

CRASH COURSE IN HORROR

NoveList



The Midnight Society



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Autumn Winters

Recommendations Lead, NoveList



Gregg Winsor

Reference Librarian,
Johnson County Library, Kansas



libraryreads.org

Speculative Fiction



Science Fiction

What if our scientific theories are real?



Fantasy

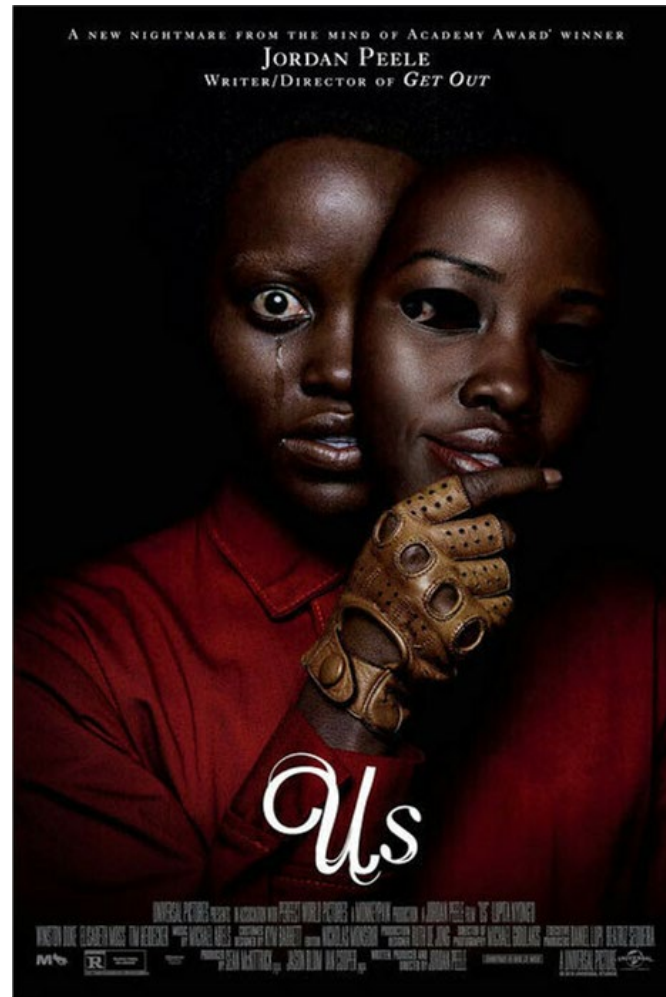
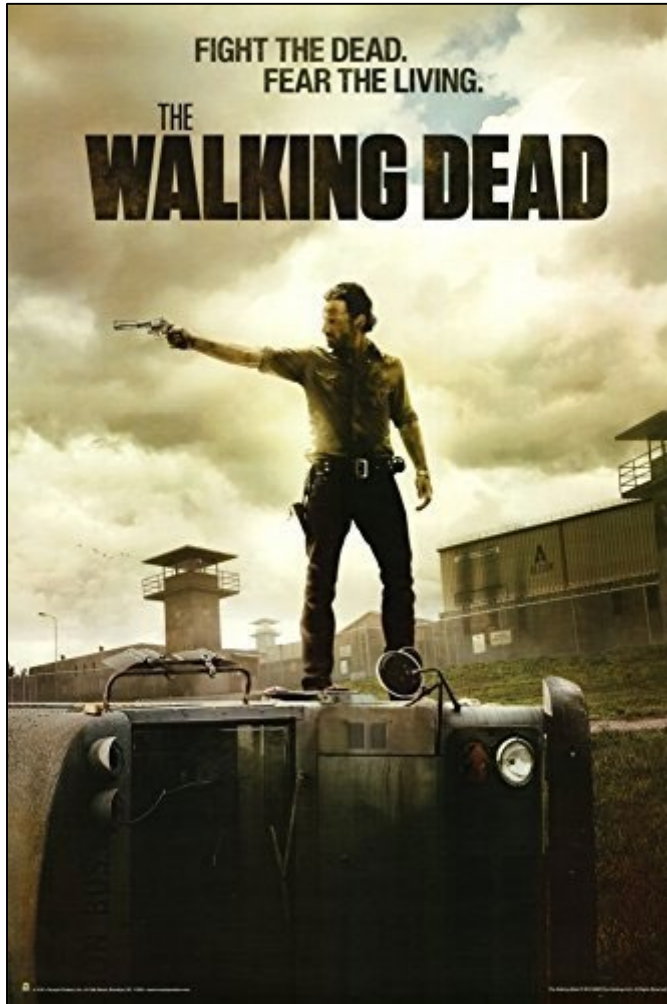
What if magic or magical creatures exist?



Horror

What if our nightmares are real?

The Pull of the Grave





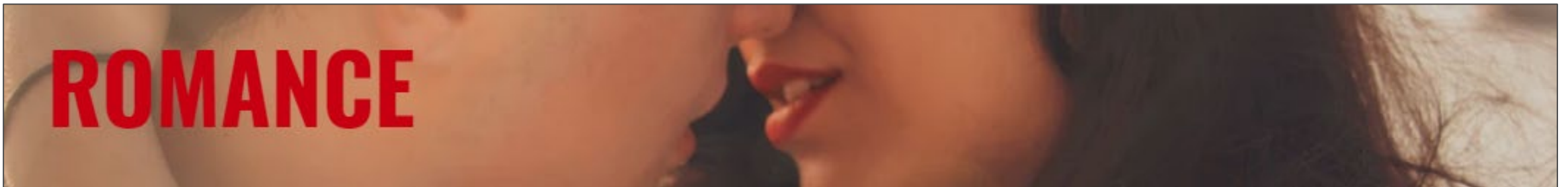


“It shows us that the **control we believe we have** is purely illusory, and that every moment we teeter on chaos and oblivion.”

-Clive Barker

Introduction to “Scared Stiff: Tales of Sex and Death” by Ramsey Campbell, 1987.

‘Visceral’ Fiction

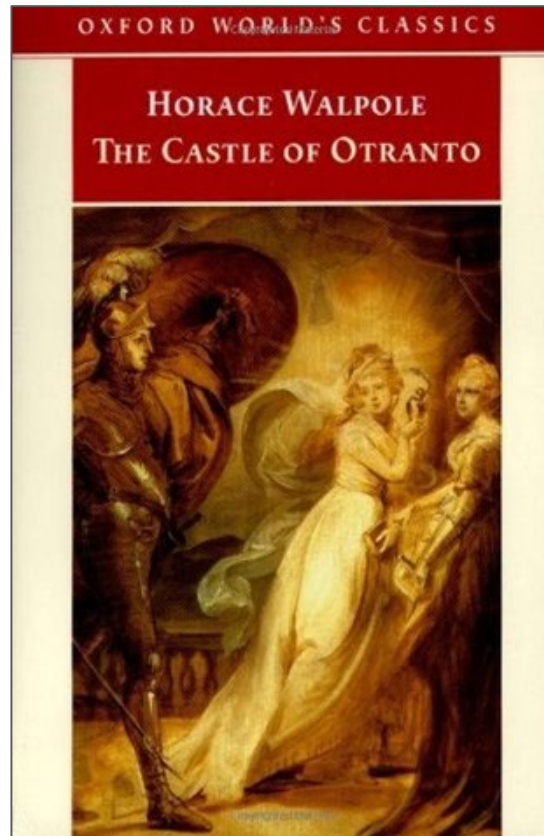


History of the Genre

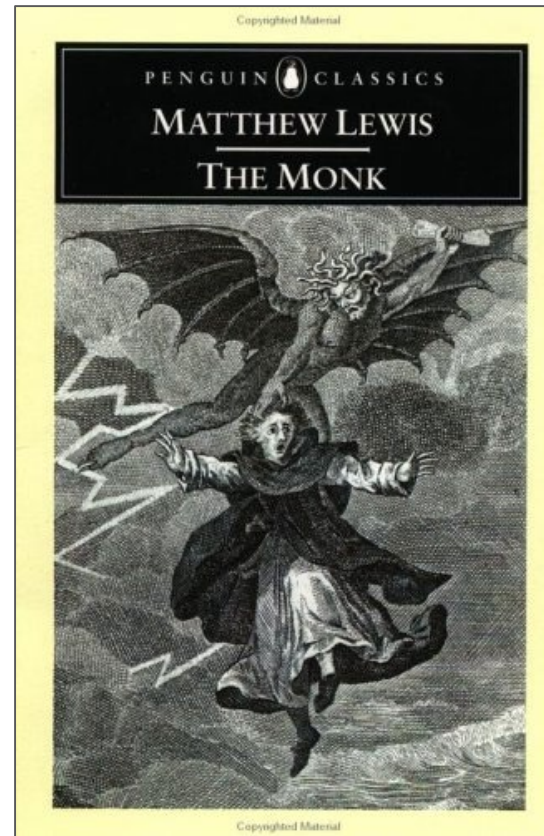


Gothic Horror in the 18th Century

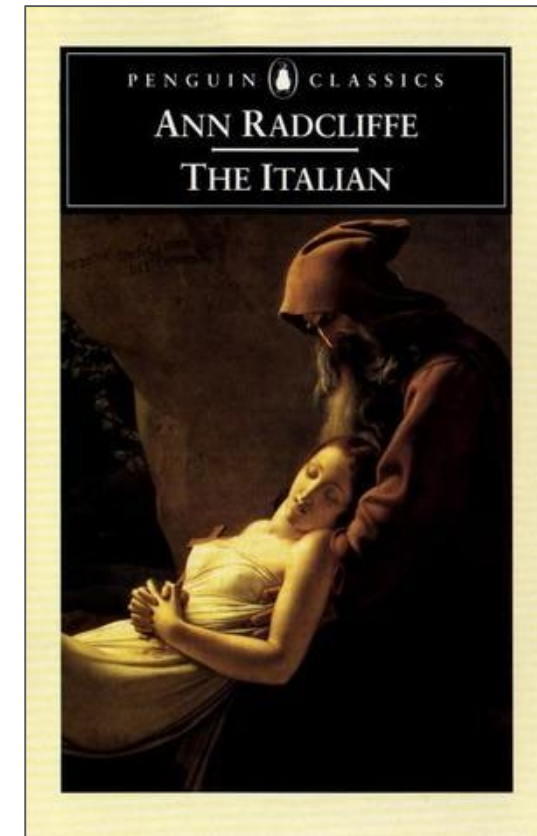
A significant amount of horror fiction of this era was marketed towards a female audience, a typical scenario being a resourceful female menaced in a gloomy castle.



1764



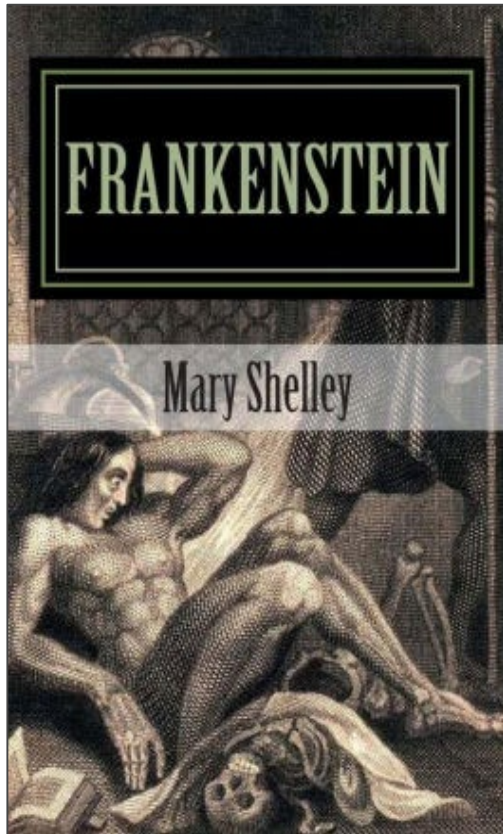
1796



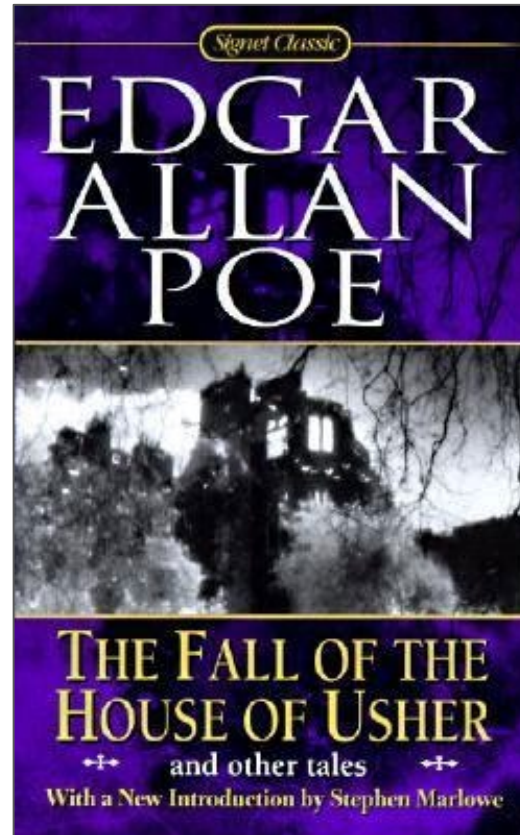
1797

19th Century Horror

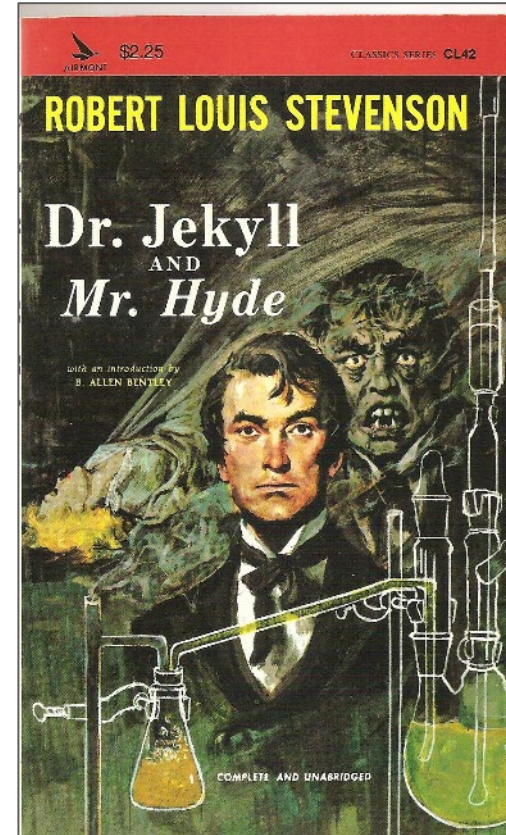
The gothic tradition turns to the genre modern readers call horror and many foundational characters are born.



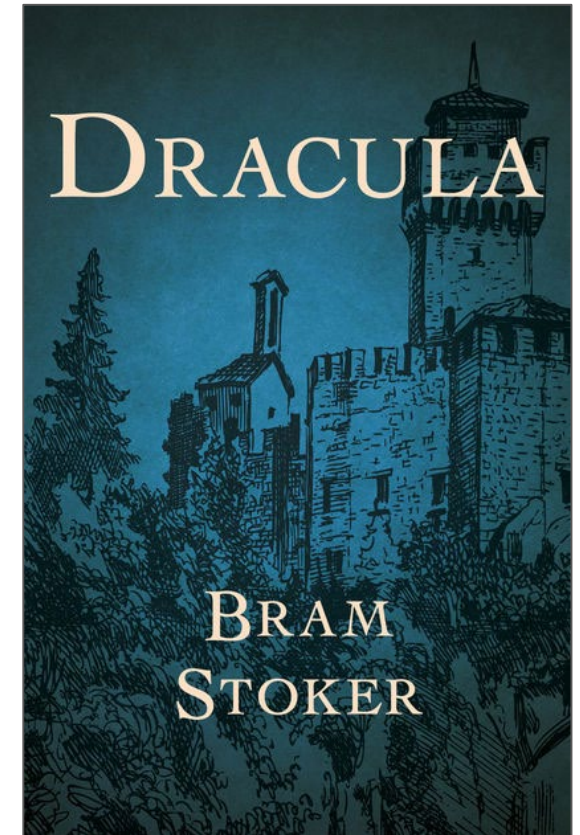
1818



1839



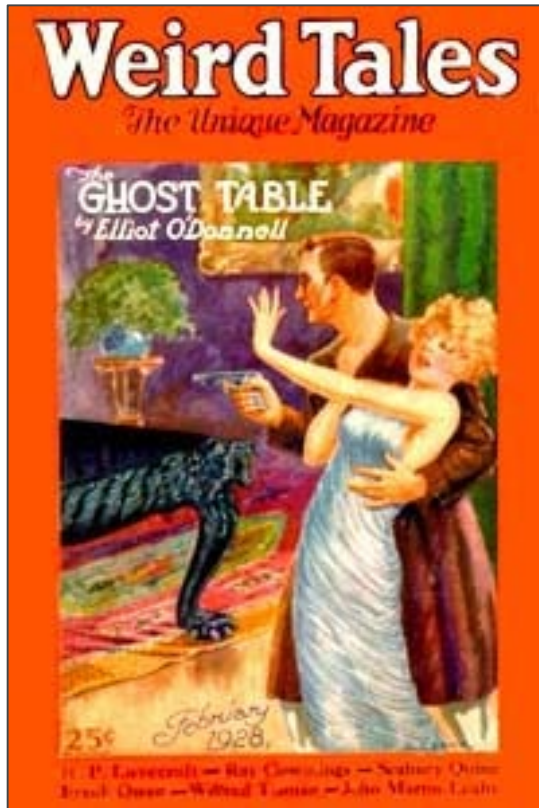
1886



1897

Early 20th Century Pulp Fiction

Pulp magazines emerged to give more genre writers an outlet. H.P. Lovecraft, Ray Bradbury, and Robert Bloch, among many others, published stories in magazines.



