



There's a Giant Trapdoor Spider Under Your Bed

Edgar Cantero

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The thrill of a sleepover becomes sheer terror as kids voice their greatest fears into existence in this cheeky, vividly cinematic tale by *New York Times* bestselling author Edgar Cantero. Lights out.

It's bad enough that its venom-dripping chelicerae can slice through flesh like warm butter. Worse? It's right there under the bunk. *It's a fact now.* To make it through the night, the children must obey the rules: don't get out of bed, stay out of the shadows, and don't wake the beast. But as the threats multiply, so do the rules of survival. And with the safety of dawn still hours away, the fun is just beginning.

Edgar Cantero's There's a Giant Trapdoor Spider under Your Bed is part of Dark Corners, a collection of seven heart-stopping short stories by bestselling authors who give you so many new reasons to be afraid. Each story can be read in a single sitting. Or, if you have the nerve, you can listen all by yourself in the dark.

There's a Giant Trapdoor Spider Under Your Bed Details

Date : Published September 27th 2018 by Amazon Original Stories

ISBN :

Author : Edgar Cantero

Format : Kindle Edition 24 pages

Genre : Horror, Short Stories, Fiction, Audiobook



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From Reader Review There's a Giant Trapdoor Spider Under Your Bed for online ebook

Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

I went into this story having read some of Edgar Cantero's other work, and so I had a rough idea of what I was in for. I was right. He does a near perfect mix of silly and serious that absolutely delights and brings back strong memories of childhood.

I loved the set up. The story kicks into gear immediately. (A good thing considering its only 24 pages long.) I felt like I was right there with the kids as everything was going sideways for them.

And the ending? Offbeat, unexpected, and perfect.

This was a fun short story that made me smile, but heart-stopping terror? Not even vaguely close.

L. McCoy says

So the third book in the series of standalone horror stories free for prime users, Dark Corners (or as I'm calling it Amazon Horror Story) is the weakest so far.

What's it about?

Despite being a standalone book I would actually have to spoil things from this book in order to fully explain it so I'll skip that.

Pros:

This book is pretty intense and exciting throughout.

The way this book is written makes it very suspenseful.

There's a bit of political humor and it actually made me laugh. I think that humor involving politics can either be great (an actual well thought out joke) or cringey (orange man bad) and this is very well done political humor.

Cons:

The story while sort of interesting is kind of unoriginal. Basically take It (the 2017 movie, I still need to read the book) and make it a PG rated (maybe PG-13 since "shit" is said a few times), not very well written short story, that's what this is in many ways.

The characters aren't interesting. There's very little personality to them.

So out of the 3 Dark Corners stories I have read only one of them has been particularly creepy or good at horror... this isn't the one. The horror here is very weak, it's basically "hey, monster". Nothing creepy, nothing weird, it doesn't even go for gore, it's very weak in the horror department.

The constant Harry Potter references are annoying. Don't get me wrong, references can be fun and/or humorous but in this it's annoying to me for 2 reasons.

1- They aren't very funny. One of them was kinda humorous but most of them... no. This being said I am not a hardcore Harry Potter fan, I just recently got around to reading book 1 and thought it was only "okay" (don't worry I plan on reading book 2 don't fill the comments section with your top 500 reasons I should read book 2) so maybe I just didn't appreciate them as much.

2- There aren't many references to anything else. I get the author probably loves Harry Potter but it doesn't have references to much else. I love Archer but if 45% of it was Archer references with no variety it... while it probably would have made me laugh more but still if you just reference one particular thing nonstop in a short story it will most likely get annoying.

The ending is abrupt, slightly confusing and stupid.

Overall:

I tried these stories and will probably continue exploring these Dark Corners but I'm in no hurry. I tried the first 3 and my opinion on the series as a whole is in the middle, not being good or bad.

Hannah Beast is okay (the one I think of as one that does the horror element well) while Sleep Tight Motel is good and this one is stupid IMO.

In all fairness I sorta expected it. It does say "giant trapdoor spider" and I find the whole big bugs thing to be kind of cheesy (though I did like Starship Troopers, again movie, need to read the book). I personally wouldn't recommend this one. Sure it is intense and suspenseful but it's also unoriginal, annoying and gives readers a dumb ending.

2/5

Varun says

A very tough read. A few children play around the bed with pillows, flashlights, wardrobe doors and what not. While they are imagining spiders, mirrors and anti-matter etc. Thankfully it was a short one.

My exact reactions while reading the book:

Juli says

I'm familiar with Edgar Cantero's writing. His book Meddling Kids has a permanent spot on my keeper shelf. So I was totally excited to listen to this short story. And Cantero did not disappoint!

Remember sleep overs as a kid? Not the teenaged ones with whispered confessions about boys/girls or comparisons of puberty progress....but the younger, first experiences when imagination games powered the evening's fun. And The Rules that everyone knew you had to follow.... Don't let your feet dangle over the edge of the bed. Stay out of the dark. Never, ever look under the bed. Jump over the last step on the stairs. All of those kid's games that fade away with age. Cantero paints a picture of such a sleep-over....but the kids' imaginations bring their fears to life. Multiple kids.....multiple fears. Before dawn, they must use their smarts and figure out how to win the Boss Fight with their collected fears and save their lives.

