



Fantastic Orgy

Carlton Mellick III

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Shark women, mutant cats, and strange sexually transmitted diseases.

Over the past few decades, sexually transmitted diseases have evolved in unusual ways. Herpes, AIDS, Gonorrhea; these are all STDs of the past. These days, sexually transmitted diseases are more extreme and bizarre. Not exactly diseases anymore, they are more like sexually transmitted body modifications. There's an STD that changes your hair color, an STD that causes your toes to grow larger, one causes you to grow extra breasts on your body, another causes your skin to grow long metal spikes, and there's an especially annoying STD that causes you to ejaculate miniature eyeballs.

Tonight is Share Your STD Night at the Demon Seed Swingers Club. Although most members of society fear the idea of contracting these diseases, there are some underground deviants who embrace them. They believe the diseases make them strange, unique, and beautiful. So they come together once a month to trade their wonderful STDs with each other in a surreal, fantastical orgy. However, tonight will not be like other nights. There's a new disease spreading through the sex club, a disease that causes people to become rabid bloodthirsty killing machines. As the infected rampage through the Demon Seed, the survivors realize there's only one thing they can do to survive the night: turn their grotesque STDs into deadly super weapons.

Also featuring the short stories:

Candy-Coated - A buff dude with a lollipop for a head has a hard time picking up the laydaaays due to all of the bearded truckers who keep trying to lick his head.

Ear Cat - A Kitty of the Month Club selection gone horribly wrong.

City Hobgoblins - A member of a punk rock band falls in love with a shark-like creature. (a prequel to the cult novel Satan Burger)

Porno in August - A group of porn actors find themselves floating in the middle of the ocean, unable to remember who they are or why they are there. (Chosen for The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror)

Fantastic Orgy Details

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From Reader Review *Fantastic Orgy* for online ebook

Sheldon says

What if sexually transmitted diseases suddenly mutated to give people extreme body modifications that are essentially super powers? This is the premise of *Fantastic Orgy*, the titular story (huh huh, I said “titular”) in this short short story collection by Carlton Mellick III.

Among these stories are a buff guy with a lollipop for a head trying to pick up women, a bunch of weird looking cats in a world plagued by agoraphobia, punk band roommates in a city overrun with hobgoblins (more on this later), and a group of porn actors who are lost at sea and have no memory of how they got there or how long they've actually been there. Each one of these stories brings something interesting to the table, and each one is immensely enjoyable.

If I had to fault one of these stories, it would have to be “City Hobgoblins,” mostly because it just didn't click for me, although there is probably a good explanation for this. At the end of the book, Mellick has been kind enough to provide an author's note for each story, explaining the origin and other background information for each one. These are actually really interesting to read, and a good look inside the author's head. Apparently, “City Hobgoblins” is actually a prequel/origin story to another one of his books, *Punk Land*, which I haven't read yet, and didn't know this while reading it. A failure of the author to disclose this beforehand, or a failure of the reader to know this, I'm not sure. It probably could have been easily fixed by having the author's note for each story in front of the story, which I've seen done in other collections.

Aside from this frustration born of my own ignorance, most of these stories will make you laugh and make you cringe, sometimes at the same time. Keep in mind that these stories are not for the faint of heart, though. There is explicit sex and violence throughout a few of these stories. Well, if the name and cover of the book isn't a dead giveaway about that one, then you're probably not much of a reader anyway. Although, admittedly it's not as over the top as some other Bizarro books I've read.

Fantastic Orgy by Carlton Mellick III earns 4.5 bench-pressing muscle cats out of 5.

Scott Emerson says

Carlton Mellick III has been hailed as one of the brightest, bizarrest talents in the field of weird lit. His latest collection, *FANTASTIC ORGY*, is a fine example of his strengths, five stories that blend visceral thrills, erotica, social satire, and vicious wit into a thoroughly unique vision.

In the title story, the collection's centerpiece, mutants meet at an exclusive swingers' club to trade fashionable, functional STDs (I'll not spoil the fun in discovering just what that entails) until a strain of violent, unpredictable disease turns the revelry into a fight for survival. Like a fever-dream remake of Cronenberg's *THEY CAME FROM WITHIN*, this longer tale is worth the price of admission alone.