1928



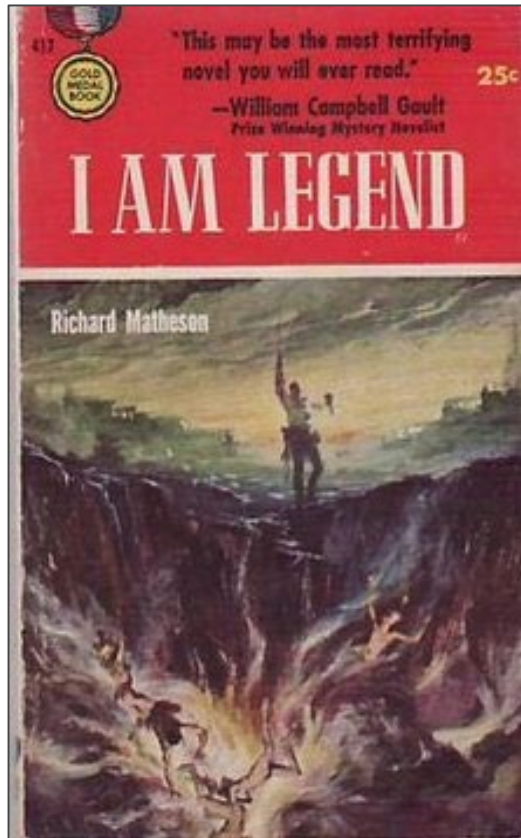
1931



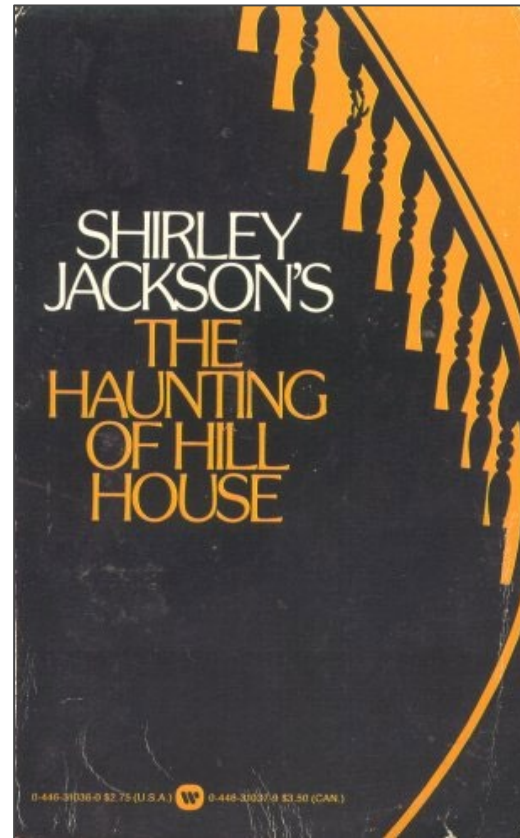
1937

Pre-Modern Era

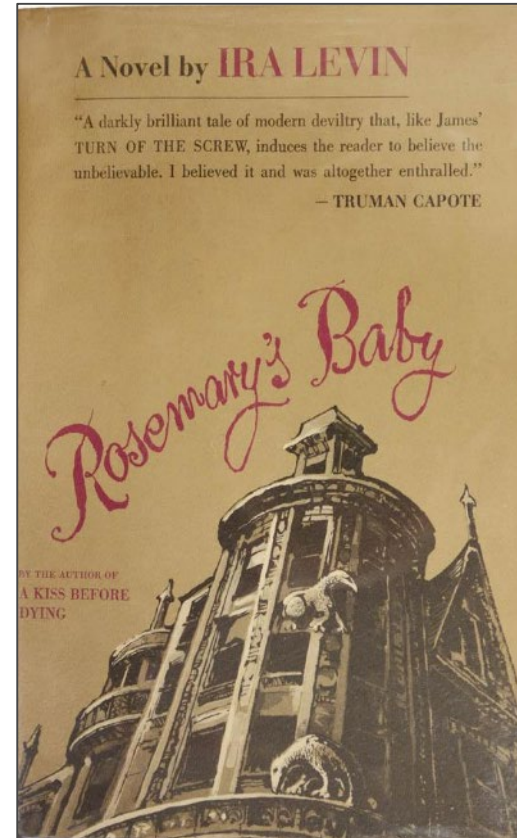
The real-life horrors of World War II and the looming paranoia and menace of the Cold War usher in a new generation as horror novels gain mainstream acceptability.



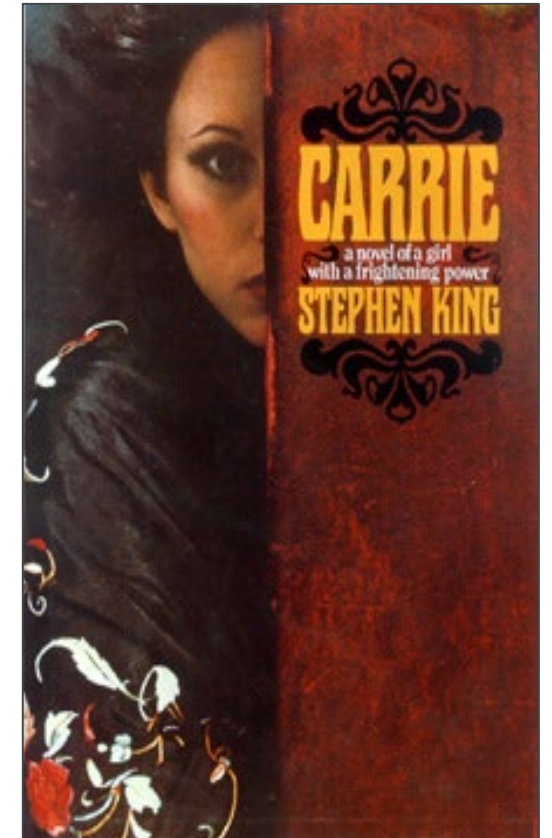
1954



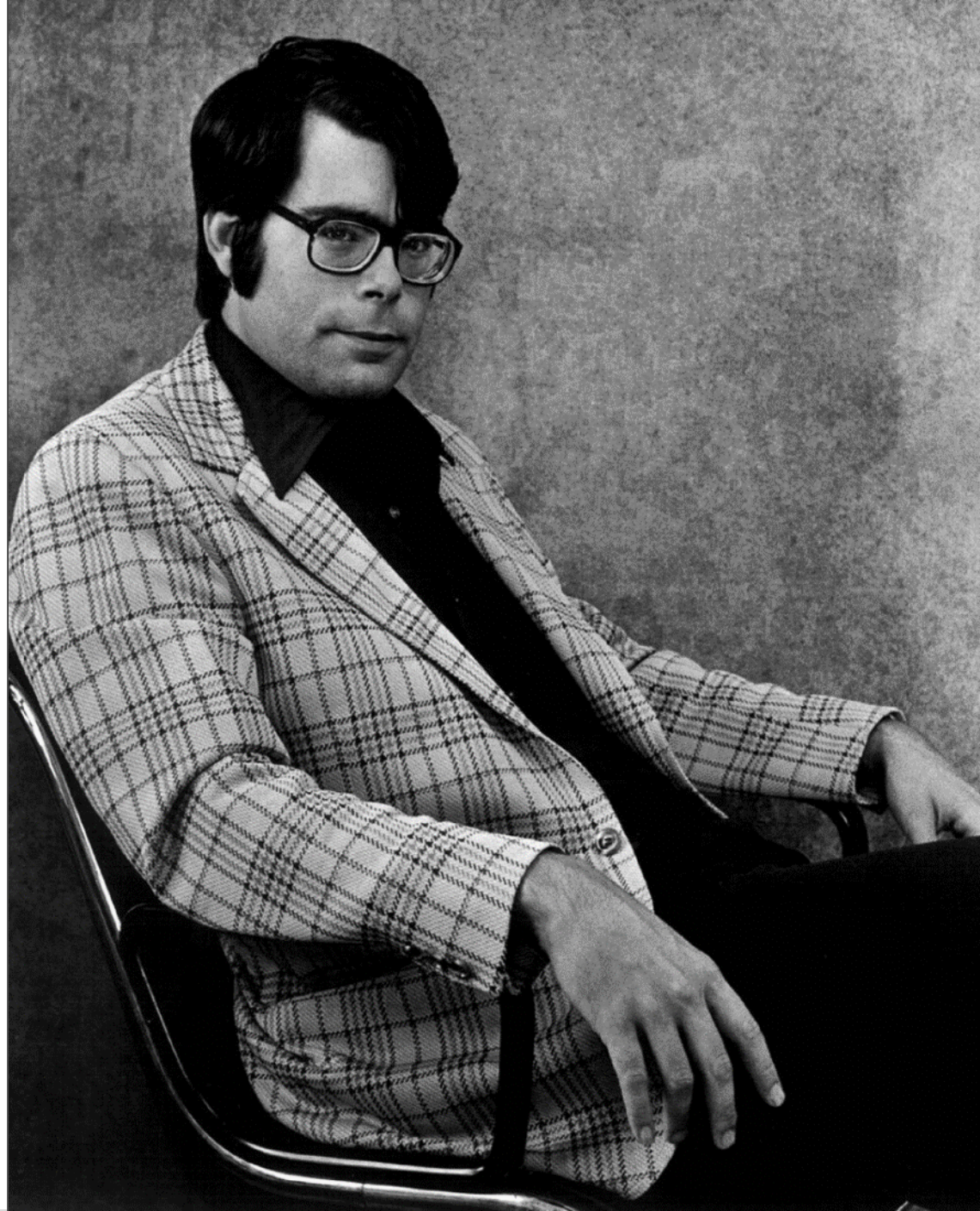
1959



1967



1974



NoveList Appeals and Themes



Menacing

Suspenseful

Bleak

Creepy

Brooding

Gruesome

Atmospheric

Compelling

Darkly
humorous

Strong female

Flawed

Menacing

Disturbing

Intensifying

Flawed

Moody

Violent

P
I
O
T

Cursed!

Possessed!

Trapped!

Childhood trauma

Don't go in there!

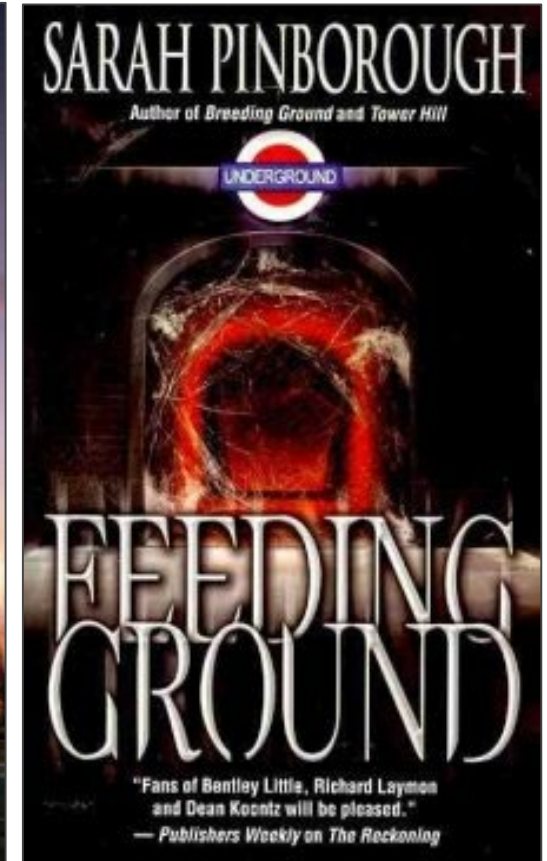
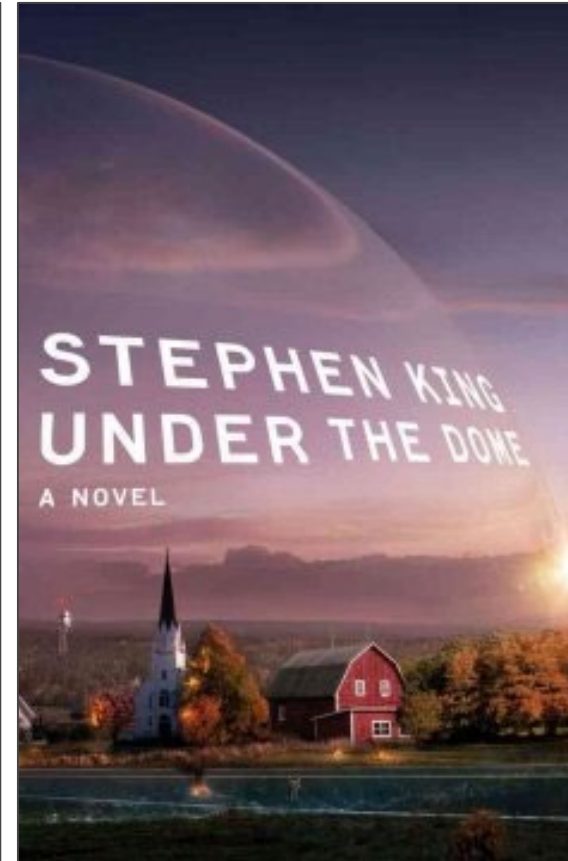
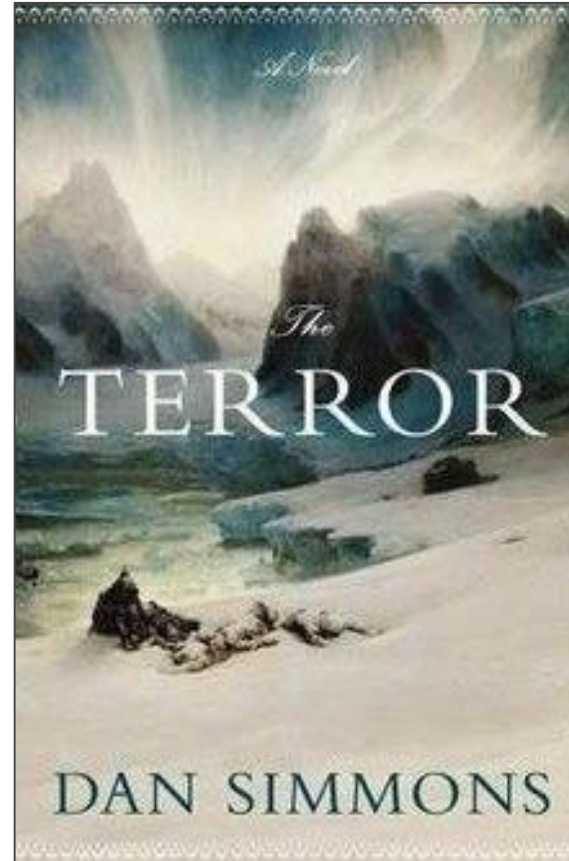
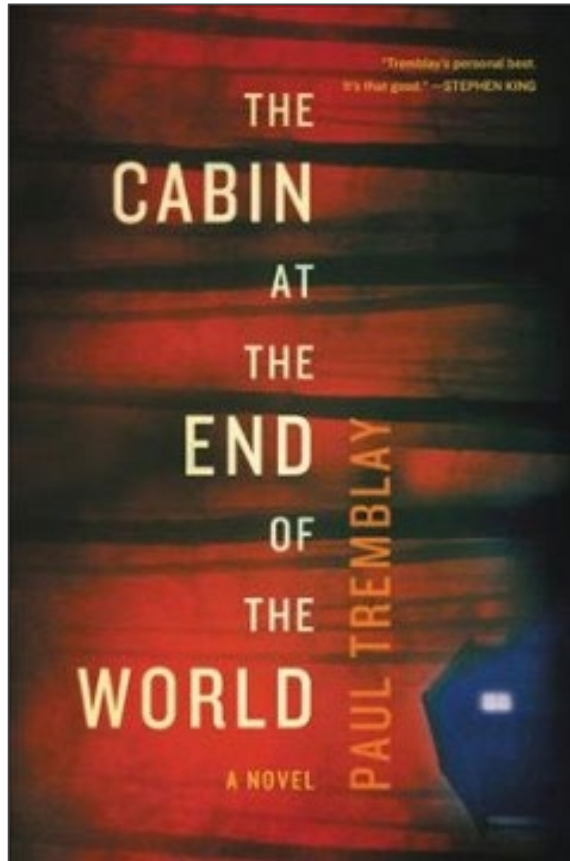
Evil transformations

Witchcraft and the occult

Zombie apocalypse

Trapped!

