



Cities of the Dead

Jason Phillip Reeser

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Ghosts, devils, grave-robbers, killers, lovers, pirates, and dead Rock-and-Rollers. These are only some of the inhabitants of Jason Phillip Reeser's short story collection Cities of the Dead. Each of these thirteen stories is set in one of the many above-ground cemeteries in New Orleans where the dead refuse to be buried. Not every story has a ghost, but every story is haunted by the inevitable ghosts that lurk in the shadows terrorizing our darkest corners: regret, guilt, fear, obsession, despair, failure, and loneliness.

Cities of the Dead Details

Date : Published October 2nd 2012 by Saint James Infirmary Books

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Author : Jason Phillip Reeser

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Genre : Horror, Short Stories, Zombies



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From Reader Review Cities of the Dead for online ebook

Marissa says

Didn't bother finishing it. Found getting into it harder and slower than I'd expected. First story seemed really vague and extremely boring to me. Might revisit it later when I've got nothing better to do.

Conny says

I was a First Read Winner of this book and I enjoyed reading it very much. I am not as eloquent as some people when it comes to reviews and for some reason I am having a real hard time expressing my thoughts. It reminded me of some of Edgar Allan Poe's work and it is just as thought provoking. All the characters are vivid and each short story delivers a new message. In my eyes Jason Phillip Reeser has made the Cemeteries in New Orleans more intriguing, I certainly could only walk though them in the daylight. I highly recommend this book.

Amanda says

I tried to get into the stories but I just couldn't. They didn't interest me and I had to finally give up on them.

Brandi says

I really liked the way this book was written. It is a series of short stories written from a ghost's point of view. Some regretted things they did in life such as isolate himself and others were just happy to have died with their spouse. Such creepy little tales and yet they warm your heart. Props to Jason Philip Reeser and his book.

JC says

Some of these stories were more interesting than others, but I just couldn't get into them that much. Not much of a ghost type guy though, so that didn't help. Free from Amazon at some point so picked it up and read it.

Jason Reeser says

Review Comments from the inside cover:

"Given how lively and rich the characters are in Jason Phillip Reeser's debut collection, it seems terribly ironic that they are mostly dead. Even in death though, they yearn for what we yearn for—happiness,

freedom from fear, understanding, love, some meager dream of hope or salvation. That such things elude them still is part of what makes Cities of the Dead so powerful and compelling. Floating from story to story, I felt like a man gawking at headstones, and after finishing the book, I felt haunted by truths I couldn't name, as I do after a visit to a graveyard."

Neil Connelly,
Assistant Professor of English, Shippensburg University
Author of St. Michael's Scales, The Miracle Stealer

"Like Emily Dickinson, Jason Phillip Reeser is intrigued by the theme of consciousness after death. Like Edgar Allan Poe, he knows that a guilty conscience can produce hells that are worse than Hell. And like Rod Serling in the old Twilight Zone TV series, he knows how to present little paranormal vignettes that leave his audience wondering. Put it all together with a twist of Louisiana Gothic and you have a recipe for an enjoyable read."

Julie Kane
Poet Laureate of Louisiana
Professor of English, Northwestern State Univ. of Louisiana
Author of Jazz Funeral,
2009 Donald Justice Poetry Prize winner

"In the current literary undertow, where desultory chatter poses as drama and self-regard becomes both an ersatz setting and an even more dispiriting temperament, Jason Phillip Reeser's Cities of the Dead is a curative for these impoverished contours.

"The language of each tale is unembellished yet fills the page with local color, universal emotion, and an unironic romance for the deathly that lurks throughout so much of life itself. Where dull minds often see "a melting pool of smoke and terror," Jason bears witness to a panoptical *joie de mort*, guiding us beside unfamiliar voices and telling inscriptions to an intimacy with the ethereal.

"Three works from this collection have already graced the pages of *Danse Macabre*. We're jealous we didn't get all the others. But in *Cities of the Dead*, connoisseurs of bespoke story-telling get the panoply of Jason's macabre quill. Little gods may die, but good *erzählungen* are forever."

Adam Henry Carrière
Editor/Publisher of
Danse Macabre An Online Literary Magazine™

Lynne King says

I really like the writing style of Jason Reeser in this book of thirteen short stories, all of which are a delight. He brings poignancy to the people in their "new lives" in these cemeteries in New Orleans which makes compelling reading. I've always liked cemeteries and it's certainly brought a new dimension to how I now view them, especially crypts.

The scene is set with the opening words in the first short story, "The Wanting Dead":

"My first night in the City of the Dead was a real eye-opener."

I can see the author's point here. It must indeed be quite a shock to find that you're dead and then to meet

others in the same situation.

The book just got better and better after that.

If I had to say which stories I preferred, they would be "The Unbroken Seal" as I felt so sorry for Paul and how he'd messed up his life before and, as a result, in death; Greta who was so generous in spite of everything in "The Rossi"; "A Night in the City of the Dead": It all happens when Captain Lafitte decides that he "is going over the wall"; "Mugging the Dead" with Edward Williams was excellent but my favorite has to be "The Prophet" with the philosophical dead rock star, Teddy Oracle.

It's just a wonderful collection of short stories. I still don't know what makes a good book but I just know this is one of them.

I highly recommend this book to all age groups.

Wendy Bloink says

i was given a copy of Cities of the Dead from the author to read and review.....
this is a compile of 13 short stories all taking place in a Cemetery in New Orleans . you are introduced to each of the characters and you get to hear their stories you also get to read how they interact with each other in the Cemetery... it was an interesting book it was a change from what i normally read and i did liked it. would i recommend Cities of the dead? yes i would.

Laudys says

How to describe this book?

It features an array of short stories and, while not all of them are horrific or scary, they all have death and cemeteries as common denominators. Some of them will make you think, others will make you worry but they all will surely strike that chord of "gosh, I'm going to actually die one day, maybe I should reevaluate my life choices while I still have time". But the moment is fleeting and easily forgotten as the story unfolds and the dead and the living stretch and cross over their respective boundaries.

A nice read.

Joann says

When I started reading it felt like I was in the middle of a story by Edgar Allan Poe but wait, the time frame is wrong. I wish I had read this book around Halloween. Ordinarily, I am not a fan of short stories but I really liked these because they had a common thread that held them together.