The other stories are no less impressive. Featuring a body-building douchebag with a lollipop head (and a taste for fine cheese), a bio-engineered cat made of ears, a porn-film cast adrift in a very strange ocean, and shark sex--lots of shark sex--Mellick serves up oddity after oddity without sacrificing story or character.

Highly recommended.

Brett Robinson says

"Mark," the director screams, "go fuck that shark in the ass!"

As the rabid fuck-mutants charged me, I felt long tentacle-like hands reaching out for them. It was my hair.

FabulousRaye says

Like the chick on the cover, I too have crazy hair that objects get all tangled up in. Her hair is more awesome, because it's a STM and actually tentacles!

* If STD's did modify one's body in weird and sometimes super-hero ways, people would totally have unprotected, fantastic orgies all the time.

* Did you know that mutated Ear, Muscle, and Gentlemen cats from a Kitty of the Month club are excellent therapy? They'll help cure your hoarding urges and agoraphobia!

* It's been about 12 years since I had a wine and cheese pairing class. So, I'm not entirely sure a Stilton would go with a Tropical Sensation lollipop head.

* Shark sex, punk bands, set in the world of SATAN BURGER?! AHHHHHHHHH! Best Story EVER!

* I'm not sure why there are amnesiac porn stars floating around the ocean. You probably don't either. Hmph.

Michael Kelly says

A collection of five very ... unusual ... short stories.

Each story takes a truly weird idea and runs with it, asking "what would happen if this was real?" For example, "What would happen if a buff man trying to pick up girls had a lollipop for a head?", or "What would happen if STDs were collectible body modifications?"

Having established their ludicrous premise, the stories are then written 'straight', with no deliberate gags. They're hilarious, of course, but they're funny because they're treated seriously and are so skewed from ordinary reality.

A hugely entertaining collection.

Dustin Reade says

holy shit.

Cooper says

Short bursts of Bizarro, giving you a swift kick in the mind-balls!

Keith says

So this is the first official Bizarro Fiction I've ever read, and I think I really liked it. Sometimes I can't really tell if Mellick writes really loose and a little casually as a stylistic choice, or simply as the result of writing like ten books a year, but he's really got a knack for pulling a narrative together. And oddly enough, for all the anarchy and amorality associated with bizarro, the code of conduct being preached on here is pretty front-and-center. Sure, there's a guy with a lollipop for a head, a woman who owns a cat made of ears, and multiple tales of weird mutant animal sex gone impossibly awry -- but lollipop head guy is also giving us a lesson in self-respect, cat lady is showing us the dangers of isolation, and weird sex stories are like ALWAYS about moral-something-or-other and never actually about the freaky-decky.

One might argue that the window dressings of bizarro and the straightforward narrative and moralistic cores of these stories are perhaps not integrated as well as they could be, and if you were having that argument with me I'd let you win. But it's also nice to walk away from this collection and feel like there was purpose festering beneath the shock value and toilet humor -- that this is not just the literary equivalent of Troma, done just for laughs.

Probably the one story that really didn't work for me was the same one that apparently won a bunch of awards -- "Porno in August," which just seemed weird and disgusting for the sake of being weird and disgusting. Sure, it was interesting that its themes weren't apparent and that its narrative folded in on itself rather than resolving. But it was also kind of a big uncomfortable mess. Who knows, maybe I was just too dumb for it. Maybe me and my ear cat gotta get outside more often.

Craig says

As the title would suggest, there's a fair amount of sex within this book. As a book of short stories, the stories range and vary in weirdness, but all are entertaining.

The first story, Candy-Coated, is about the struggles of an overly buff guy with a lollipop for a head and how difficult it is to get laid with a candy head.

Next is Ear Cat, about a shut-in who is sent a cat with ears covering its body instead of fur. It leaks earwax all over the house and constantly listens to everything. Personally, one of the grossest stories in this collection.

Fantastic Orgy is about a time when STDs are no longer diseases, but have mutated into different forms of body modifications. Some STDs can change your hair color, some make your breasts/penis larger, and some making even more extreme changes. STDs become a commodity to swap, like trading cards.

City Hobgoblins only needs two words: Shark sex.

Porno In August I can't even really describe without giving too much away. Just a bunch of porn stars dropped into the middle of the ocean to make their film. Shark sex does appear in this one, too.