Think isolated cabins, Arctic research bases, submarines, graves, or elevators.



C
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Band of survivors

Creature feature

Creepy clowns and bad seeds

Evil animals

Final girls

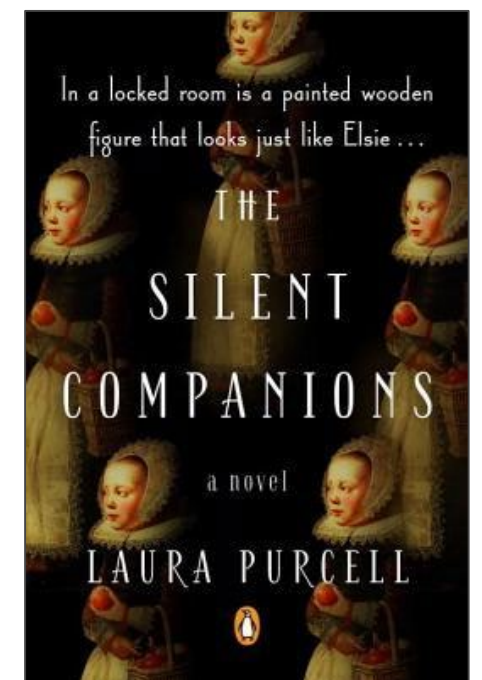
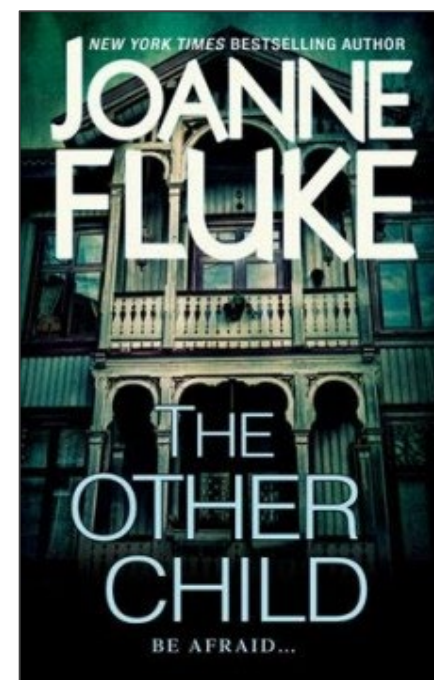
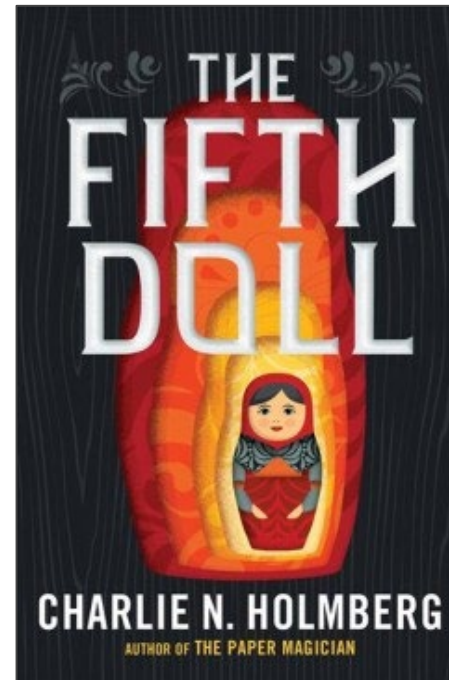
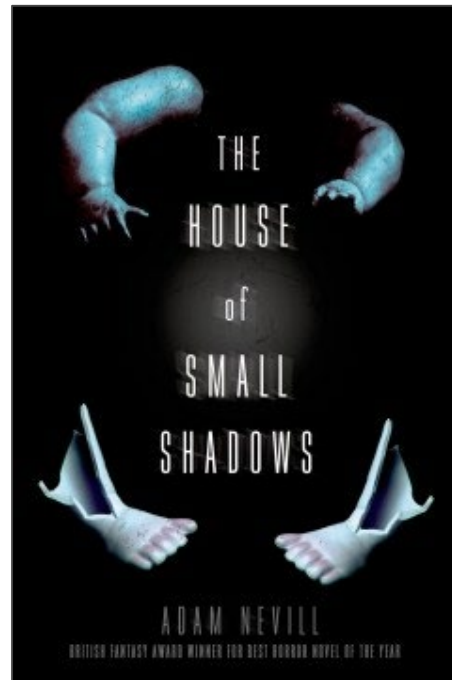
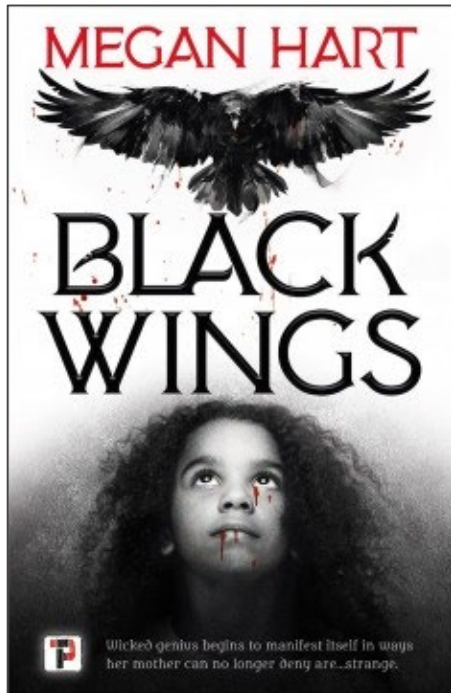
Real life monsters

Vampire menace

Werewolves among us

Creepy Clowns and Bad Seeds

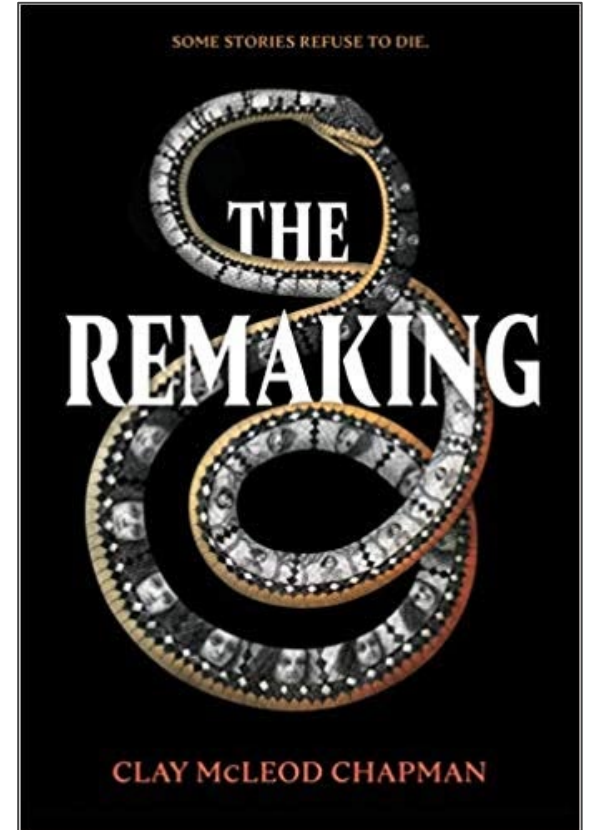
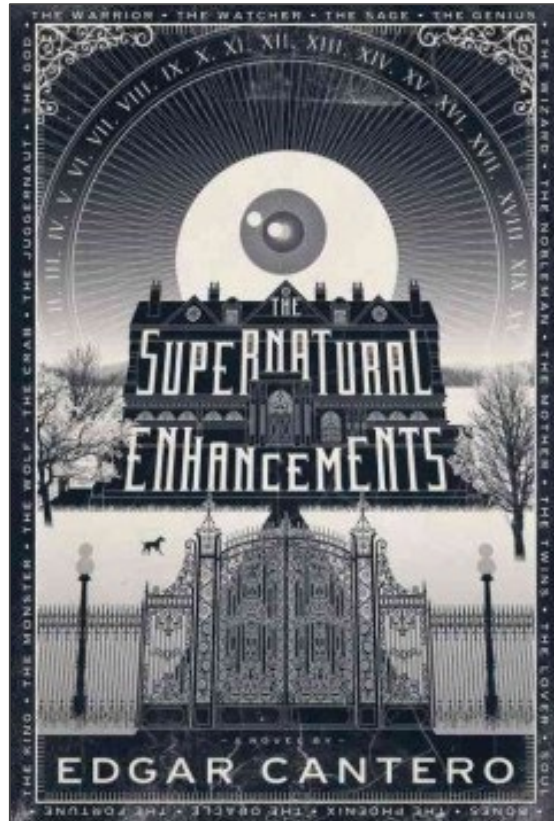
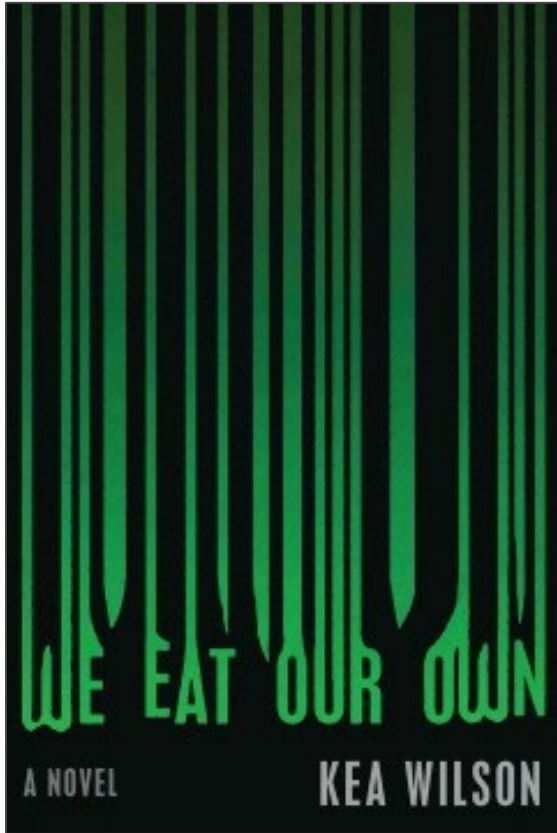
Menace lurks behind things that seem innocent.



S t y l e	Body horror
	Found footage
	Lovecraftian horror
	Monster mashups

Found Footage

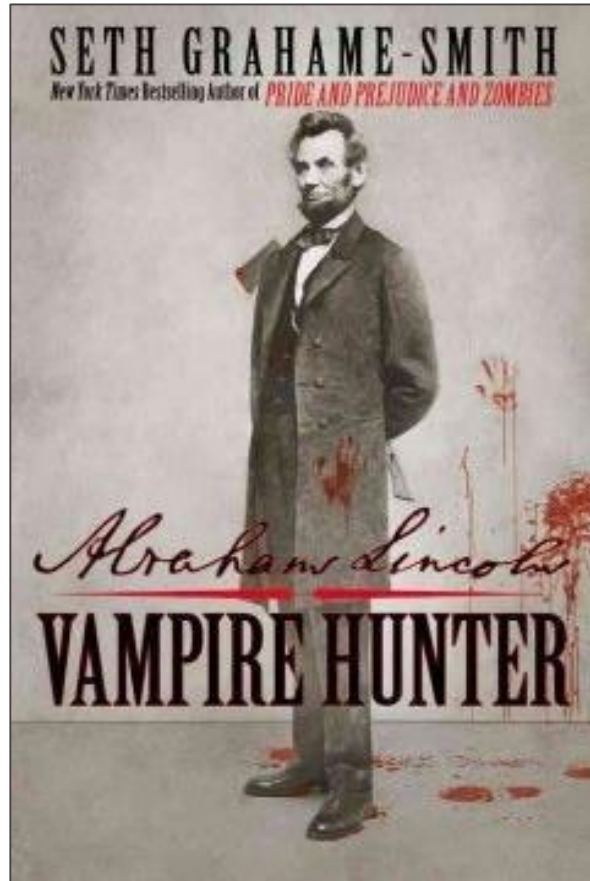
Framing devices (such as letters or diaries) highlight the horror in real time.