As with most of the stories in the Dark Corners Collection from Amazon/Audible, this story is not horror....but a fun mix of humor and fear. I remember being quite serious about my arms or legs never straying over the side of a bed for fear something in the dark, or under my bed, could grab me. At six, I was adept at tucking my blankets around my body so that I couldn't roll over in the night and be boogie man fodder. My life was saved when I turned seven and my mom let me have a cat. Snoopy slept with me every night. And everybody knows that a cat scares away the boogie man and all creepy crawlies that think they

can hide in a child's room at night. I was safe.....as long as the closet was shut. Always keep the closet closed at night. Always.....

This story made me smile the entire time I was listening to the audio book. A brilliant game of pretend among friends that turns a bit too real.....and they struggle to come up with a plan to defeat their Rules and their fear-created monsters. As I went to bed last night, for the first time in 42 years I checked to be sure the closet was securely closed....and armed myself with my pets (I have added dogs to the mix now. We all know that dogs take care of anything that might sneak in past the cats....unless there is a mirror in the room or if you step on a crack in the floor while walking to the bathroom at 2 am.)

I'm giving this story full stars because it made me happy. :) It reminded me of The Rules, sleepovers and years of happy, safe, terror-filled nights with friends, some of whom I haven't seen in 30 years.

Be sure to keep your closet closed. And.....never, ever look under the bed!

There's a Giant Trapdoor Spider Under Your Bed is the 3rd story in the Dark Corners Collection. These stories aren't really horror, but a collection of psychological, emotional dark tales. Some I liked....some I didn't. But, I have to give kudos to this collection because all of the stories are different and creative with a spin on modern problems. None of the stories are in-your-face typical horror. These seven stories are more subtle. More of a nod to the darkness of the modern age, rather than ghosties and things that go bump in the night. Give them a try....if you dare.

Edgar Cantero has written several books including Meddling Kids (the Scooby Doo gang investigates as adults -- awesome book!) and The Supernatural Enhancements.

Montzalee Wittmann says

There's a Trapdoor Spider Under Your Bed by Edgar Cantero and narrated by Amy Landon is a fun audible about kids having a sleepover then things start happening. Is it their imagination or is it real? Loads of creativity! Enjoyed it a lot and the narration was terrific!

Sandra says

Strange short story for children about some kids having a sleepover, and while they are in their bunk beds they think a large trapdoor spider is under the bottom bunk.

I didn't care for this story at all, I didn't even understand most of it. My least favorite so far in the Amazon "Dark Corners" collection.

karen says

i loved the beginning of this. i loved the trepidation of, "wait, what?? is this really happening??" and all its goofy-spookiness. but then its goofy began to outweigh its spooky -- which would ordinarily be fine;

cantero's brand of goofy is just what i like, but it started going somewhere i couldn't follow. i don't know if you need to have read (or seen) any harry potters to best understand/appreciate this story, but i have neither read nor seen, although i ate some harry potter jelly beans one time, and they were gross. as a story that captures the spirit of childhood and slumber party logic and contagious terror, it's a lot of fun. i just felt like i was missing something trying to read around all the harry potter bits. life is hard for the hp-ignorant. there's safety in numbers and danger for lonesomes.

come to my blog!

Bradley Spoon says

Whatttttt did I just listen to?? First of all, the narrator of this audiobook sounded like she was a surfer dude, not adolescent boys having a sleepover. They also both sounded exactly the same.

Second of all, I actually have no clue how old these kids were—that's never discussed. But their imaginations make it seem like they are 8 or 9. I can't believe a preteen or older would make up a "giant trap door spider under the bed" and actually believe it enough to have an adventure with your best friend during a sleepover.

It reminded me of one giant game of "hot lava" —the game I used to play when I was younger—when you couldn't touch the ground and if you did, you lost/got burned.

Third of all, WHY ALL THE HARRY POTTER COMMENTS!?! What did HP have to do with this novella? Like, I'm a huge HP fan, but I felt like it was used in the novella to gain some attention/popularity. So weird.

Finally, I gave it two stars because it does represent the LGBTQ+ community at the end and I support that!

Overall, horrible book. So boring. All over the place. Juvenile. And not scary AT ALL!

Free on Amazon Prime.

Andy Kristensen says

This short story is so ridiculous in so many aspects that I don't even know where to start. The plot is somehow simple but extremely convoluted at the same time, none of the characters are likable, the author apparently seems to be skewering the PC-ness of today by having young children say things like "woke," "hashtag," and "safe space," none of them sounding natural in the process, and then throws in a try-too-hard twist at the end in regards to one character loving another. This story is such a mess that I'm surprised Amazon allowed it to be a part of the Dark Corners collection of stories.

Shaina says

This was cute. I'm not sure how old the "kids" in it were. It was a very unusual thing. Was it their imaginations or was it real?

