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Dead Leprechauns & Devil Cats: Strange Tales Of The White Street Society



Synopsis

A science-studded Steampunk smackdown full of decapitated heads that sing, Tong wars, bacon sex, German holiday demons, and the Potato Homunculus! Back by popular demand, the White Street Society are a band of 19th Century gentleman adventurers who investigate the supernatural, often with violence, sometimes with science. Animals and pregnant women who can read are advised to KEEP AWAY as this collection of cases contains shocking details that are sure to tighten the corsets and spin the mustaches of all gentle readers. • The Hairy Ghost! • The Corpse Army of Khartoum! • The Yellow Peril! • and The Christmas Spirits! • will introduce you to the supernatural wonders that these bold men of the 19th century were compelled to shoot, poison, burn, and beat to death with shovels, all in the name of SCIENCE!

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Customer Reviews

Great fun to catch up with the White Street Society after being introduced listening to the Pseudopod pod cast. definitely recommended for a fun romp.

This short story anthology features four tales that depict a fantastically horrific version of the Victorian era that oozes with black comedy. Like a mishmash of *Evil Dead 2* and Doyle's Sherlock Holmes (with a little Jules Verne thrown in for good measure). Terrific fun like this is not often seen in horror lit.

Loved it!

Grady never ceases to amaze me with the time and research he puts into satirizing racial prejudices and accepted social norms. I found his essay on the research behind *The Yellow Curse* enlightening and horrifying. We like to think we're in a post-racial society, but the "missing dog and cat" jokes told at Chinese restaurants today are only one notch removed of the accusations levelled near the turn of the century of cooking rats. The accusation of uncivilized ingredients is a Society polite version of othering as aspersions of cannibalism. And not just with the White Street Society, but also in stories like *Mofongo Knows* that skewers pulps that aspire to be as sensitive and inclusive as the work of Edgar Rice Burroughs. In *Horrorstor*, he sticks a pin in the nihilistic enthusiasm of corporate consumerism with the break room motivational poster declaring "Work Sets You Free! You can check out some of these stories and more at Pseudopod."

This anthology consists of four short stories set in New York City's Gaslight Era, when wealthy Anglo-Saxon men ruled the world--and thought they could stomp on everyone else forever. The four adventurer-protagonists (one can't call them heroes, for self-preservation is their highest value) seek out paranormal phenomena, sometimes going far afield to discover the truth about, say, the remnant head of a hero that talks nonsense. The humor derives from the author's and reader's awareness of how awful that era really was and the contrast between their awareness and how writers of that time (and Hendrix himself, with tongue firmly in cheek) portrayed it. The black postmodern humor is not for everyone. The stories expose and mock the bigoted attitudes of the pompous adventurers while reveling in the men's most ridiculous and offensive stereotypes of people who are not just like themselves: Italians smell like "a large sweating cheese," women's sexual organs are "gruesome portions of biology," the Irish are rude and inefficient, Egyptians are "oily," and the Chinese have a soul that weighs half that of a white man. The protagonists embody everything that was wrong about Western culture until recently, and I had a wonderful time laughing

at them and the horrible things they did. Conservatives and Tea Partiers, on the other hand, may find themselves greatly offended to see the values of the past they hold so dear revealed in their true colors as the source of bigotries and other evils.

The opening story of *Tales of the White Street Society* is reason enough to get this strangely hilarious collection. What if a Sherlock Holmes-like figure (but much more violent) visited a turn of the century Irish tenement in NYC and got into a brawl with leprechaun? That's just one of the surprises in store as Grady Hendrix takes on the secret society mystery genre, and puts it through the wringer, twisting out more laughs and strange surprises than you would have thought possible. Like a bracing scotch with a hidden laudanum knock-out punch, you'll be laughing until you spit-take.

If you grew up on gaslight adventure stories, you'll love this. Or you might be horrified by it, but it will earn your respect even as you scream and run away. Grady Hendrix pulls no punches in this bitingly funny collection. Not for the politically correct or the faint of heart, each story manages to be both hilarious and a sharp commentary on what we choose to romanticize. The final story had me actually laughing out loud, which is not an easy task to accomplish. I look forward to more *White Street* adventures!

If you only read one book this year about Dead Leprechauns & Devil Cats, surely this is the one! If Gene Simmons from KISS and Charles Dickens gave birth to a mewling freak-baby who could write amazing stories, that freak-baby would be GRADY HENDRIX.

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