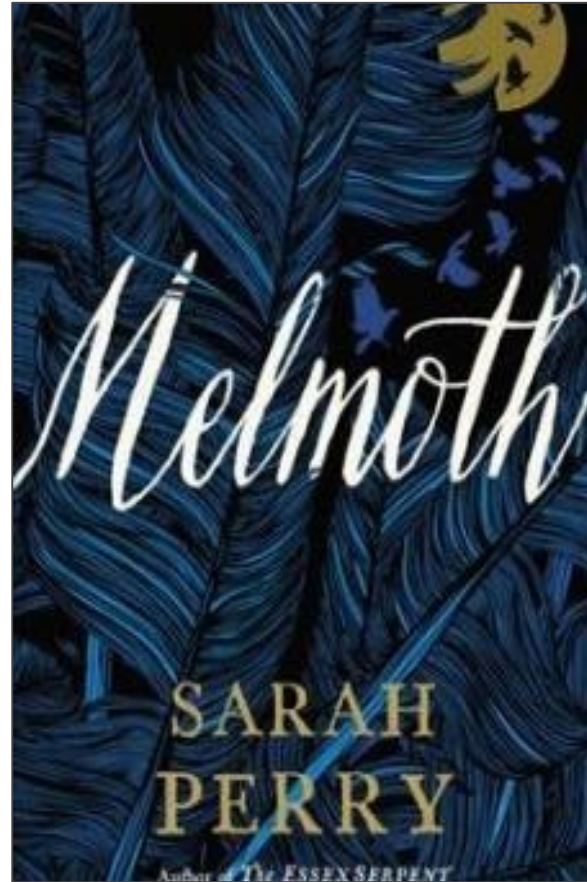
Subgenres and Trends



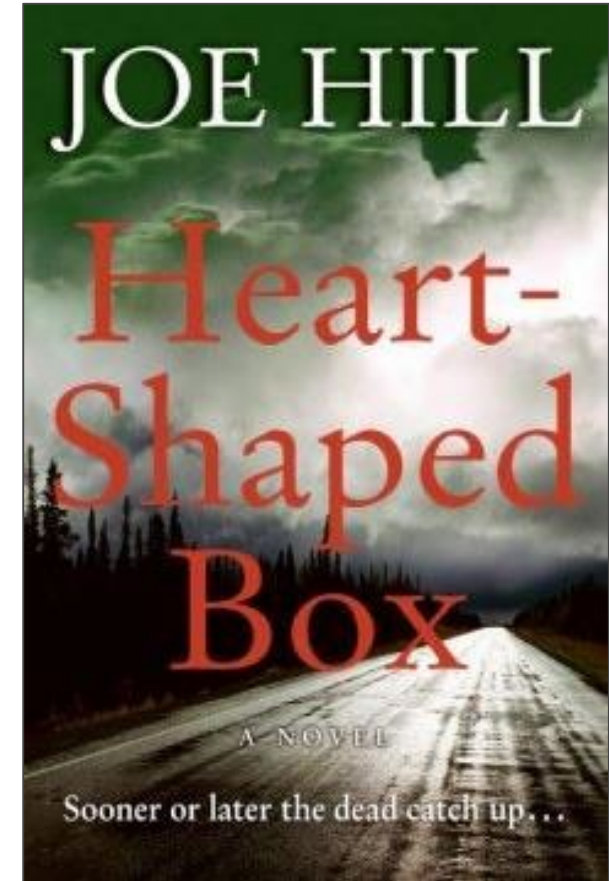
Subgenres



Historical horror

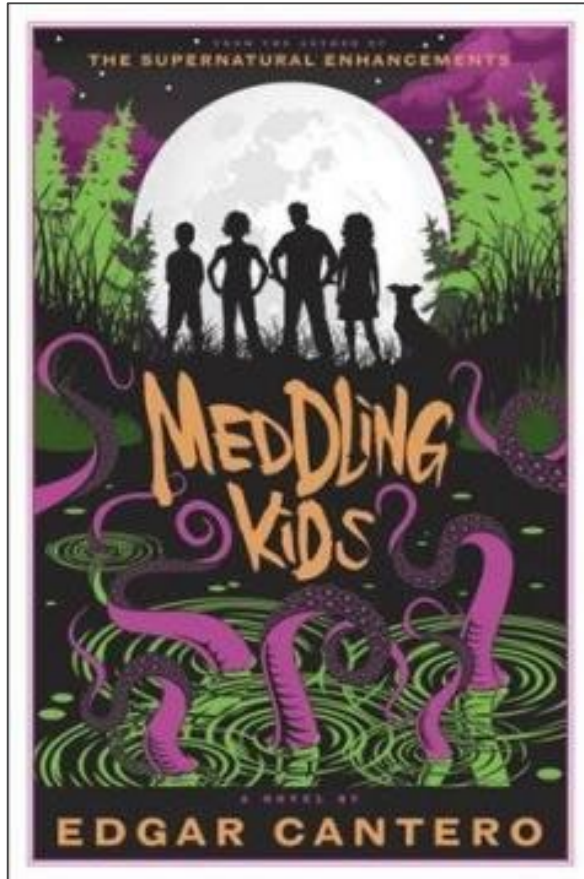


Gothic fiction

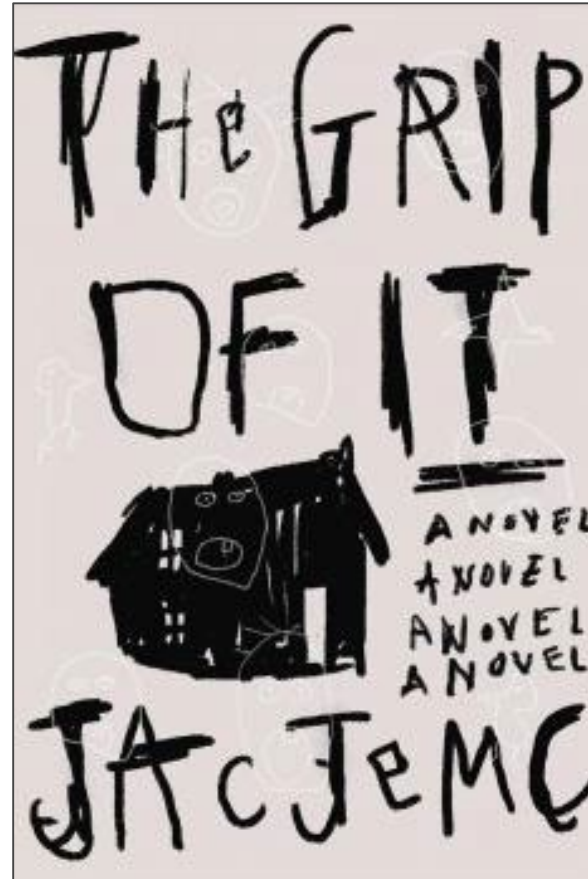


Ghost stories

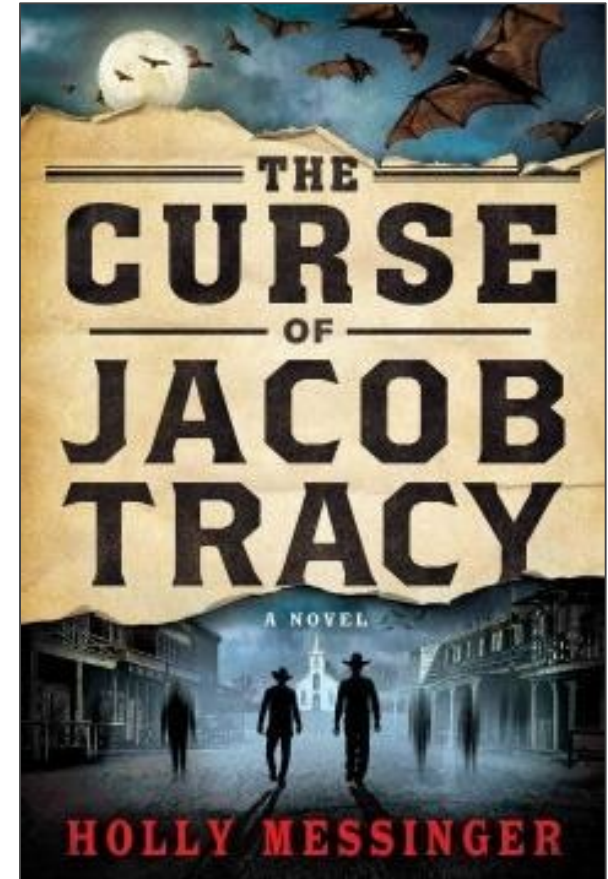
More Subgenres!



Supernatural mysteries

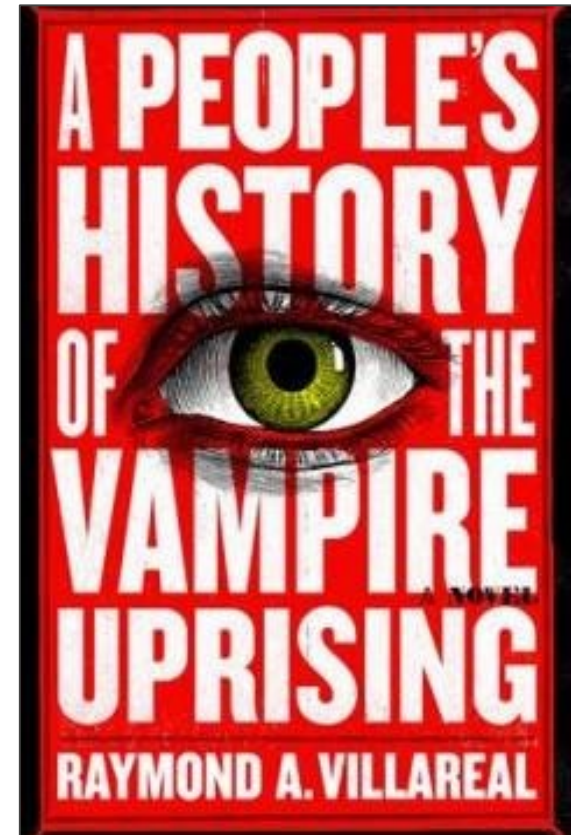
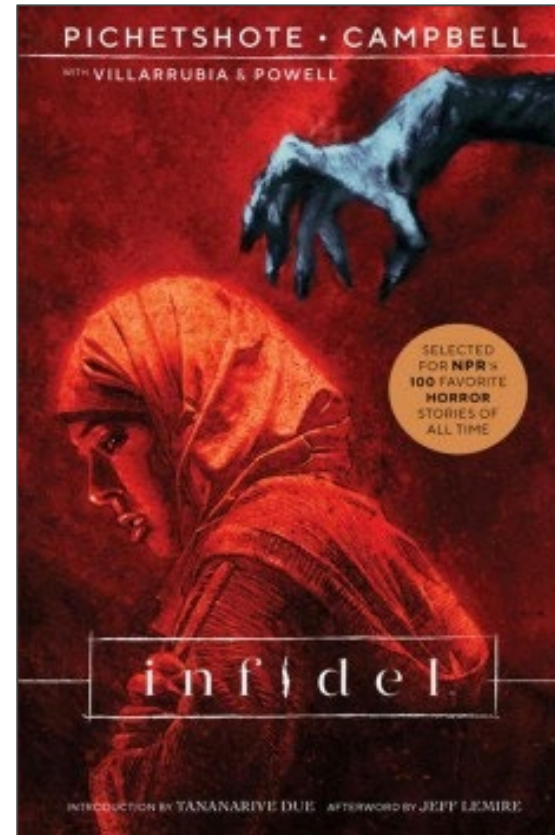
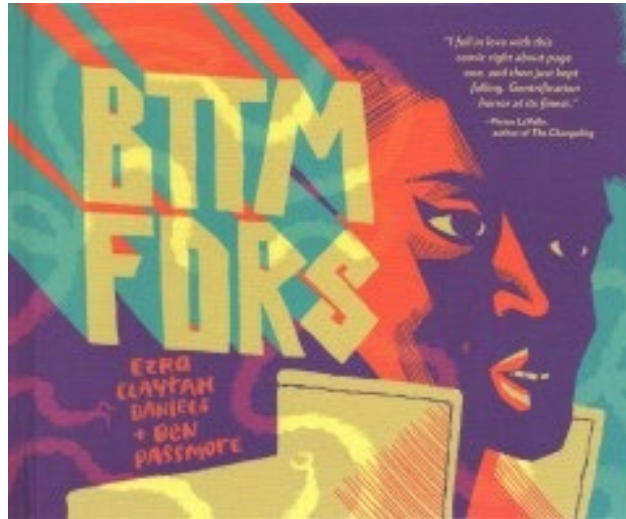


Psychological suspense

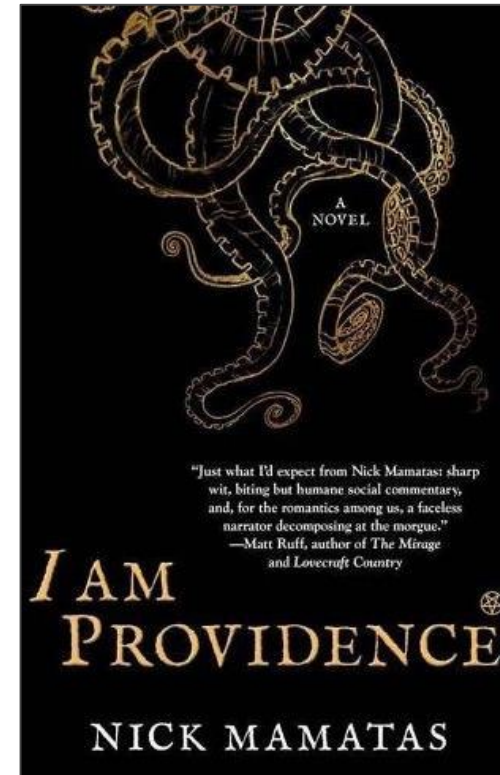
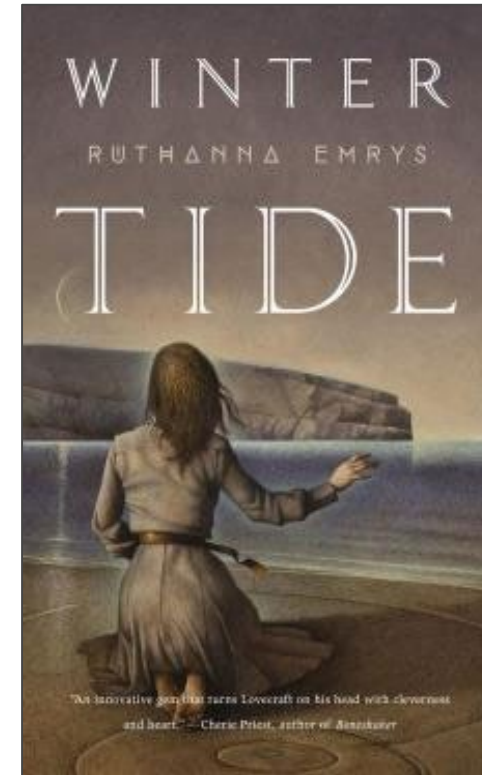
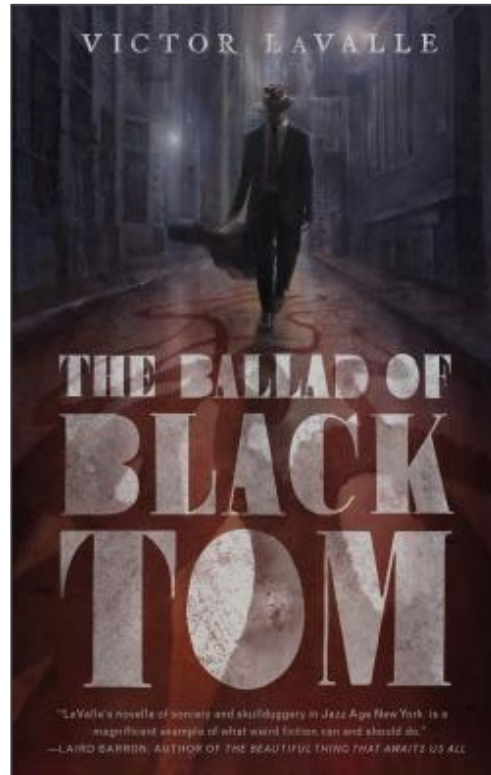
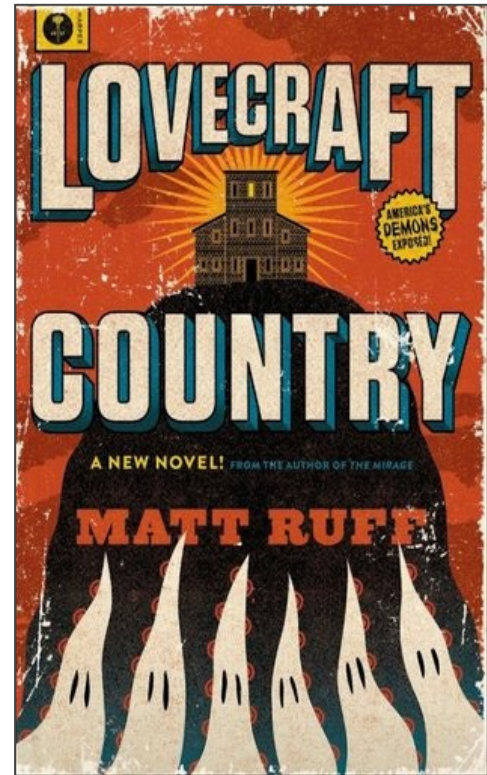


Weird Westerns

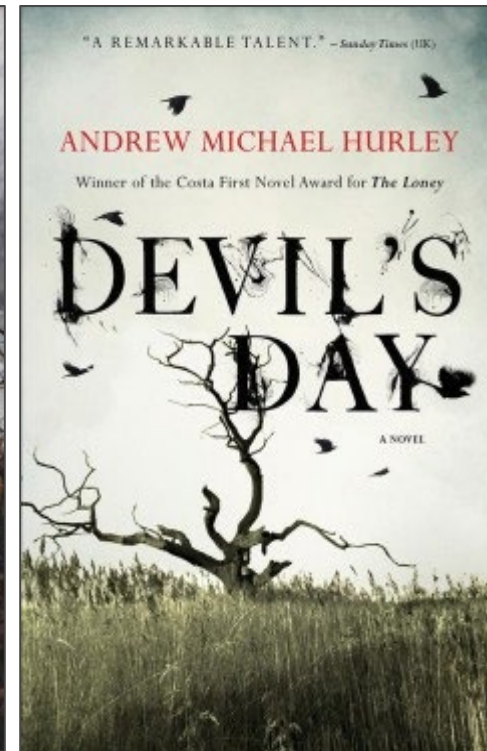
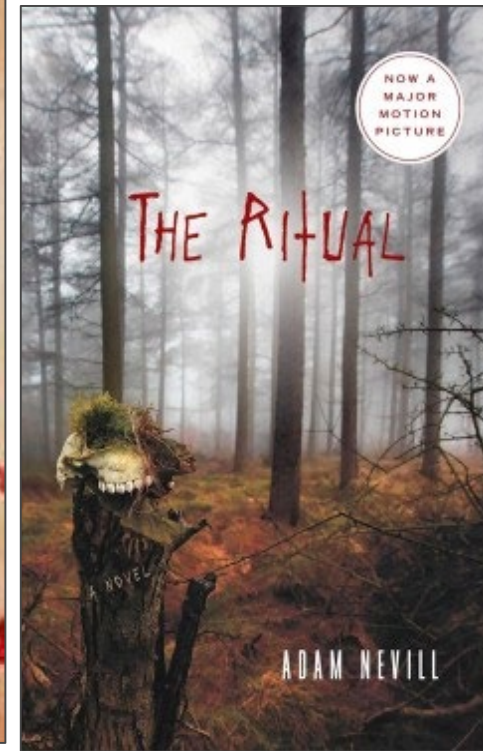
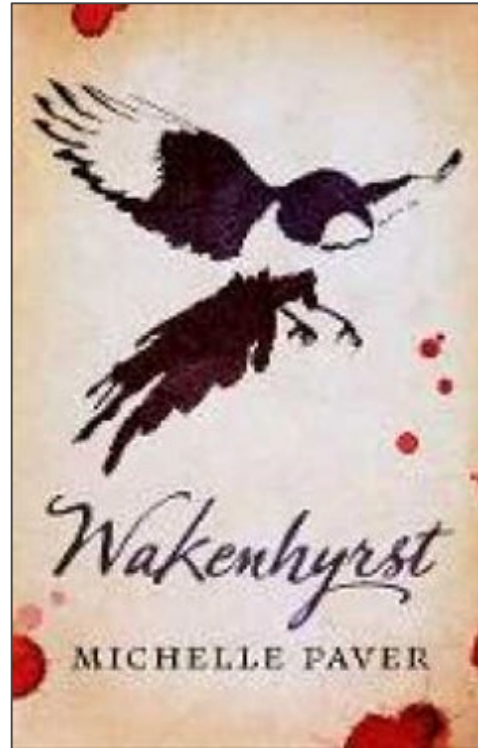
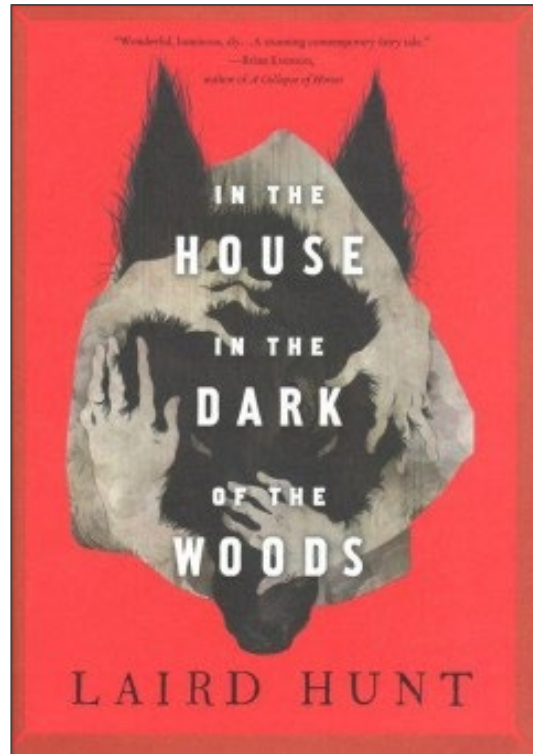
Socially Conscious Horror



