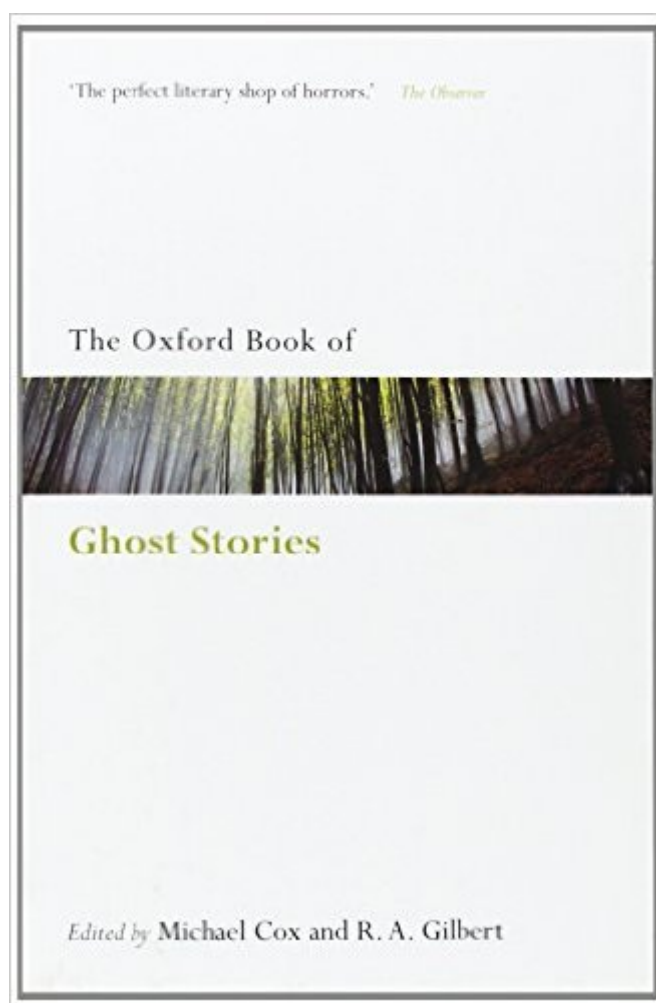


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The Oxford Book Of English Ghost Stories (Oxford Books Of Prose & Verse)



Synopsis

The thrill and chill of the ghost story is displayed in all its variety and vitality through this marvelous anthology. Ranging from the early 19th century to the 1960s, the collection reveals the development of the genre, and showcases many of its greatest expositors - from Sir Walter Scott, H.G. Wells, M. R. James, T.H. White, Walter de la Mare, and Elizabeth Bowen in the UK to Edith Wharton in America. Though its heyday coincided with the golden age of Empire in the nineteenth century, the ghost story enjoyed a second flowering between the two World Wars and its popularity is as great as ever.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The horror genre is cluttered with hackwork, and imitations of hackwork--H.P. Lovecraft seems to have spawned a particularly virulent strain of the latter. However one of its subgenres, i.e. the ghost story seems to attract a better quality of writer--perhaps because a truly frightening tale of the returned dead is so difficult to write. (Believe me, I've tried and after almost half a century of trying, have sold exactly one ghost story).L. P. Hartley, who wrote "The Travelling Grave" and other great stories of the supernatural, described the ghost story as "certainly the most exacting form of literary art, and perhaps the only one in which there is almost no intermediate step between success and failure. Either it comes off or it is a flop."Cox and Gilbert have collected mostly successes (and one or two flops) in "The Oxford Book of English Ghost Stories" and its companion volume, "The Oxford Book of Victorian Ghost Stories." If you suffer from what Virginia Woolf called "the strange human

craving for the pleasure of feeling afraid," both of these volumes will satisfy. Each contains a good mix of familiar and lesser-known ghost stories. Here is a sampling from 'English Ghost Stories': "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs -- A horrible variant on 'Be careful what you wish for. It might just come true.' This is a sad, frightening story--maybe 'the' perfect tale of the supernatural. "The Confession of Charles Linkworth" by E.F. Benson -- A telephone call from a hanged man. "Man-Size in Marble" by E. Nesbit -- An overly sweet Victorian marriage comes to a tragic end on All Saints' Eve.

Thus go the words in the Introduction to "The Oxford Book of English Ghost Stories", edited by Michael Cox and R.A. Gilbert. Usually, I try to revisit my favorite supernatural authors as often as I can, especially the works of masters such as M.R. James, J.S. LeFanu, and Edgar Allan Poe. I enjoyed reading The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales and when I came across this title, I was drawn to it mainly because it listed Michael Cox as one of the editors. I have enjoyed other Cox compilations so I picked this up. I'm glad I did as the anthology contains a wonderful collection of English ghost stories to delight, chill, and enthrall. Here's a listing of the stories to make it convenient for customers looking to purchase this book: The Tapestry Chamber (1829) - Sir Walter Scott The Phantom Coach (1864) - Amelia B. Edwards Squire Toby's Will (1868) - J.S. Le Fanu The Shadow in the Corner (1879) - M.E. Braddon The Upper Berth (1886) - F. Marion Crawford A Wicked Voice (1890) - Vernon Lee The Judge's House (1891) - Bram Stoker Man-Size in Marble (1893) - E. Nesbit The Roll-Call of the Reef (1895) - Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch The Friends of the Friends (1896) - Henry James The Red Room (1896) - H.G. Wells The Monkey's Paw (1902) - W.W. Jacobs The Lost Ghost (1903) - Mary E. Wilkins 'Oh, Whistle, and I'll Come to You, My Lad' (1904) - M.R. James The Empty House (1906) - Algernon Blackwood The Cigarette Case (1911) - Oliver Onions Rose Rose (1911) - Barry Pain The Confession of Charles Linkworth (1912) - E.F. Benson On the Brighton Road (1912) - Richard Middleton Bone to His Bone (1912) - E.G. Swain The True History of Anthony ffryar (1919) - Arthur Gray The Taipan (1922) - W.

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