



Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos, Vol 2

August Derleth (editor), H.P. Lovecraft, Robert Bloch, Ramsey Campbell, Brian Lumley, James Wade, Colin Wilson

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Robert Bloch – The Shambler From The Stars

H. P. Lovecraft – The Haunter Of The Dark

Robert Bloch – The Shadow From The Steeple

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Ramsey Campbell – Cold Print

Brian Lumley – The Sister City

Brian Lumley – Cement Surroundings

James Wade – The Deep Ones

Colin Wilson – The Return Of The Lloigor

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Nathan Shumate says

These early volumes edited by Derleth show precisely the flaw of those who continued in Lovecraft's footsteps: the tightrope effort to avoid slavish pastiche of Lovecraft's style while also avoiding anything that contradicted either the worked-out mythos behind the stories or the general tenor thereof.

Jeff says

I have been picking up some of these Lovecraftian books at used bookstores. This one is by H.P. Lovecraft "and others" which is at least honest since there is one HPL story here. I liked it; honestly, some of the later writers like Robert Bloch are almost better than the original stuff. Plus there is a hilarious story about dolphins by James Wade.

Karyn says

I am excited to finish this book as it contains all three parts of the Bloch/Lovecraft trilogy starting with The Shambler From the Stars. Thank you Powells' for having this gem on your shelves when I went for the Lovecraft Film Festival!

Most of the stories were quite entertaining except for James Wade's *The Deep Ones*. It had a good start but Wade really wrote a challenge for himself in making dolphins seem ominous.

East Bay J says

I've only read the Cthulhu stories of Lovecraft, Howard and Bloch, so this was a good opportunity for me to check out some other writers takes.

The first three stories in the book, one by Lovecraft and two by Bloch, make up an interrelated narrative and there's an interesting story behind that. Bloch asked Lovecraft if he could not only put him in a story but actually have Lovecraft die. Lovecraft thought that was a grand idea and gave Bloch his blessing. That story was "The Shambler From The Stars." Lovecraft returned the favor by killing Bloch in his story, "The Haunter Of The Dark." Bloch provided the finale by putting himself and Lovecraft in the final story from this trilogy, "The Shadow From The Steeple." I love that Derleth put these three stories in order in this volume.

Of the rest, the standout for me was Colin Wilson's "The Return Of The Lloigor." Aside from the disparaging attitude towards the Welsh (I'm Welsh and I am *not* descended from an ancient, evil weirdos), this was a good story with all the classic elements of a good Cthulhu tale. In fact, every story in this book is good. I was unaware that Brian Lumley got his start writing Cthulhu stories. I think the weirdest story is

James Wade's "The Deep Ones." I mean, the bad guy in this one is a *dolphin*. Dolphins are nice. Science can prove it. It's a good story, though and relates nicely to Lovecraft's tales of Innsmouth.

I'd definitely like to find and read the first volume of *Tales* because it was a pleasure to check out some other writers having fun with Lovecraft's creation. I'm definitely looking forward to reading more.

Elektrohase says

Wieder sehr genossen. Auf jeden Fall irgendwann Reread.

Andreas Schmidt says

Non al livello del primo libro del ciclo di Cthulhu

Racconti carini tutto sommato. In particolar modo le storie sugli antichi. Serve una preparazione culturale non indifferente (che Lovecraft possedeva) per scrivere racconti che spaziano in ogni campo dello scibile umano. Sono costretto anche ad ammettere che i racconti qui raccolti non sono al livello del tomo precedente; "Il caso Charles Dexter Ward" a mio avviso è la perfezione assoluta relativa di Lovecraft, un racconto che lascia una traccia indelebile. Qui invece ci sono racconti per lo più racchiusi nel pantheon delle divinità mostruose, con la figura dominante di Cthulhu.

Marlen says

After reading the second volume of this commented collection of the Cthulhu myth, my first impression is hardened. I really adore Lovecraft's universe and appreciate the ideas he's forming, but I'll never get used to his style. The novels are way too detailed. God damn, it's enough to say those damn tunnels are huge, I don't care if they are 5 or 9 meters high. Further, I surely get the idea of repetition to create the impression of an existing universe or multiverse, but hell, it gets annoying after 3 novels straight. But, you can have fun with that volume if you adore Lovecraft, and if it's only for the annotations..

Cassidy says

Very nice compilation, specially as it focuses more on Lovecraft's successors (Colin Wilson, James Wade, J. Ramsey Campbell), who bring the mythos into a modern context--and a modern, less Lovecraft-affected style, for a change.

alex says

I don't mean to say by giving this 5 stars that all of the stories are amazing - it is just a good, fun read and I didn't want to skip any of them. The first few are amazing though... it gets weighted down a bit by the James

Wade and Colin Wilson stories at the end which are overlong, but again I still enjoyed them.

Jerry Kimbro says

It was this book that introduced me to Lovecraft. I still remember the day i read as if it were yesterday though it was 40 years ago! My whole view of the universe got rocked by Lovecraft's story 'the Haunter of the Dark' and the two sequels penned by Robert Bloch that appear in this volume. Every tale in here is by a classic horror writer! Some are from the 70s: Ramsey Campbell, Brian Lumley; others were contemporaries of HPL: August Derleth, Robert e Howard, and even Clark Ashton Smith.

If you only read ONE Lovecraft book - then i highly recommend this one. I still read it and I have been reading it over and over since 1975...

Edgar says

Very nice compilation, specially as it focuses more on Lovecraft's successors (Colin Wilson, James Wade, J. Ramsey Campbell), who bring the mythos into a modern context--and a modern, less Lovecraft-affected style, for a change.

Daniel Cloutier says

Nach Lektüre beider Sammelbänder reicht dann erstmal wieder, alles in allem ist Lovecrafts Werk zwar vielseitig, im Kern aber dennoch repetitiv. Was nichts daran ändert, dass die Innsmouth Geschichte zum besten gehört, was ich im Bereich Horror je gelesen habe.

Die Sammlung ist in beiden Bänden mit klugen und informativen Kommentaren versehen, ich kann sie als Werkübersicht für Lovecraft uneingeschränkt empfehlen.

David Allen says

The opening trio of linked stories -- Bloch's tribute/sendup of HPL, followed by HPL's he-has-a-sense-of-humor rejoinder, and then Bloch's fond response after HPL's death -- is classic. It's a mixed bag from there: I liked Bloch's other contribution, Lumley's first and Wilson's, didn't think much of Campbell's or Wade's. Unnecessary, but not bad for a tribute volume.

Mark McLaughlin says

The Robert Bloch stories in this collection are a real treat. If you love H.P. Lovecraft's breathless tales of cosmic horror, you should also read both volumes of Tales of the Cthulhu Mythos. Great vintage stuff from an energetic era of powerful fiction.

Jonathan Stewart says

Fantastic collection of Lovecraft-inspired stories. My gosh, the line-up of authors is a dream team. Robert Bloch is always a special treat. Ramsey Campbell, Brian Lumley (the truest progenitor of Lovecraft mythos since H.P. himself). First stories are the best and it slows down a bit after that, but overall a stellar effort.