(Deconstructing) Lovecraftian Horror



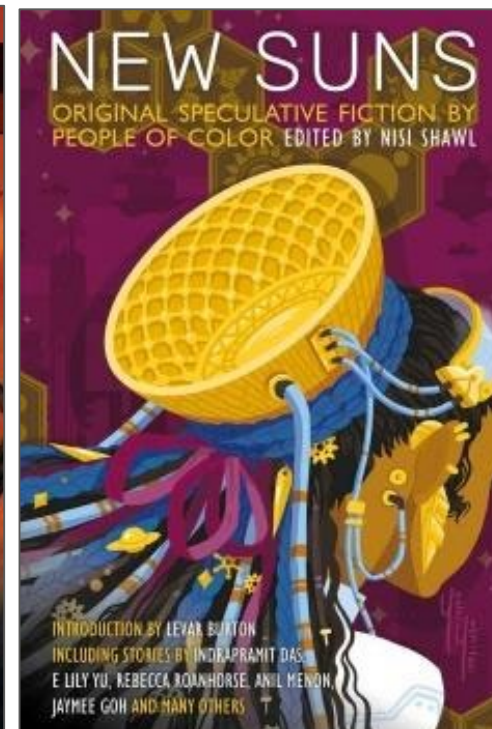
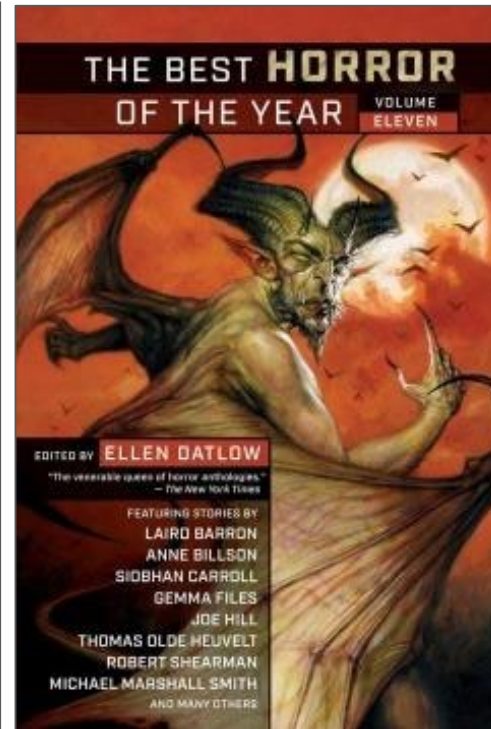
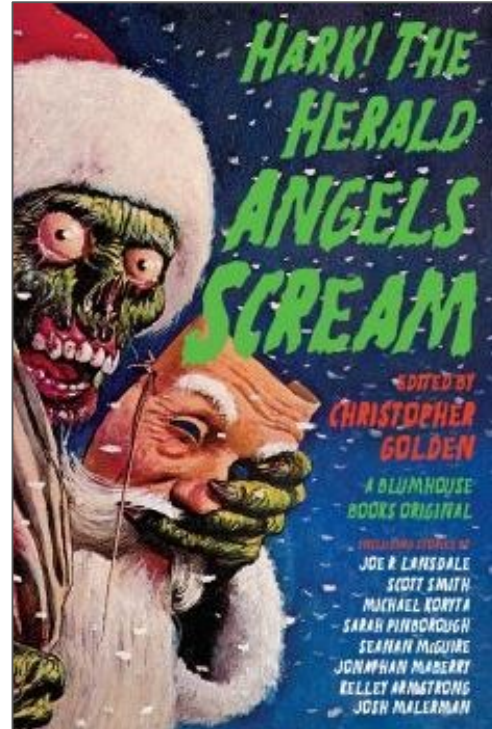
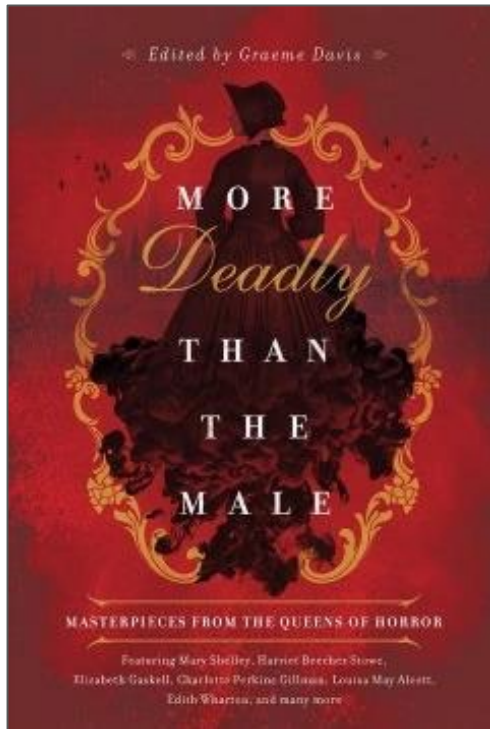
Folk Horror



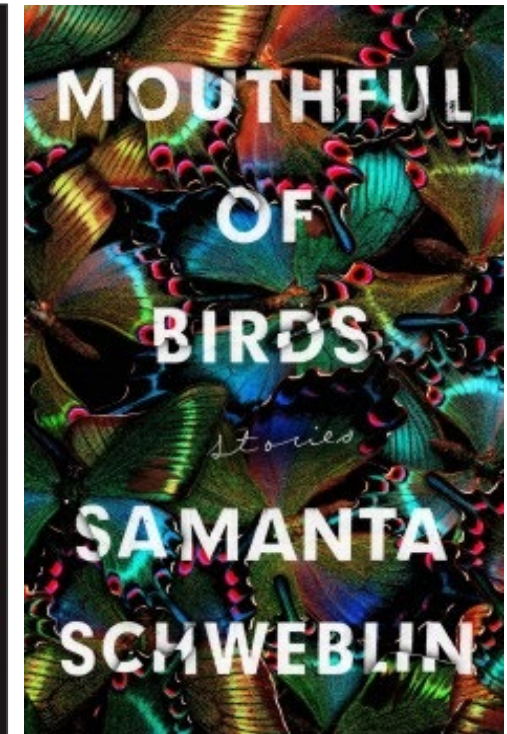
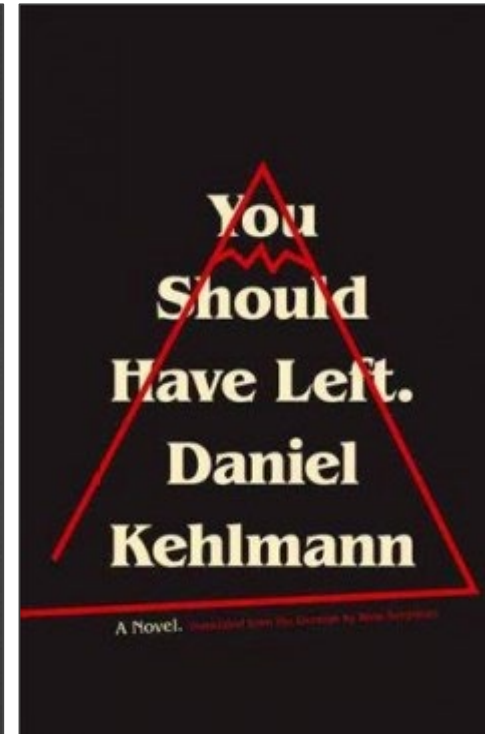
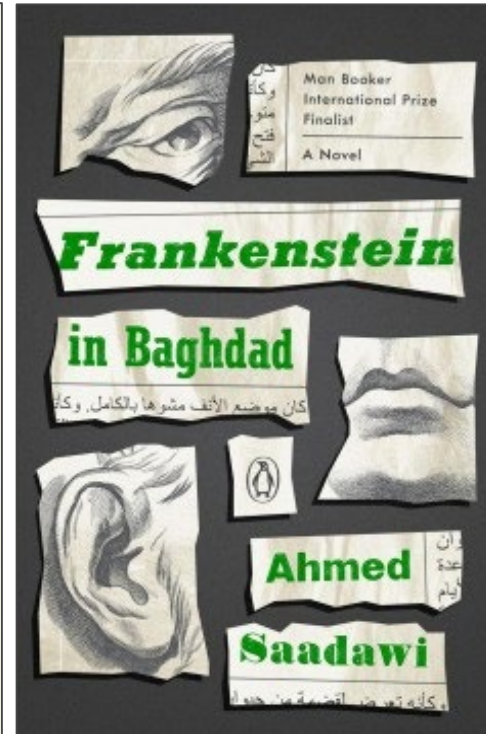
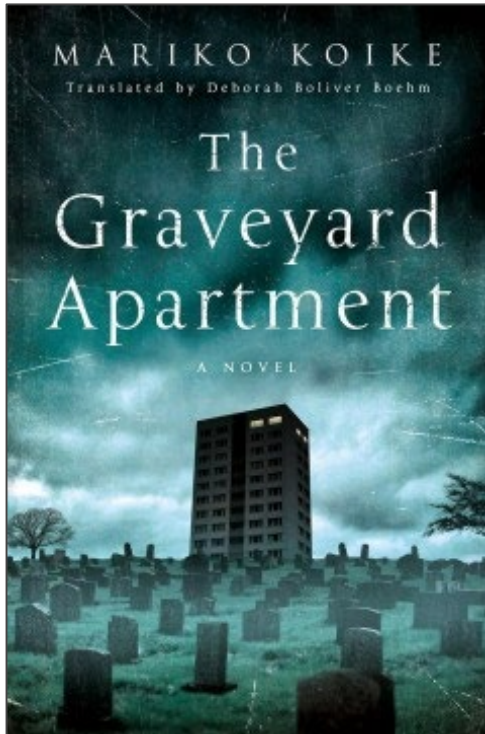
Books as Hooks



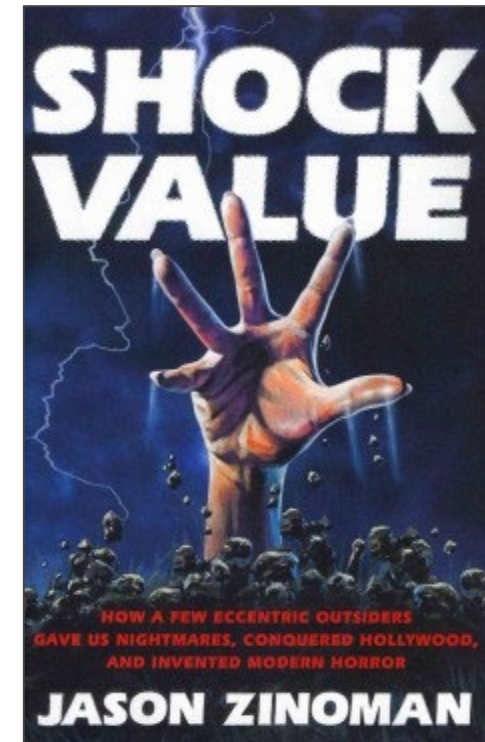
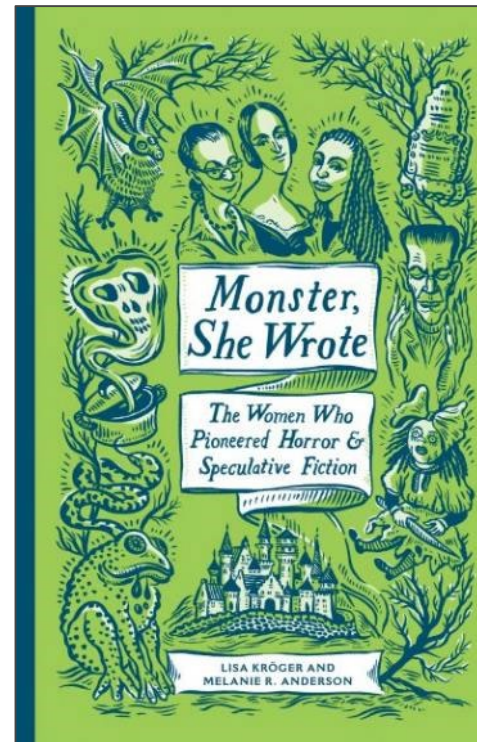
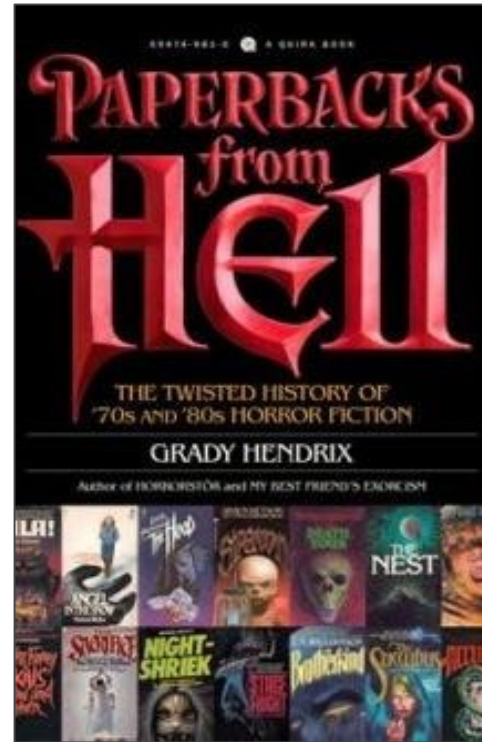
Anthologies



Horror in Translation



Nonfiction

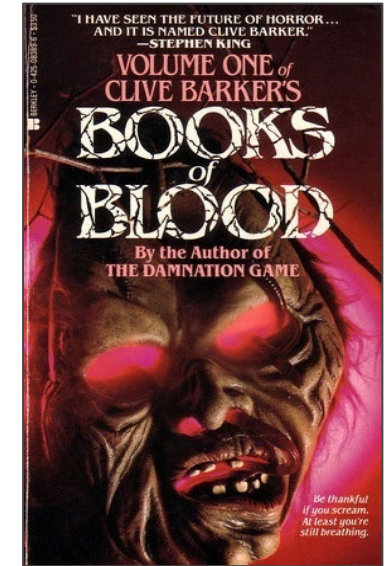
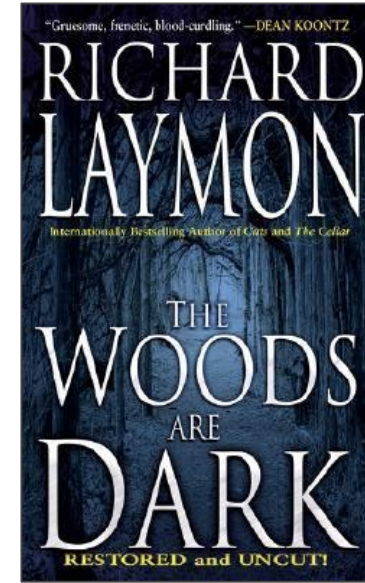
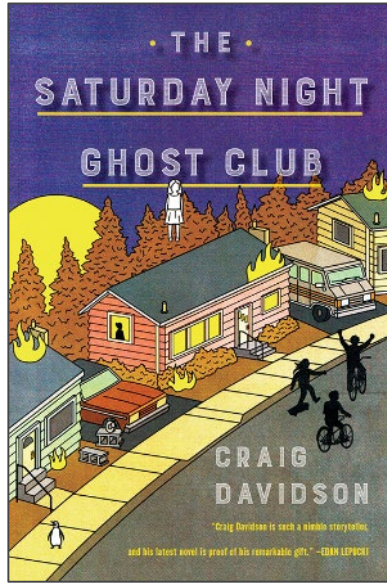
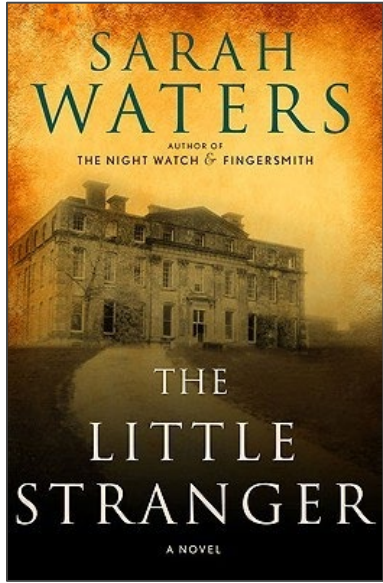


Conversations with the Dead

(or, questions to ask horror fans.)



