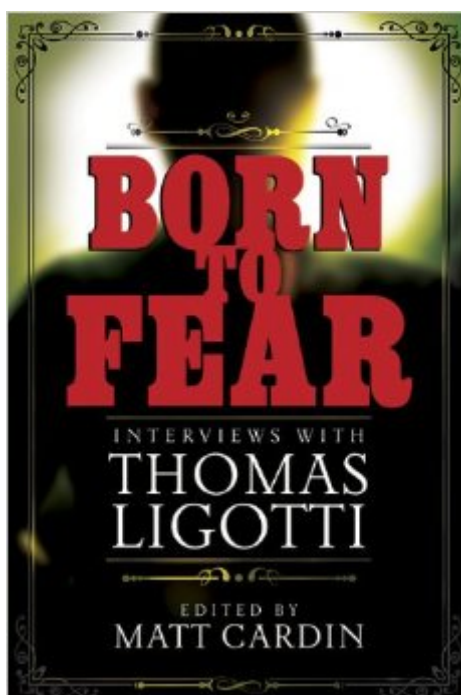


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Born To Fear: Interviews With Thomas Ligotti



Synopsis

The process of interviewing varies. Most commonly it takes the form of conversations that result in off-the-cuff remarks between two or more persons. On other occasions the proceeding is more formal, with questions submitted in writing and answered in kind. The interviews in this volume belong to the latter type. Both the queries and responses were intended to result in more thoughtful and not infrequently more entertaining documents than otherwise might have resulted. This has been the case from the earliest to the most recent dialogues with Thomas Ligotti. Considered in sequence, the interviews herein both complement and extend statements that Ligotti has offered in other formats, including essays as well as his nonfiction work *The Conspiracy against the Human Race* (2010). While the running themes in this volume are not unlike those proffered by most authors--including compositional practices, sources of inspiration, and biographical revelations--Ligotti manages for the most part to reveal how idiosyncratic he is as an interview subject and as a writer of supernatural or weird horror tales. In both genres, the very title *Born to Fear* condenses the provenance of Ligotti's personal experiences and insights. Though often seen as a figure of contrived obscurity, Ligotti, in his replies to the interrogations posed, proves that this accusation is far from the facts. In short, reticence is not this writer's strong suit, especially when probed on matters that simply do not arise in more normative literary conversations. Ligotti is particularly opinionated and paradoxically droll when prompted to expound on philosophical views that to say the least are adrift from the mainstream. At the same time they are indicative of someone who has truly been born to fear, or at least deserves the benefit of the doubt on this question. Of course, readers always have the prerogative to judge for themselves.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you're the type of Ligotti fan that wants to hear everything he has to say (that would be me) you're going to enjoy this. There's a lot of information about his writing process, his world view, and he unpacks some of his ideas from *Conspiracy Against the Human Race*. It does get a bit repetitive, subjects are hit over and over (though from different angles). I think a person should have read *Conspiracy* and at least two other of his books to really get the most out of this title.

Born to fear...because we are born into this....and born to die. Tom Ligotti has dealt with this fear probably all of his life and it really hit him hard just before adulthood. He's had some physical, emotional and mental obstacles in his way but somehow he was able to take the horror of life and the terror of death and fashion some of the finest weird tales this side of Edgar Allan Poe. His tales are not just gory scare fests...they are more horrifying than that. They are psychological explorations of the uncanny and the unreal that dwells in the unconscious of everybody. Most of us do a good job of repressing these fears but artists like Ligotti live with these fears everyday...face to face. Very few can explain their fears and nightmares as well as Ligotti. These are entertaining and enlightening interviews that cover a period of time from the eighties to the present. Ligotti has a very sharp mind a quick wit. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. If you like his stories and his non fiction work, "The Conspiracy Against the Human Race" you'll probably enjoy these interviews.

If you are interested in Thomas Ligotti, this book is a must.

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