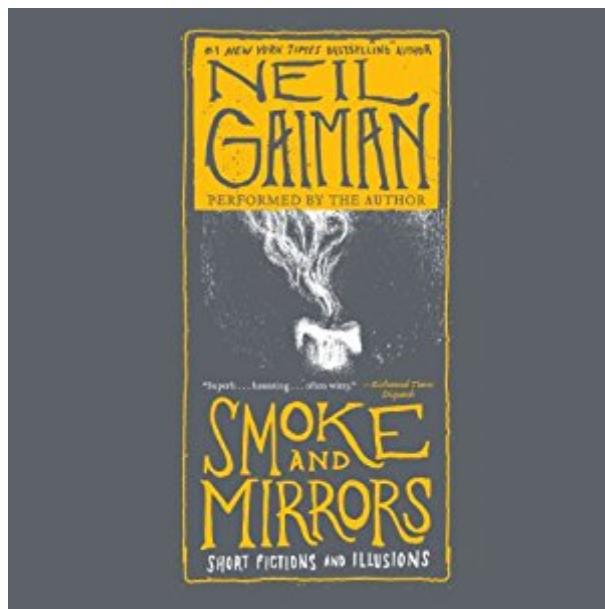


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Smoke And Mirrors: Short Fictions And Illusions



Synopsis

In the deft hands of Neil Gaiman, magic is no mere illusion... and anything is possible. In *Smoke and Mirrors*, Gaiman's imagination and supreme artistry transform a mundane world into a place of terrible wonders - where an old woman can purchase the Holy Grail at a thrift store, where assassins advertise their services in the Yellow Pages under "Pest Control," and where a frightened young boy must barter for his life with a mean-spirited troll living beneath a bridge by the railroad tracks. Explore a new reality, obscured by smoke and darkness yet brilliantly tangible, in this extraordinary collection of short works by a master prestidigitator. It will dazzle your senses, touch your heart, and haunt your dreams.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Smoke and Mirrors is a collection of short stories and poems that might cause you to rethink some of the fairy tales of your past. This book is for adults as some of the stories are quite graphic, more in terms of sex than violence, but there are a couple that were very disturbing to me on several levels. Gaiman is in top form here, whether playing with familiar tropes or inventing new tales based on old legends. The Wedding Present and Murder Mysteries are two of my favourites. There is plenty of horror in this volume, but done in a way that will not necessarily scare you instantly, but rather come back to haunt your dreams. Gaiman is certainly a master of many forms of writing and he can make even the shortest story feel like it is a whole world. I wouldn't recommend this book for younger readers, but adults can certainly find a lot to love.

Classically Gaiman, thoughtful, crazy, surprising. May not be appropriate for younger readers. But...The missing stars are not for the content.(Kindle version) On many stories the formatting is horrible. (I've checked on different devices including an official Kindle in portrait mode with only one column with default typeface) the effect is like what you get when you copy an e-mail to a word processing document and end up with a bunch of bizarre returns in the middle of sentences. It makes Mr. Gaiman's sometimes interesting sentence construction close to completely incomprehensible and only a little better after I figured out what was going on. Unless you're reading a free book, OCR scanned from multiple sources and never edited, I don't think there is any excuse for really bad formatting these days.

This book to me was a treasure trove filled with Gaiman goodies. In it are works that put on display the full range of Gaiman. There's the good old macabre, fantasy, science fiction, and erotica. There's prose, poetry (even a sestina) and things in between. Gaiman delivers, in each story in a unique way.

Have loved many of Gaiman's books but unfortunately this is not one of them. It is like a collection of juvenalia that hasn't quite evolved. Certainly not a place to start with Neil and certainly not a place to end either. Read American Gods, Anansi Boys, Neverwhere, The Ocean at the End Of The Lane, Good Omens (with Terry Pratchet), Stardust and Coraline and be thoroughly entertained by his superbly wonderful flights of imagination. These are books to be entirely immersed in. These books grasp you and take you on invigorating journeys. For me unfortunately Smoke and Mirrors fails.

Amazing little book! Neil Gaiman is a master storyteller! I actually already own the paperback version of this book but bought digitally because the price was too good to pass up! Plus, its easier to carry around on my kindle! :) Buy this if you're a Gaiman fan or you want to become one!

Having previously read Neil Gaiman's work (Neverwhere and American Gods, among others), I was disappointed in this collection of short prose and some verse. While having an overall Bradbury-esh feel, his stories always seemed be essentially lacking in SOMETHING, but difficult to pin down as to what. A scant few were above par, with the absolute penultimate being "The Sweeper of Dreams" and "Murder Mysteries." Fortunately--these offerings justified the price paid, and will stay with me for some time.

I could not finish this book. I tried and tried, but ended up closing it about half way through and giving it away. I hoped it would get better as I read it, but it did not. It wasn't depressing or ugly; it just wasn't very good and didn't keep my interest. For me, Neil Gaiman books are hit 'n miss. I either love them ... or not! *Neverwhere*, and also *American Gods* were awesome!! But this book, *Smoke and Mirrors*, was a complete "miss" for me. I want to add that I also read *Caraline*, and *Anansi Boys* ... also very good!!

Neil Gaiman is clearly a very talented writer, as evidenced by other books I've read of his. I really enjoyed *Anansi Boys*, *The Graveyard Book*, and *Neverwhere*, for example. At any rate, most of these short stories seemed to be either quick plot studies that never were edited for quality, or they just were amateurish in nature. I really didn't think Mr. Gaiman could bore me this much.

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