Kyra Leseberg (Roots & Reads) says

The Dark Corners series is published by Amazon Original Stories just in time to be creeped out during the Halloween season! It's a collection of short stories by several well known authors and I decided to start with this story because I'm a huge fan of Edgar Cantero (Meddling Kids, This Body's Not Big Enough for Both of Us).

There's A Giant Trapdoor Spider Under Your Bed took me right back to childhood: the delicious thrill of acting out a dangerous story and making up the rules as you go along.

In a mere 24 pages, Cantero takes us from an ordinary sleepover to a night of sheer terror all thanks to the excitement of children caught up in a game.

When one boy refuses to answer his phone and is going to leave the room, his friend tells him there's a giant trapdoor spider under the bed. *"It's a fact now."* he says.

And with that, they are off on an adventure to survive the night, making up the rules as they go along. They boys can't leave the bed because of the giant spider underneath and then the shadows in the room become antimatter they have to steer clear of.

The sister of one of the boys and her friend have to carefully make their way in to the room and on to the bed as they run from the mirror people who are chasing them.

The power goes out and soon their flashlight, too. They hatch a plan to make it out the window and to the back yard where they left their wands in order to cast a spell to remove the spider, antimatter, and mirror people.

Some reviewers have mentioned the multiple Harry Potter references being "too much" for the story but I think the references felt genuine. We don't know the exact ages of the kids or what year it is but get a general idea based on how they play and the mentions of HP and of a cell phone but it seemed to bother several reviewers that we weren't given this information.

There's A Giant Trapdoor Spider Under Your Bed is a fun and creepy story relying on childhood nostalgia to entertain readers. I enjoyed this short tale of the excitement of children playing a game where what they say suddenly becomes true (*"It's a fact now."*) and making up the rules as they go along. I think most readers will remember getting swept up in games like that with our friends and how the rules would get stricter and the dangers more intense as it went along.

For more full reviews, visit www.rootsandreads.wordpress.com

Bonnie says

I don't even understand what that was even about.

Hippie Chick says

Kids are scary

I liked the imagination used in this story. A group of kids telling scary stories at a sleepover, with the stories becoming all too real.

Jake Miller says

BOO! Hiya, everybody. Amazon recently released their Dark Corner collection, a series of 7 short stories and novellas, free for Prime members (through their borrowing program, Prime Reading). I got an email from Amazon and immediately downloaded them because, as I've discussed before, I love getting the heebie jeebies and I love a bargain or a freebie.

I decided to attach this review to this specific short story because it was the last one I read in the series and I would give the collection as a whole a 3-star rating, so it will be my representative of the entire collection. Cantero's story is imaginative and captures the force and weight of a child's imagination. The pacing was well-done and I faced no struggle in reading through the text. But, the plot was at times confusing and the 'big reveal' at the end felt obvious from the beginning. Overall, it was an okay story. I felt similarly about Raboteau's 'The Sleep Tight Motel,' which felt like it was going in a specific direction (maybe a supernatural thriller), but ended up being an episode of The Twilight Zone. Don't get me wrong, I absolutely love The Twilight Zone series, but this story's twist felt unoriginal and campy because of this connection. But, it was an okay story and I enjoyed the protagonist.

There were some stories that I was drawn to (specifically Oates' 'Miao Dao,' McMahon's 'Hannah-Beast' and Reeds' 'Oak Avenue'). These three stories focus heavily on the role of women in society and the struggles women potentially face at different times in their life. The real life trauma of harassment, abandonment, bullying, etc. are described delicately in these stories and provide nice parallels to the more supernatural elements. While I was impressed by how the authors navigated the horror genre, I was mostly dissatisfied with their respective endings. Thus, I wasn't motivated to give any of the stories a full five star reviews.

'The Tangled Woods' by Raboteau seemed very disjointed. In such a small story, there were too many plot lines and secondary characters. The 'scare' of the book that justified its place in this collection seemed to occur for no reason and the reader is left wondering how the plot even got there. Just an odd story haha. The lowest point in the collection was 'The Remedy' by Haslett, which may be the first thing I've reviewed as 1-star. It deals with some serious issues without ever openly acknowledging them or even exploring them past being a plot twist. Okay writing with a disappointing plot that relies on suspense and science fiction without contributing to either drama. This is the true boo of this post- BOO!!

Overall, the collection was enjoyable. Half were good, half were not. At the end of the day I didn't pay for it, so I guess I win in that regard. If you were interested in the collection, I would just pick and read a few

stories and not feel pressured to read them all. Enjoy the season, get some free spooky stories.

Blair says

A bunch of *Harry Potter*-loving kids (or maybe teens?) have a sleepover and make up a series of horrors, which their imaginations may or may not be bringing to life for real. I struggled to get to grips with/concentrate on this properly because such a lot of things are unclear: the age of the characters, the relationships between them, the context of this particular series of events... It feels like a scene cut from something bigger, not a self-contained story. I was also unsure what the *Harry Potter* references were supposed to add. Overall, a shrug.

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