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Wrath And Ruin: A Chilling Anthology



Synopsis

Some monsters are nightmarish beasts with fangs and grotesque bodies. Others come in the form of bad decisions we dread or regret. Both kinds haunt and stalk us while we are alone at night. *Wrath and Ruin* is a collection of nine stories with a focus on fantasy and sci-fi threaded with quiet, traditional horror. Monsters, both literal and figurative, lurk in the shadows of this diverse anthology. -Hunters pursue a ghoul in Victorian-era Pennsylvania. -A psychologist interrogates the lone survivor of a mysterious shipwreck. -Astronauts investigate a derelict alien spacecraft loitering in Earth's solar system. -A man flees powerful enemies in a bizarre, hostile land. These stories and more are included in this debut book by author C.W. Briar. The collection includes two award-winning stories. Briar continues a tradition established by fellow Binghamton, NY writers like Rod Serling and Kevin Lucia: fantastical-yet-grounded stories with subtle horror.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a teacher, I used this text in the classroom with my seniors and they stated on a regular basis

how much they enjoyed the anthology. They liked that it consisted of six short stories, two novelettes, and one novella that were a mix of genres, yet held together through specific themes and concepts. The anthology includes science-fiction that is ominous and strange, disturbing monsters for whom my students ended up having empathy, modern-day relationships in a modern day setting that my students enjoyed because of the connections they could make, and mystery, where, in "Ghoul" the students ended up loving the main characters Gideon Wells and his assistant Rose who are both intellectual individuals with a dry, yet amusing, sense of humor who set out to solve a mystery in a gaslamp setting. What the students really enjoyed was that each story had a surprise ending that they weren't anticipating and they found sometimes disturbing, sometimes exciting, sometimes confusing, but ALL THE TIME worthy of class discussion. I even had a student purchase the book on his own because we only had time to read six of the nine stories and he wanted to read the remaining three. Briar's rich and well-crafted writing has been compared to Lovecraft, C.S. Lewis, Edgar Allan Poe and Sherlock Holmes. Personally, I think his writing is much like Henry James. The really wonderful thing is that Briar is a local author and he came into my classroom to talk with my students. My students enjoyed engaging in conversation with Briar and they were surprised that, yes, authors really do write with certain symbolism and meanings in mind. Many of the works are allegorical in nature and my students were amazed at how Briar was able to write using allegory to add multiple layers of meaning to his stories. Even the phone number in "Wrong Number" held a specific meaning! Wrath and Ruin is a rich text that can be read over-and-over again and the reader will continually find something new, interesting, and engaging as each story is complex in the way it is layered and new meanings are constantly uncovered. Thank you, C.W. Briar, for writing a complex, rich, and engaging text that both teachers and students love to read. Get this book and start reading now!!!! You'll love it.

A wonderful compilation of stories! When you finish each one, you really wish it would continue, they are that intriguing! C. W. Briar has a very vivid imagination, I can't wait till he sits down and writes a book and stops teasing us with short stories.

I loved this book! Each story is as good as the last. Surprise endings! Can't wait to read his next book.

As a lover of all that goes bump in the night, this book hits all of the right buttons for me. I really enjoyed the wide range of spooky stories from eerie science-fiction to creepy monsters and finally,

even to a story told in true Sherlock Holmes fashion. The story "The Other Edge" literally had me sitting, body tense, enthralled until the very end. This is a science-fiction story in which a team has to board an alien space ship which appears to just be floating in space with no living entities on board. "Ghoul" was my favorite story. Gideon Wells and his young assistant Rose are witty, charming, and a touch strange (in the best possible way). They work together in a gaslamp fiction setting which is beautifully crafted and lots of fun to immerse myself in. I have always thought that short stories are a difficult medium to master but C.W. Briar appears to have done just that with ease. This collection of short stories is a true gem for anyone, not just a lover of horror and suspense, but anyone who is a fan of reading well crafted writing and finding the message within every story.

A collection of nicely-written and clever science fiction and fantasy stories that cover the breadth of genres and moods. While a few of the stories were tighter than others (the first one being notably slower and less creative than the others), overall Wrath and Ruin is a good introduction to the author's style, voice, and unique concepts. One story, his version of a Van Helsing-style monster hunter, was solid enough that I would want an entire novel or series of novels about it. Looking forward to seeing what else Briar has in store for readers!

I had no idea what to expect when I picked up this book and decided to buy it, no idea at all. But I'm sure glad I got it! The collection of stories cover an impressive range of characters, settings and types of suspense. One story was based in space while another based in a strange land. I really enjoyed 'The Case of Elizabeth Flora', which had an interview style and a plot that had me neglecting dinner for the sake of knowing how it would end. 'Ghoul' is another favorite of mine-- the 1890's setting, the mentions of alchemy, the twists of horror that struck to the soul... Absolutely gripping! I confess to not being one to typically like horror, but this traditional, quiet horror kept me riveted and loathe to put it down. Excellent anthology and well worth the read!

When I read a book like this, I need to see the story! Excellent job....on the edge of my seat at times. Can't wait for the next one!

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