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## Six Scary Stories



## **Synopsis**

Six Scary Stories selected and introduced by Stephen King Number 1 bestselling horror author Stephen King introduces and presents six gripping and chilling stories in this captivating anthology! Stephen King discovered these stories when he judged a competition run by Hodder & Stoughton and the Guardian to celebrate publication of his own collection The Bazaar of Bad Dreams. He was so impressed with the entries that he recommended they be published together in one book, which Cemetery Dance Publications and Hodder & Stoughton are pleased to report has become a reality. The six stories are: WILD SWIMMING by Elodie Harper EAU-DE-ERIC by Manuela Saragosa THE SPOTS by Paul Bassett Davies THE UNPICKING by Michael Button LA MORT DE L'AMANT by Stuart Johnstone THE BEAR TRAP by Neil Hudson Reader beware: the stories will make you think twice before cuddling up to your old soft toy, dipping your toe into the water or counting the spots on a leopard. |

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I may have mentioned it once or twice, but in case you missed it, I would say a

limited edition bound copy of Stephen King's grocery list if he ever decided to do something like that. Yes, that's how much I love the man's writing. On top of that, it's published by Cemetery Dance Publications (which I may have also mentioned more than once). With those two things going for it, I knew it just had to be a winner until I discovered that the stories weren't actually BY King, but chosen by him. When Bizarre of Bad Dreams came out, King ran a short story contest for Hodder & Stoughton Publications (a well-known UK Publishers. The stories contained within are the winner, followed by the five runner-ups. To be honest, besides the fact that it was a very quick read, some of the stories were disappointing to say the least; and I hate to see what the losing stories were.1) Wild Swimming by Elodie Harper This was the winner. While this wasn't my least favorite, it most certainly, in my opinion, wasn't the best. First, I'm not a fan of the way it was written; a one way email communication. Second, the story was very predictable, it really only had one ending that the reader was able to discover very early on in the story.2) Eau-de-Eric by Manuela Saragosa This was one of my favorites. I thought I saw the ending coming, and while I didn't get it exactly, it was just creepy enough to be relatable; especially if you have children.3) The Spots by Paul Bassett Davis This was, hands down, my least favorite of the lot. The story made no sense, and again, only had one plausible ending. I agree with King when he says, "Never tell too much. The monster is always scarier when it is still under the child's bed" however, in this story, there needed to be more explanation to make it more relatable.4) The Unpicking by Michael Button This story takes a well-known theme, and ups the ante. You may want to put a lock on your child's toy box in the future. Just saying. Well written, and creepy.5) La Morte De L'Amant by Stuart Johnstone A story about clichés should be described with one, avoid it like the plague. There was nothing creepy, scary, or disturbing about this story except for how it wound up in this anthology. Absolutely nothing happens, and what's left to the imagination is nothing short of a typical CSI episode.6) The Bear Trap by Neil Hudson This was my favorite; hands down. Another story where I thought I had the ending figured out, and was pleasantly surprised to find out that I didn't; in fact, I wasn't even close. So, there you have it. Six stories, and read like the Sergio Leone movie: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly. The eBook price of \$4.99 makes it worth checking out since it comes to less than a dollar a story. And even if you only like a few of them, you're still only out the price of a

Starbucks. But still, I find it hard to believe that these were the top choices by the master himself.

As with his own writing, Stephen King strikes a chord here by prefacing the stories with his experience reading them. Whenever I read a book, especially if I plan on writing a review, I read everything—*the Introduction, Preface, Acknowledgements, Afterwards, and sometimes even the copyright information*. Why? Because I find that these extras provide incite or a connection to the writer or editor. Stephen King, in particular, with his acknowledgement to his Constant Reader, creates a personal connection to his reader. Do yourself a favor and don't skip over King's Introduction. The stories in this short anthology, along with their authors, are "Wild Swimming" by Elodie Harper "Eau-De-Eric" by Manuela Saragosa "The Spots" by Paul Bassett Davies "The Unpicking" by Michael Button "La Mort De L'amant" by Stuart Johnstone "The Bear Trap" by Neil Hudson. Reviewing an anthology presents the unique problem of not retelling the story in a way that longer forms do not. I am loathe to writing spoilers, no matter how innocuous, because I truly believe the next reader should have the same opportunity of discovery I had. I actually avoid reading blurbs, and only picking out certain words that interest me. Here are six stories that the "king" of horror felt deserved publication and his personal endorsement. I am in agreement with Stephen King that "Wild Swimming" is the best of the six. There is one that was a fun read, but I found it too obscure for my taste. The main point of this little anthology seems to be the introduction of six British authors to an American audience. We all know that Constant Reader will read anything upon which King has put his stamp of approval. Most difficult for me is the 1 to 5 star rating system. *SIX SCARY STORIES* is definitely more than a 4 but not quite a five. The law of averages dictates that if it's more than a four and a half, I have to bump it up. All of King's readers will find something to their liking here and may just find that new author to follow.

Do you like reading short stories? Do you like horror? Sit down and enjoy yourself! I found it interesting that Stephen King chose these six stories. Why do you ask? Basically I like all of them as I always enjoy meeting new authors but the author who wrote "The Spots." It was my least favorite though it did remind me of a certain type of horror stories that I read. It is scary but it seems not to be as good of quality as the others. Overall, I would recommend reading it! The writing is good. Disclaimer: I received an arc of this book free from the publisher Cemetery Dance. I was not obliged to write a favorable review, or even any review at all. The opinions expressed are strictly my own.

Loved every story. All well written and frightful in each different style. Bravo! I must keep my eye out for these authors.

Given my influences, I'd be unable to choose ONLY one, but The Dark Tower series has given me the faith I did not have in my own writing style-a similar (NOT same) way of seeing different worlds and the stories that belong in each. That idea had not occurred to me as such an easily translated version of my vision, and for that-Stephen King, I thank you for all of your words-from the first 'grown-up' book I ever read, IT, until your very sons own books, of which I am sure you are proud. Thank you for every story, Stephen King. Constant Reader Erin S.C.

BeniErinsnowchristal@gmail.com if you would be so kind.

I was disappointed initially to discover these stories were not written by SK. However, I am pleased to report his ability to choose a great story is on par with his ability to write great stories. My favorite was The Bear Trap. Be careful out there folks.

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