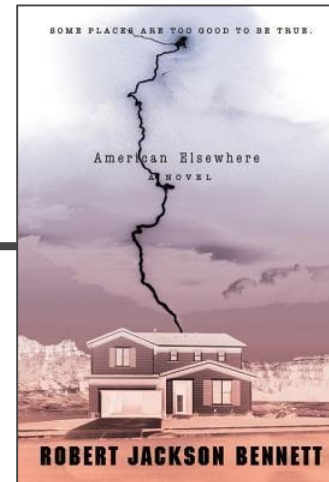
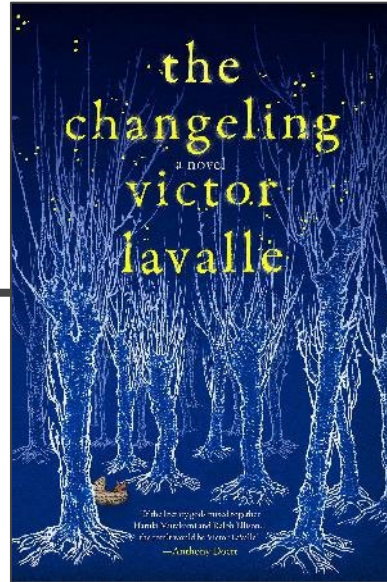
“What’s your scare level?”



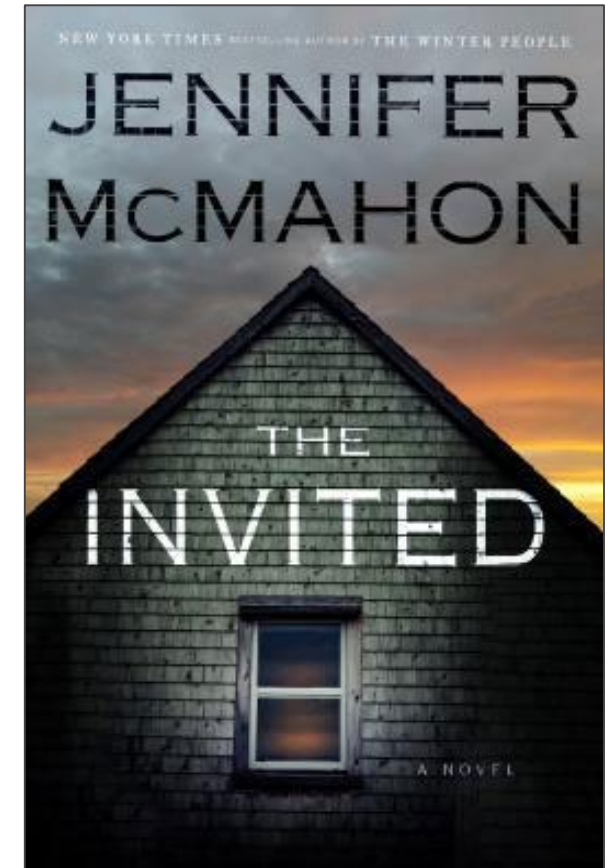
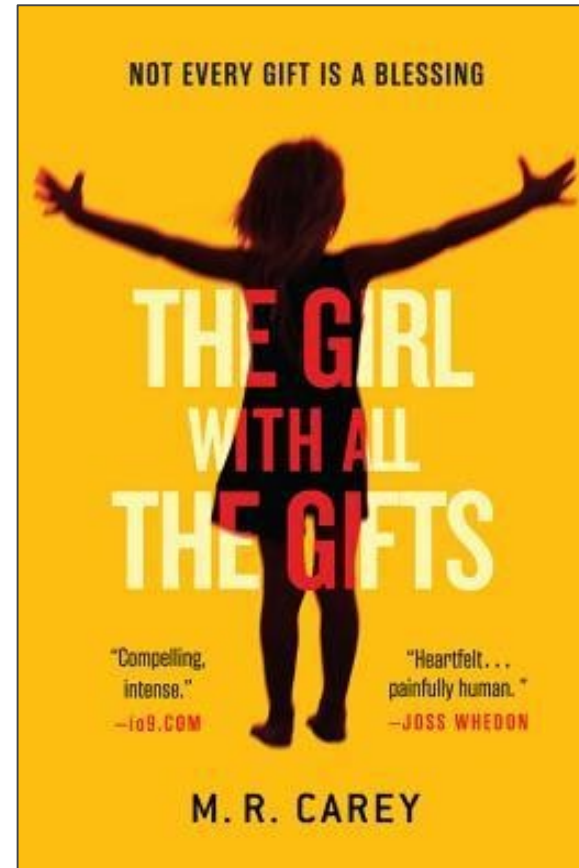
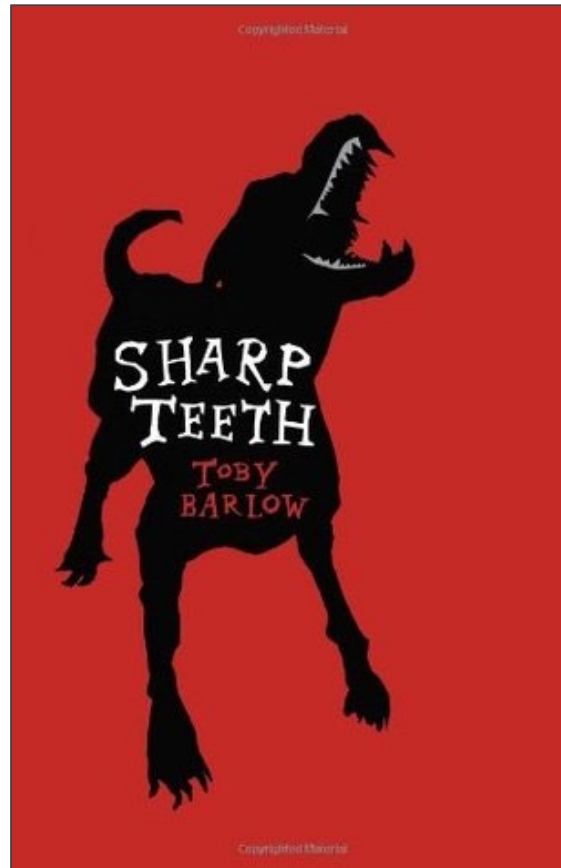
Atmospheric dread

Intense terror and gore

“What horror movies/podcasts/shows do you like?”



“What’s your monster?”



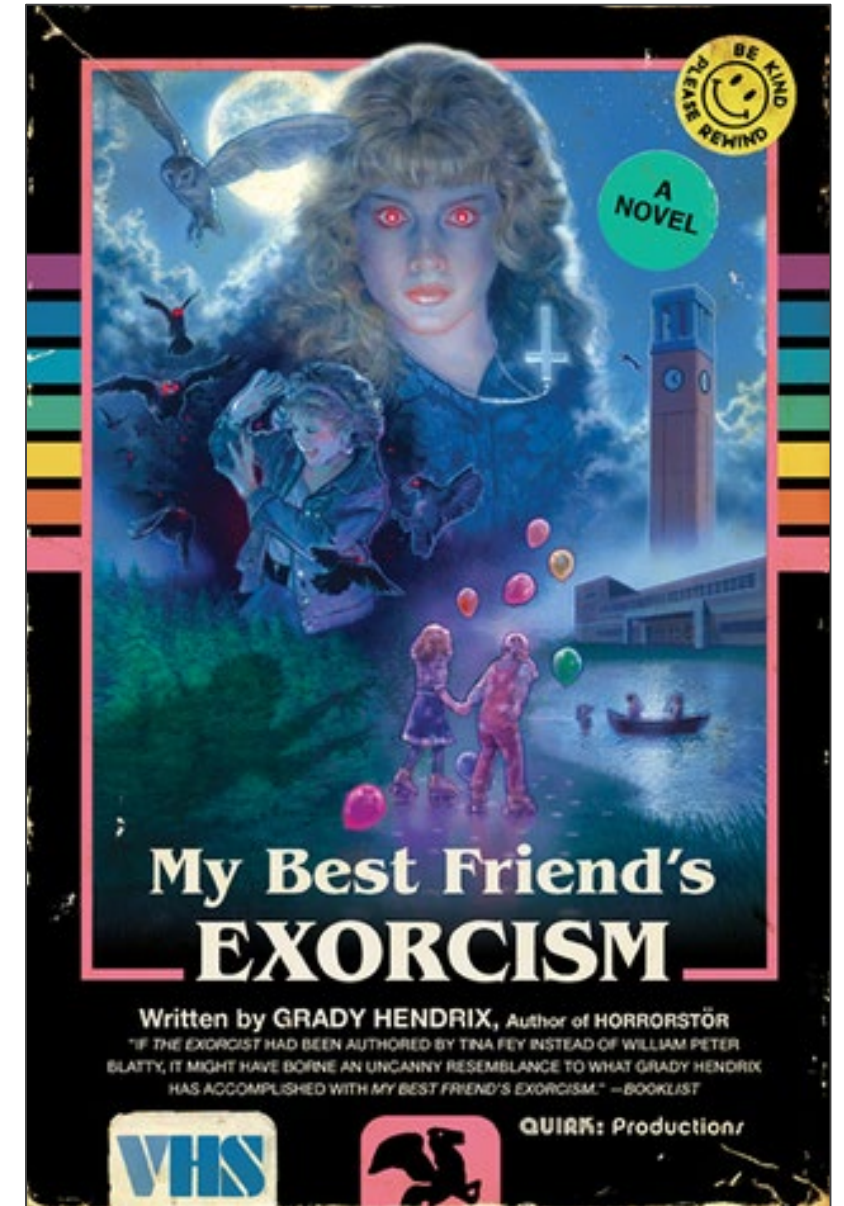
Horror Starter Pack

- ✍ Representative of genre
- ✍ Well-reviewed
- ✍ Wide appeal
- ✍ Stand-alone or series starter



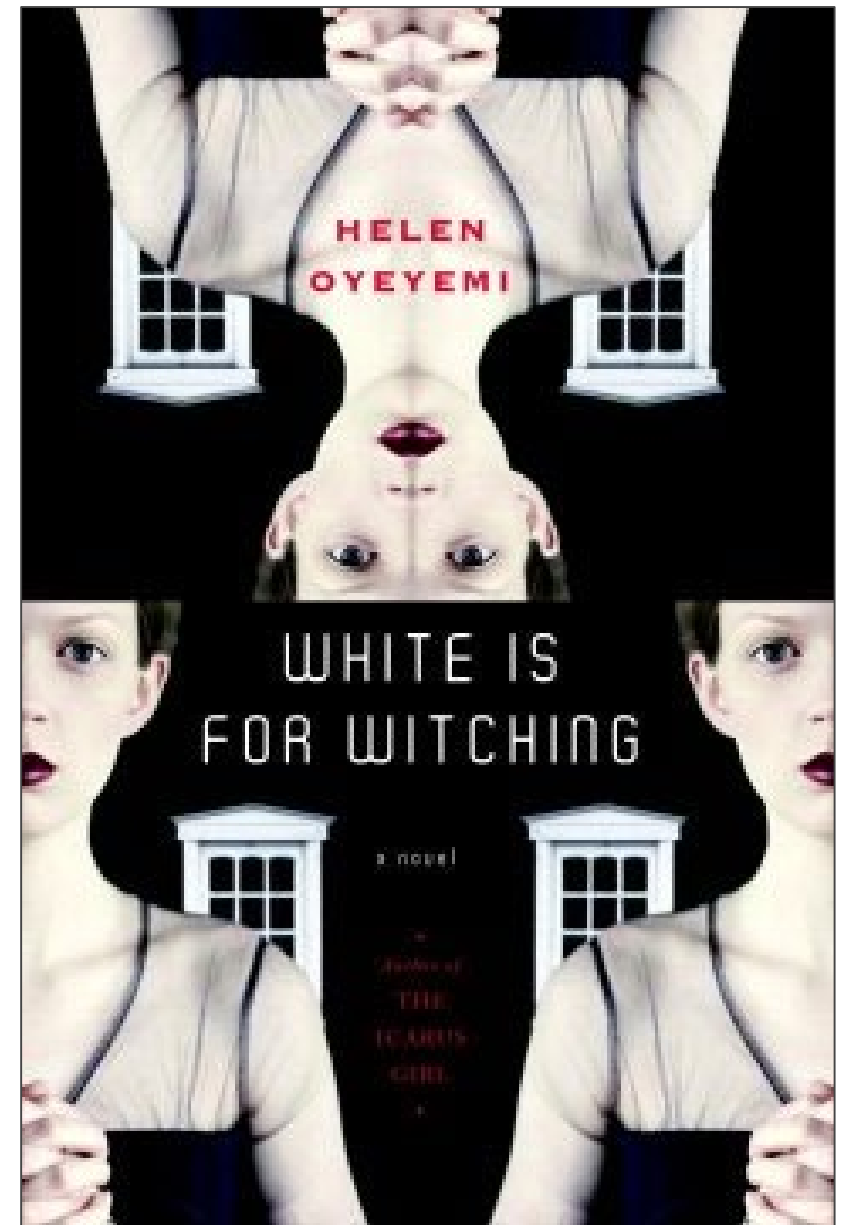
My Best Friend's Exorcism by Grady Hendrix (2016)

- ✦ Darkly humorous
- ✦ Strong female friendship
- ✦ Nostalgic (1980s music playlists)
- ✦ Meticulous attention to period detail
- ✦ Possessed!



