary Anne Carpenter's best friend dies in a mysterious accident leaving Mary Anne guardian of her thirteen-year-old son, Joey. Taking her two children to a vast ranch in Idaho to care for Joey, Mary Anne thinks she might have found a perfect new home until tragedy strikes when campers in the nearby campgrounds are found brutally murdered. To make matters worse, Joey disappears at night for hours and is acting very strange.

Shelly, Mary. *Frankenstein*. 1818

Often cited as the first Horror novel ever written, Frankenstein is the story of a scientist's effort to create life. Shelly uses her novel to describe the horrors humankind can expect to confront when it foolishly tries to conquer nature.

Straub, Peter. *Ghost Story*.

After an elderly man, Edward Wanderley, dies, strange things start happening in the small town of Milburn, New York. The events force his four friends to come face to face a tragic event from their past.

Wilson, F. Paul. *Nightworld*.

Satan has brought long nights to New York, turning loose his demons upon the citizens under the cover of darkness. Humanity's only hope lies in the hands of an aging warrior, Glaeken, who has battled Satan many times across time and space. However, Glaeken is too weak to go after Satan alone and must gather up a band of warriors to assist him. Will they be strong enough to defeat the devil?

**Most titles and annotations taken from *The Horror Readers' Advisory: The Librarians Guide to Vampires, killer Tomatoes, and Haunted Houses* by Becky Spatford and Tammy Clausen.**