Overall, the book is brilliantly weird and absurdly funny.

Albert says

What the hell?

Justin says

I was a little disappointed that the feature story wasn't longer but it was a great story, as where the four others in this collection of five short stories. I am still fairly new to this author, this was my second title of his I have read and enjoyed. I think my favorite part is the author commentary at the end where he is trying to explain what was going on in his brain when he wrote these stories, it is pretty funny so be sure not to skip it. There really isn't much I can say about these short stories that isn't already said in the books synapses without giving away spoilers, but I can say that if the description of the book sounds like something you will like then you probably won't be disappointed with it.

Brian Tasler says

While most of CM3's work are novella length Fantastic Orgy represents the rare occasion where we get a taste of his short stories. 5 of them are collected here including the title story.

Mellick is the purest form of bizarro in that his stories are always over the top and entertaining as hell.

"Candy Coated" is my personal favorite of these and was the original story I had read in the online version of Vice Magazine. If you have the chance to access the link to this story there is an awesome audio version featuring the PA voice-over from the Whole Foods Stores that narrates this one (although I noticed in reaccessing the link that I for one seem to have trouble getting the audio portion to work as the link is pretty old).

The hero of Candy Coated is a clueless musclehead with a lollipop for a head (Tropical Sensation Flavored) who thinks his buff physique will be enough to pickup the Laydayyss. Brilliant satire piece.

Ear Cat shows the devolution of society as 98%+ of residents have become agorophobic and never leave their home. The Kitty of the Month club serves as the catalyst for getting people back outdoors.

In a prequel which includes some of the characters he later explores in his novel Punkland "City Hob Goblins" includes sex with a shark women and a group of punk-rocker rejects and a society overrun by hobgoblins.

Porno in August is a brilliantly tailored bizarro look at the Pron industry within the confines of the ocean as the characters literally become empty shells.

The centerpiece though is the "Fantastic Orgy" which is as off the wall entertaining as bizarro gets. clubs dedicated to the contraction of new and outrageous STD's serves as the backdrop for a war between the freak mutants and the few remaining humans. STD's of all types are included - Gender Changes, Talking Penises, Breast Enlargement, etc. Swinger clubs will never look the same.

Brilliant short collection from the zaniest in the genre.

Deanna says

A collection of bizarre, slightly disturbing, but strangely entertaining short stories. I recommend not reading this book while eating, which is what I tend to do.

jasmine says

honestly, all of my mellick reviews are more or less the same thing: his world building skills are second-to-none, he pays close attention to the diversity of his cast without making it feel like an afterschool special, and all of his characters seem to pop right out at you, even tiny, irrelevant background characters. i love his books, i love his girls. i love him. there you go.

Justin says

This is one of the funnest and most mesmerizing collections I've ever read.

Here's a quick break down of what you'll find inside:

CANDY-COATED is about an alpha male that has a lollipop for a head. He desperately tries to pick up chicks but it's tough when bearded truckers keep licking your head. Included in this story are fine cheeses and hilarity.

EAR CAT takes place in a world where everybody is agoraphobic. People no longer leave their homes or socialize. This really isn't too farfetched from what the world is starting to become. Anxiety grips the main character as she awaits her next Kitty of the Month club selection which have been becoming rather bizarre as of late.

FANTASTIC ORGY places you in a world where designer STDs are all the rage. They are no longer the STDs of yesteryear and rather have morphed into Sexually Transmitted Body Modifications such as vampire fangs, tentacle hair or even cheetah skin. There's a lot more inventive one's in the story but I'd hate to give anything away.

CITY HOBGOBLINS is about a punk rock band that is currently holed up in their apartment due to...you guessed it, Hobgoblins. Things start to get weird when one of the members starts to bring home Hobgoblin girls. There are no fine cheeses in this story.

Finally, PORNO IN AUGUST is about a group of Pornographers that get stuck in the middle of the ocean while trying to film an avante garde/Gilligan's Island parody. No one is ever quite sure which? This story is like a trippy version of the film OPEN WATER.

This is an excellent collection that I urge anyone to read, except maybe the easily offended. Every story is solid and highly creative with a lot of laughs. This was a blast to read!