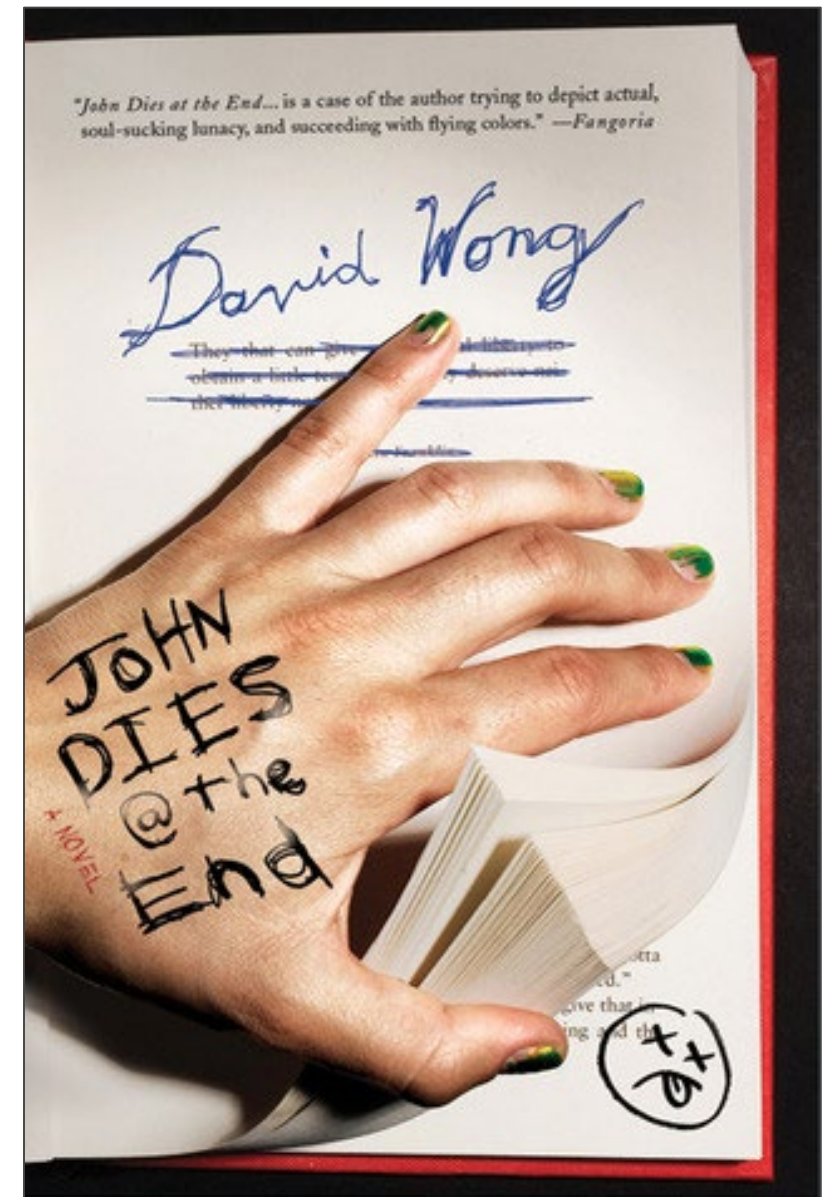
White is for Witching by Helen Oyeyemi (2009)

- 🔪 Gothic
- 🔪 Creepy British manor house
- 🔪 Atmospheric
- 🔪 Ghosts! Maybe!
- 🔪 Nonlinear
- 🔪 Under 250 pages



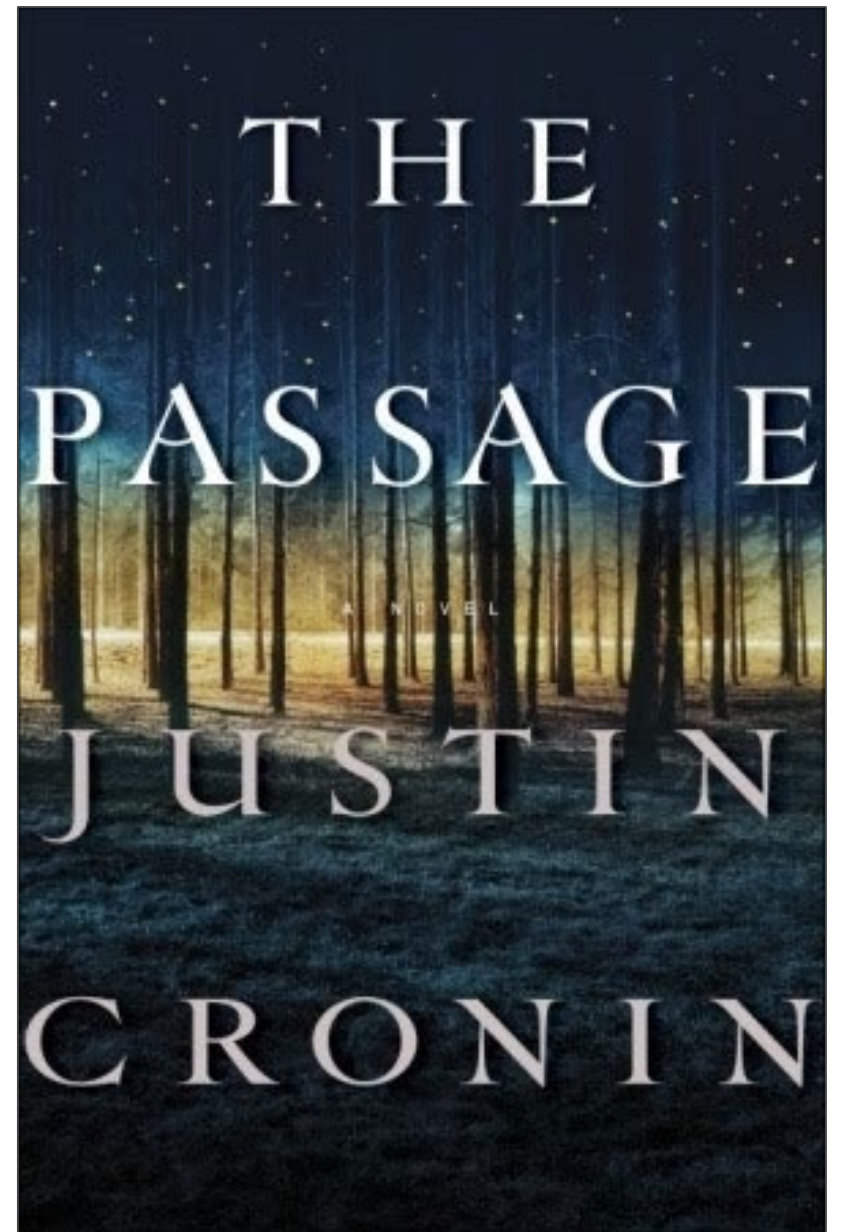
John Dies at the End by David Wong (2007)

- ✍ Jokes jokes jokes
- ✍ Gross-out body horror
- ✍ So meta
- ✍ Fast-paced
- ✍ Well-developed characters, in spite of it all



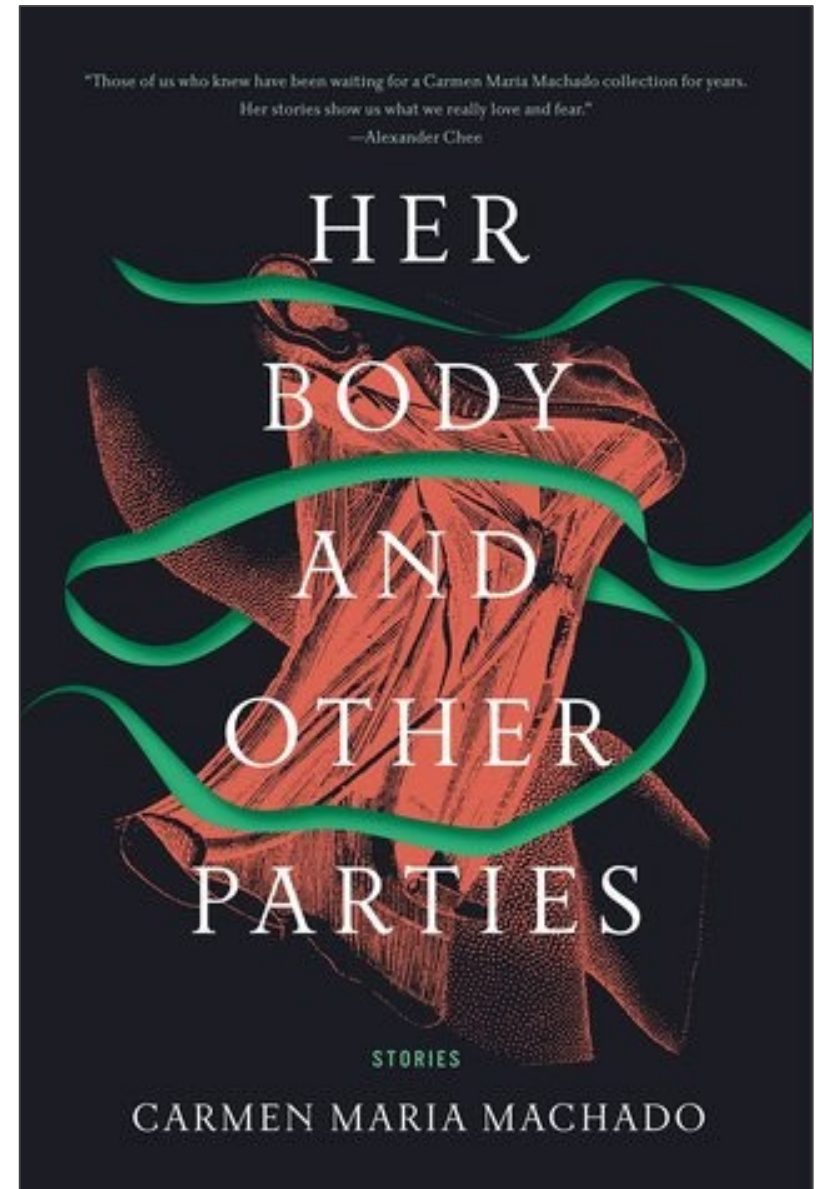
The Passage by Justin Cronin (2010)

- ✍ Band of survivors
- ✍ Vampire menace
- ✍ First in a trilogy
- ✍ Sweeping epic
- ✍ Bleak
- ✍ Menacing



Her Body and Other Parties by Carmen Maria Machado (2017)

- ✦ Short stories
- ✦ Queer feminist take on body horror and fantasy
- ✦ Creepy and surreal
- ✦ Thought-provoking
- ✦ Multiple award winner
- ✦ In development as an FX anthology series



Resources



RA FOR ALL: HORROR

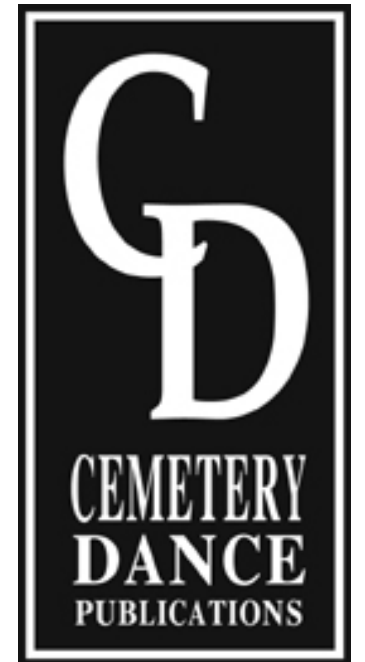
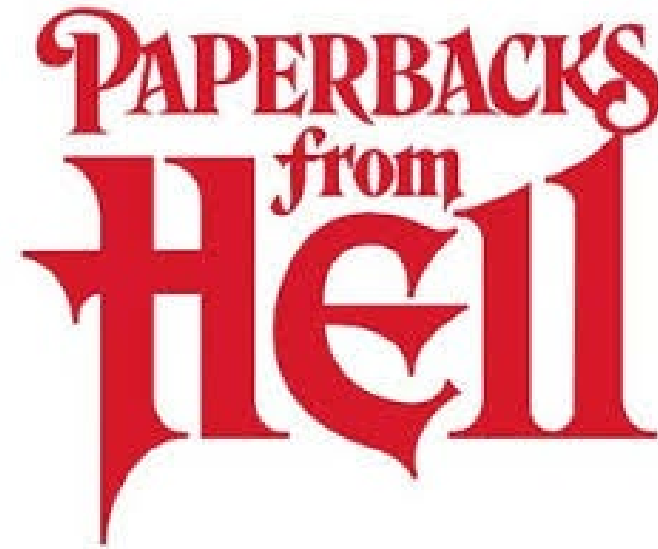
THE ONLINE HOME OF THE READERS' ADVISORY GUIDE TO HORROR,
AN ALA PUBLICATION.



GRAVEYARD SHIFT SISTERS

purging the black female horror fan from the margins

Indie Publishers



Awards

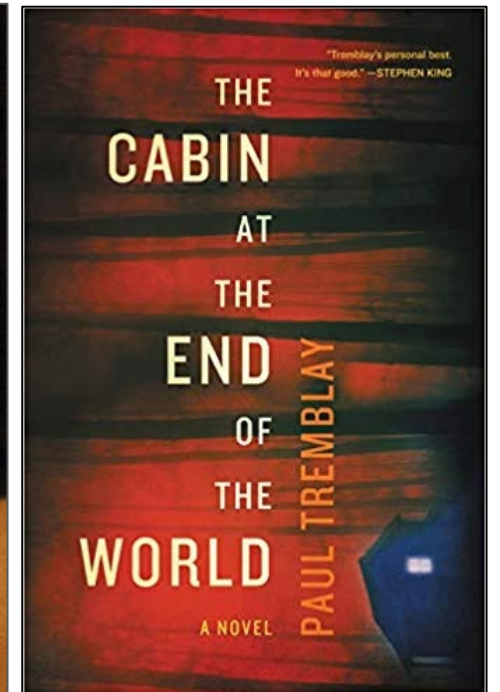
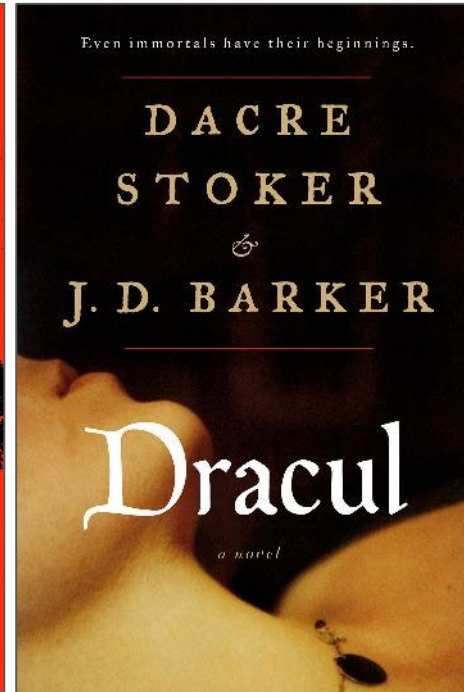
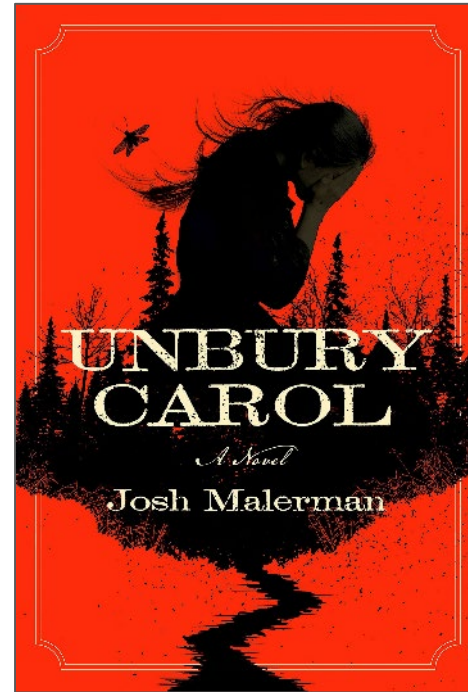
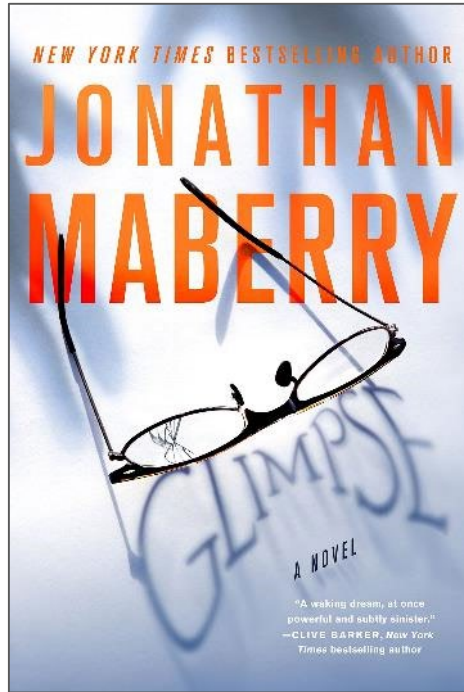
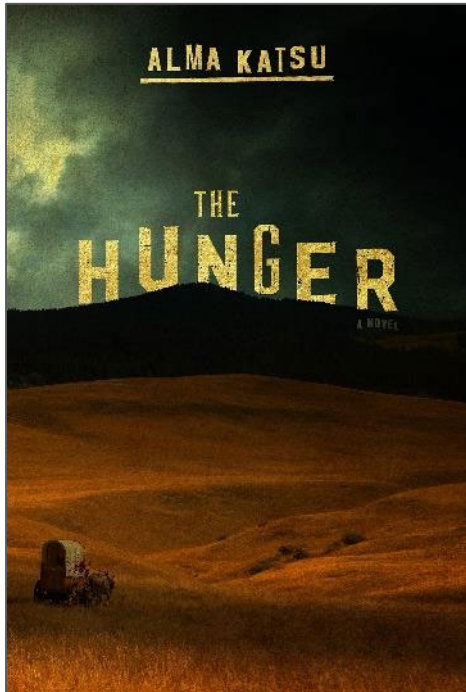
The **Bram Stoker Award** is awarded by the Horror Writers Association for “superior achievement” in horror writing.

thebramstokerawards.com



The **Shirley Jackson Award** is for outstanding achievement in horror, the dark fantastic, and psychological suspense. shirleyjacksonawards.org

2018 Bram Stoker Shortlist



NoveList Resources



Genre outlines

Keeping up pages

Recommended reads lists



Getting Up to Speed in Horror

By Sarah S. Davis

[Print this genre outline](#)

What is Horror?

The goal of horror is to inspire fear. Horror manipulates our deep-rooted anxieties and brings them vividly to life on the page. These fears could be material -- clowns, wolves, vampires -- or they could be intangible, like solitude, poverty, and failure. Escalating tension pits an everyman against his own mind in a clash that is often more psychological than physical.

What happens in a Horror novel?

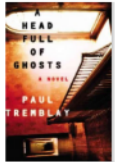
Horror tales often begin in a fairly normal world, suddenly and disastrously invaded by monsters, and lead to a horrific climax. Many layer tension upon tension as the story builds toward a showdown with a psychological and/or corporeal tormenter, possibly by a shocking twist. In all horror stories, expect an uneasy atmosphere. Intensified by graphic violence, strong language, and explicit sex, these novels explore the dark side of human nature.

