

[Download pdf] The Year's Best Fantasy: First Annual Collection

## The Year's Best Fantasy: First Annual Collection

*From St. Martin's Griffin*

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**From St. Martin's Griffin : The Year's Best Fantasy: First Annual Collection** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Year's Best Fantasy: First Annual Collection:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Old Favorites and New (to me) DiscoveriesBy S. LawrenceThis collection had a fascinating introduction that detailed a time of change for the Horror and Fantasy industry. There were a lot of good stories in this one, with a few that made me scratch my head. My two favorites were:Halley's Passing, by Michael McDowell. It's about a serial killer who travels around and has a quota of one death before dawn of each day. The way the story was laid out was so perfect. We're in the character's head, and he's business-like about what he does, keeping a notebook record of his expenses, murders, and income from each murder. It's the sheer lack of emotion about each kill, laid out in clear detail, that got me. Each kill had to be different, because he was obsessed with avoiding patterns. The most horrifying details were often off the cuff statements, which made them all the more impactful. I loved the deliberate movement of the character through the story. And the way he came across his victims, in places you feel safe, daily situations, etc. It gave such a cold, hard look at daily life.The Pear-Shaped Man, by George R.R. Martin. First of all, I've never read anything of his, and I had no idea he was originally known for horror. As of 1987, he was considered a horror author. This story hit perfectly on certain experiences women have with men. A woman moves into an apartment building and frequently sees a neighbor watching her. He's uber-geeky (I pictured one of Martin Short's characters when he was described, especially when it came to the brown polyester pants pulled up to his armpits), socially clueless, has pasty skin, etc. It was the details in this story that got me, though. I noticed it had me physically pulling into myself, squinching up, shoulders rising, during certain parts. There's no gore or

violence, but the geeky neighbor is gross in a million little ways. Stuff like a perpetually moist lower lip, squishy white fingers like maggots....and cheese doodles.I listed these two separately because they're the stories I'm still thinking about, the ones I discussed with friends after reading them. However, there were plenty of good stories in the collection.Honorable mentions (my other favorites):A World Without Toys, by T.M. Wright. The fantasy element and commentary on adulthood were such fun, and the setup was immediately an eye catcher.The Other Side, by Ramsey Campbell. A great piece of psychological horror. And it involved a creepy clown! Yay! I have a thing about people being made to doubt their own sanity, and this story was all over that.Fat Face, by Michael Shea. Though everything seemed harmless, there was a sense of horror beneath the actual story. It used the senses well, and was beautifully written. Felt inspired by H.P. Lovecraft.Uncle Dobbins Parrot Fair, by Charles de Lint. This story was magical. One of the few purely fantasy stories that made it into my favorites. It was about magic in the modern world and belief in magic. It left me with a feeling of content and happiness, and put a smile on my face.Haunted, by Joyce Carol Oates. This story was haunting and gripping, because she says fairly early on what's going to happen, yet you read on to find out more, and with that little bit of hope that it won't happen. It flitted around, jumping from time to time, which was effective in keeping the reader guessing and in making the details disjointed.Splatter: A Cautionary Tale, by Douglas E. Winter. This was told in an unusual way, with a horror writer trying to find success during a time that appeared to be the castration of horror writers. Alongside his story are snippets about a battle to keep horror from becoming violent pornography, with a call for women to have better treatment in horror. It was told in flashes that tied it together with actual horror movies/stories of the time. Cleverly done.Gentlemen, by John Skipp and Craig Spector. This one felt deeply symbolic of men who are abusive. But it was literal in this, in the sense that a good man is taken over by something that burbles out of the toilet in a dive bar. He can see what he's doing, but has no control. Until years later, when he finds he can move one arm while the thing inside him sleeps. Disturbing.And one that really affected me, though I'm not sure it was a favorite necessarily, was DX, by Joe Haldeman. The author was a Vietnam vet in real life, and this is a poem about war time. It was a gut punch, and left me with moist eyes at the end. Incredibly powerful. And sad.Overall, great collection of stories, and a lot of fun to read the introduction. There are several authors I'd like to read more from, and there were no stories I absolutely hated. There were certainly no authors I'd avoid after this collection.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy lydia g. klimczukEnjoyable but needed more horror stories.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The collection that started it allBy jodi comptonStandout stories by Lucius Shepard and Alan Moore make this book a keeper. Also a concise and informative view of what was going on in fantasy and horror fiction, movies and television in 1988: you might want to track down some books/DVDs you missed.

1988 1st Ed St. Martin's 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1