



13 Phantasms and Other Stories

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The first short story collection from Philip K. Dick Award-winning author James Blaylock features sixteen thought-provoking forays into the fantastic—from a tale of alien influence on an ordinary neighborhood to the story of one man's self-destructive obsession with a dragon.

13 Phantasms and Other Stories Details

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Author : James P. Blaylock

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From Reader Review 13 Phantasms and Other Stories for online ebook

Randolph says

Excellent collection of, for lack of any better description, Bradbury-esque, stories. There is a little bit of horror, some urban fantasy, some steam-punk (Langdon St. Ives), and some just plain stories. Blaylock is adept at setting the sort of wistful nostalgic atmosphere of the future (?) that Bradbury does so well and making you feel the narrator has actually remembered this tale. Many of Blaylock's stories are so gossamer that the inattentive reader may assume there is nothing there when actually there is plenty.

Benedict Reid says

Beautifully written... but still, uncompelling. I almost didn't finish this collection of short stories. Each story started with a bang and ended with a whimper.

Megan says

This was a pretty fun anthology of James Blaylock's short stories. My favorites of this collection were "We Traverse Afar" and "Thirteen Phantasms."

Taffnerd says

The best of these are kin to Roald Dahl's best adult stories. Spooky and clever and quite a bit of fun.

Gregg says

Imagine visiting a retirement or nursing home, sometimes called an 'old folks home', and being trapped there, forced to listen to the meanderings of poor souls who can remember things from 60 years ago, but can't remember anything that happened this week. The "stories" in this book could have been written in the 1800's. They have more in common with ghost stories than they do with science fiction.

Ian McKinley says

I'm not usually a fan of short stories, but I found a few in this collection interesting, especially those dealing with Prof Langdon St. Ives. That said, I would have liked to see greater diversity in the characters (particularly a few women protagonists) and in the geographic settings.

Tania says

"13 Phantasms and Other Stories is rich in quiet humor and it invites us in, makes us comfortable. The edges are soft, like the lines between fantasy and reality, and each story is a world unto itself....In keeping with nostalgia-fantasy, this book is a time capsule of the first two decades of Blaylock's early career. From the simplistic beginning of Red Planet, where we can still see the rough edges, to the mature work of Thirteen Phantasms and The Old Curiosity Shop, where the stories are polished and become more thematically complex, this collection showcases the development of a writer. And James Blaylock turns out to be an excellent writer, a conscientious craftsman whose writing is beautiful, something to savor..... "

Read the rest of this review by M. Bobowski on The Short Review.

Isidore says

Charming, gentle stories with, for the most part, the fantasy element subtle and underplayed. There is something of the wistful soft-centredness of Bradbury, but Blaylock, unlike, RB, does not slop all over. Well worth a look.

Kiki says

This is a wonderful book. The stories are rich and subtle. Blaylock is a master at creating a world -- our world -- where the fantastic peeks around the corner, blurs into the mundane, and leaves a door ajar -- but only for a bit -- in case you want to walk through.

laurenpie says

Made me smile

Especially loved "Thirteen Phantasms" itself, a charming and clever short story. Made me smile. Enjoyed the other stories as well.

Jeff says

This was my first venture into James P. Blaylock's writing. I've been wanting to read some of his work, but usually only see it on Subterranean Press's site, which is prohibitively expensive. Anyway, I also love short stories, so this book was double good. Maybe even "double-plus good."

This was a charming set of short stories, starting out with the title story, which involved some time continuum issues.

There were several Langdon St. Ives stories, which I found very satisfying. I really want to get my hands on some more of those stories. One of those involved a very disturbing account of some jewels that made up the eyes of an idol, deep in a jungle somewhere. Only the "idol" turned out to be something more.

I recommend this book highly. I plan to find some more Blaylock soon.

Theo Logos says

If you have not yet reached midlife, you might want to subtract a couple of stars from my rating, or wait an appropriate number of years before reading this volume. Blaylock writes with a rare, ethereal subtlety on subjects that I simply would not have appreciated in the same way as a young man. The best of these stories are about loss, longing and regret; regrets that cannot be made right, loss that will never be replaced, and longing for the irretrievably gone. These stories are little meditations on fading. Read this one, but not before you turn fifty.

Jon says

Fine writing, quite, but with the occasional plot and a much more cheerful tone. Ha!