"[Readers] expect to be scared and are drawn to stories that hurtle them down dark roads at a fast clip. Horror allows readers to face their worst fears in a safe environment."

Why do people like to read Horror?

They expect to be scared and are drawn to stories that hurtle them down dark roads at a fast clip. Horror allows readers to face their worst fears in a safe environment. Horror answers the "What if?" question by giving readers a place to indulge, rather than deny, the primal itch to go down those dark basement steps, to confront what is just past the line of vision. Fans of horror savor the genre's ability to follow temptation and take pleasure in terror.

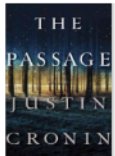
Key titles



A head full of ghosts

Paul Tremblay

Paul Tremblay's Stoker winning *A Head Full of Ghosts* captures the devastating erosion of a suburban family during the Great Recession. Eight-year-old Merry witnesses her unemployed father's increasing focus on religion with unease. Merry's older sister, Marjorie, is experiencing escalating psychotic breaks, leading John to sign the family up for a reality TV show that would center around Marjorie's exorcism -- and give them some much-needed money. Soon, Merry begins to question the authenticity of Marjorie's possession. Under her sister's spell, Merry is pulled toward the darkness herself, leading to tragic consequences.



The passage

Justin Cronin

In this series opener, a government experiment to build the perfect soldier goes awry when the blood of a Bolivian bat transforms death row test subjects into vampires. The virus spreads across America once the prisoners escape. Amy, a gifted six-year-old girl, might be the key to humanity's salvation. Cronin's completed trilogy blends vampire tropes with high-concept meditations on good vs. evil, earning him both a cult and critical following.
Series: [Passage trilogy](#)



ABOUT HORROR

Whether you're looking for a frisson of fear or an adrenaline rush that has you running to turn on the lights, **horror** delivers the chills! This genre draws on the unseen, the unknown, and the uncanny to expose (and exploit) our deepest, darkest fears. Stories range from creepy to outright gory, and readers may have strong likes/dislikes in this regard. **NovelList tone appeals** can help refine search results to find the perfect horror read.

GENRE ESSENTIALS

- [Getting Up to Speed in Horror](#)
- [Horror from Dread to Gore \(NovelList Blog\)](#)
- [All About Horror \(Teens\)](#)
- [All About Horror \(Older Kids\)](#)

AWARDS TO KNOW

- [Aurealis Awards](#)
- [Bram Stoker Awards](#)
- [Shirley Jackson Awards](#)

Explore HORROR themes...



EXAMPLE:

Playing God

An experiment's safeguards aren't enough to prevent disaster in these tales of scientific overreach. *(adult)*

[Find more books with this theme!](#)

[Learn all about themes here.](#)

LOVE THESE LISTS!

Adults

[For Fans of Stranger Things](#)

[Psychological Horror](#)

[Horror Short Stories](#)

Teens

[Straight Up Scary](#)

[For Fans of The Walking Dead](#)

Older Kids

[For Fans of Gravity Falls](#)

[Monsters and Creeps](#)

[Scary Short Stories](#)

We Recommend...



[Browse more HORROR...](#)

Haunted!

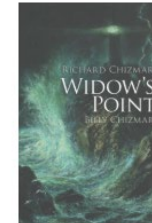


[Black Rabbit Hall](#)
(Feb 2016)

By: Chase, Eve

Popularity: ★★★★★

[Check Availability](#)



[Widow's Point](#)
(Feb 2018)

By: Chizmar, Richard T.

Popularity: ★★★★★

[Check Availability](#)



[House of echoes](#)
(Apr 2015)

By: Duffy, Brendan

Popularity: ★★★★★

[Check Availability](#)



[The grip of it](#)
(Aug 2017)

By: Jemc, Jac, 1983-

Popularity: ★★★★★

[Check Availability](#)

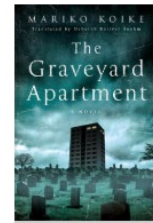


[Mapping the interior](#)
(Jun 2017)

By: Jones, Stephen Graham, 1972-

Popularity: ★★★★★

[Check Availability](#)



[The graveyard apartment](#)
(Oct 2016)

By: Koike, Mariko, 1952-

Popularity: ★★★★★

[Check Availability](#)

Genre browse

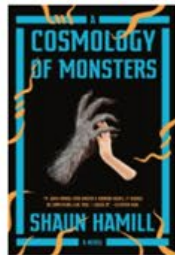
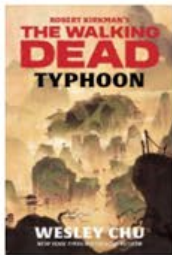
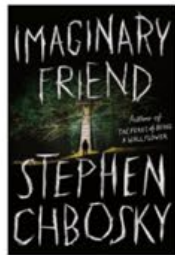
Adult **Teen** Ages 9-12 Ages 0-8

New and Popular in...

Horror

Forthcoming Horror [View All](#)

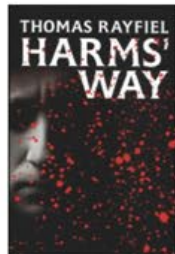
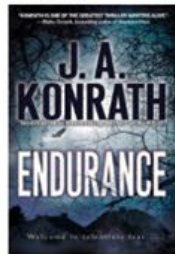
The latest to keep you up at night.



< >

Real life monsters [View All](#)

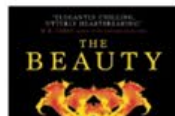
Not all monsters are supernatural -- sometimes they are sitting right next to you!



< >

Body horror [View All](#)

I can't eat spaghetti anymore thanks to Nick Cutter.



< >

Lists

[Short Stories: Horror](#)

[This Is The End](#)

[Not Just for Teens: Horror](#)

[For Fans of It](#)

[Haunted!](#)

Helping Readers

[Keeping Up . . . Genres Table of Contents](#)

[Keeping Up . . . Horror](#)

[Getting Up to Speed in Alternative History](#)

[That Deer in the Headlights Feeling, or Five Things to Do When You Forget Everything You Ever Learned About Reader's Advisory](#)

[African-American Fiction Authors](#)

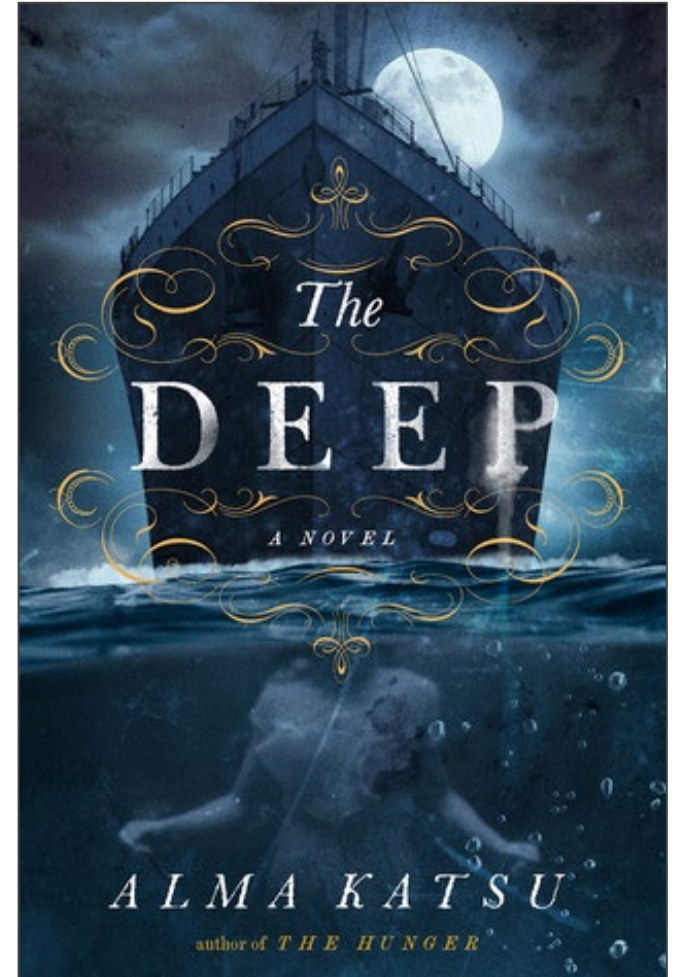
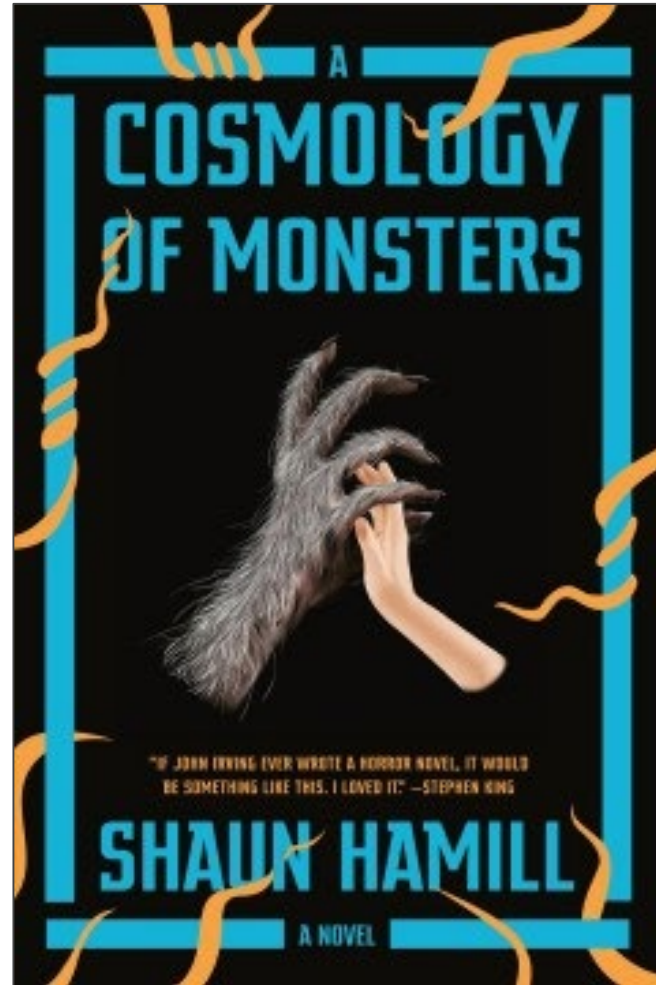
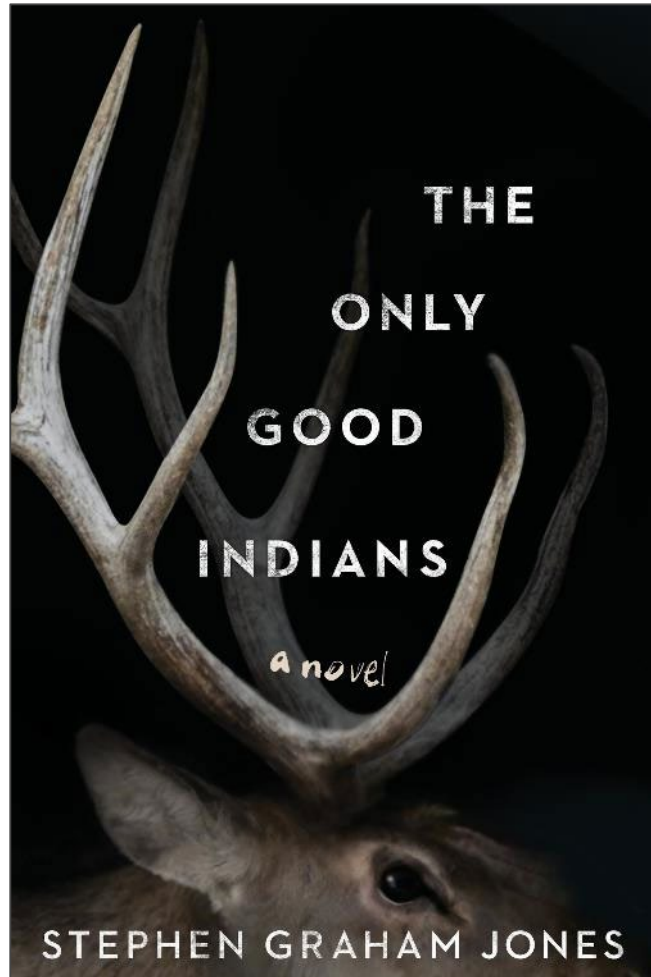
[What We're Loving: Holiday Horror](#)

[Wanted, Dead or Alive or Undead: The Weird, Wild West](#)

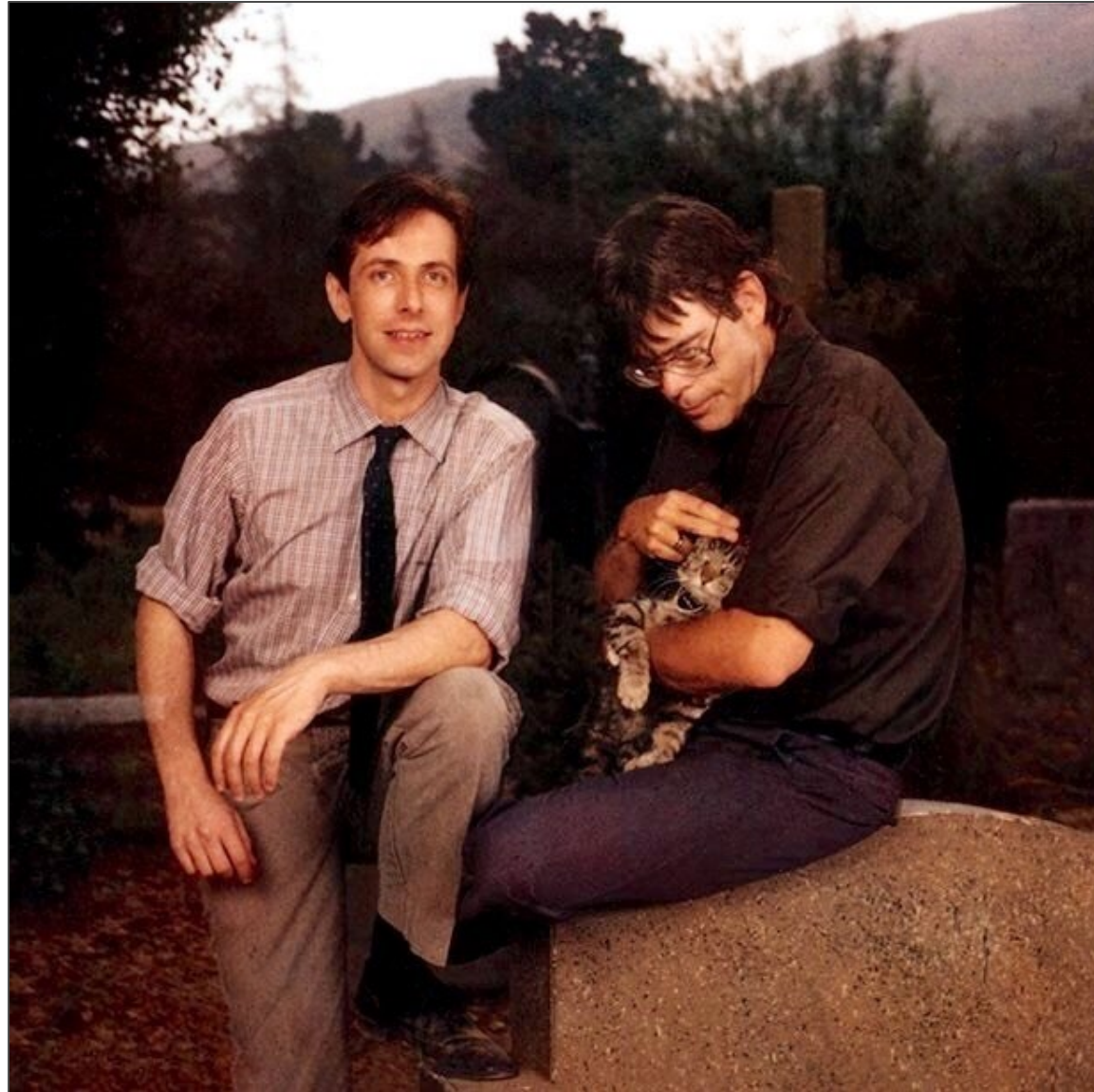
[My Top 10 Final Girl Novels](#)

[Dracula](#)

Books we can't wait to read



Questions?



The background of the slide is a photograph of a library. On the right side, there are several tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The books have various spines, some with colorful covers. In the center and left side, the background is blurred, showing a reading area with wooden tables and chairs. The overall lighting is warm and soft.

Thank you
Learn more at
ebSCOhost.com/novelist & libraryreads.org

NovelList[®]
Empowering Librarians... Engaging Readers

Finding Horror in NovelList