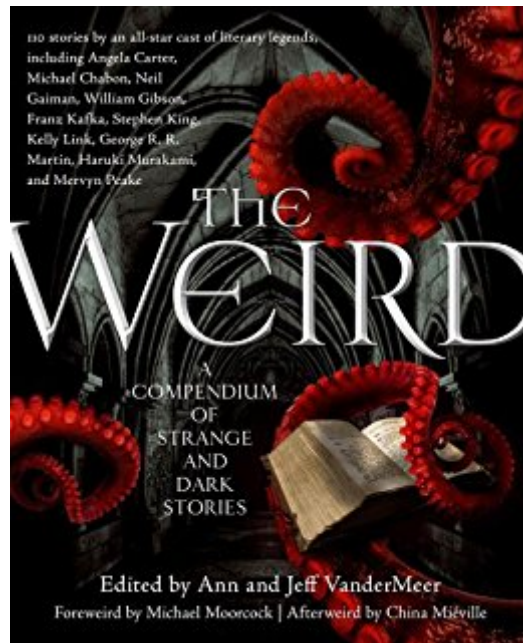




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The Weird: A Compendium Of Strange And Dark Stories



Synopsis

From Lovecraft to Borges to Gaiman, a century of intrepid literary experimentation has created a corpus of dark and strange stories that transcend all known genre boundaries. Together these stories form *The Weird*, and its practitioners include some of the greatest names in twentieth and twenty-first century literature. Exotic and esoteric, *The Weird* plunges you into dark domains and brings you face to face with surreal monstrosities. You won't find any elves or wizards here...but you will find the biggest, boldest, and downright most peculiar stories from the last hundred years bound together in the biggest *Weird* collection ever assembled. *The Weird* features 110 stories by an all-star cast, from literary legends to international bestsellers to Booker Prize winners: including William Gibson, George R. R. Martin, Stephen King, Angela Carter, Kelly Link, Franz Kafka, China Miéville, Clive Barker, Haruki Murakami, M. R. James, Neil Gaiman, Mervyn Peake, and Michael Chabon. *The Weird* is the winner of the 2012 World Fantasy Award for Best Anthology. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

Book Information

File Size: 5805 KB

Print Length: 1153 pages

Publisher: Tor Books; Reprint edition (January 24, 2012)

Publication Date: January 24, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006TXZD3G

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #100,694 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #88

in Kindle Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Short Stories #89 in Kindle Books >

Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror > Anthologies #191 in Kindle Store > Kindle

eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Anthologies & Short Stories

Customer Reviews

Regarding the book itself, I'd be absolutely shocked if it does not win the World Fantasy Award for Best Anthology. This is one of the strongest collections of Weird Fiction I've ever seen in my life. I don't consider myself an expert in this field but I think I've been around the block enough to not be considered an amateur either. This is the best collection of weird/strange fiction since David Hartwell's *The Dark Descent*. There have been some absolutely outstanding anthologies in the time between *Dark Descent* and *The Weird* (e.g., Sarrantonio's 999, Datlow's Year's Best Horror Series, and Pelan's Century's Best Horror Fiction which came out this year). However, I remain adamant that the VanderMeer's have created a truly awe-inspiring collection that has no peer since *Dark Descent*. 50 years from now it will be held in the same category as Wagner and Wise's *Great Tales of the Supernatural*. This is an incredible feat given the absolutely outstanding anthologies that have come out in recent years (e.g., *Dead But Dreaming*, anything by John Joseph Adams, and, bears repeating, Pelan's two volume *Century's Best Horror Fiction*). To me, it solidifies my belief that we are in one of the most exciting and impressive literary eras for Weird Fiction. Although it is hard, I will try to pause my praises for this book and get to the reason you are reading this: How's the Kindle Version hold up and is it worth the \$15? The answer is Great! and Yes! I'll elaborate. To give a little background, I have a Kindle Fire but from what I understand the book will look the same on a regular Kindle or iPad or whatever format you tend to read your e-books on. First, the "Click to Look Inside" function does NOT do the Kindle version justice. It makes it seem like the text kind of runs together (e.g., the intro's by the VanderMeers and the first paragraph of the story). This is NOT true. The Kindle version mirrors what you would find in the book. To back up a little, I own the original Corvis version of *The Weird* (I was REALLY eager to get this), the hardback Tor version, and now the Kindle Version. I really don't want to bend my Corvis version and the Tor version is obviously bulky to carry around with you in a diner. The Kindle version holds up VERY well and has the same formatting as the Corvis and Tor versions. There is NO running together of text. What you see in your paper copy is pretty much the same as in the Kindle copy (of course taking into account whatever font size, etc. you tend to use). The reason I am spending so much time on this aspect is because for me this was a BIG reason I hesitated so long in buying the Kindle version. I'm one of those people who tend to prefer print over e-copy in general, so that didn't help matters, but this Kindle version is truly outstanding; I cannot give it a high enough recommendation in terms of formatting and readability. It really does look identical to what you would find in the print version. Second, the Table of Contents is very easy to navigate. Some of my Kindle books are a pain to navigate with the TOC but this one is perhaps the easiest, most user friendly one I have on

my Kindle bookshelf. Third, there is a "missing" story and an "extra" story in the Kindle version. The missing story in the Kindle version is "The Colomber" by Dino Buzzati (you can find it in the print version). The extra story is "The Portal" by J. Robert Lennon (you CANNOT find it in the print version). If you are a die-hard completist (I am, so it's not a knock) go ahead and buy both (I did and have no regrets). However, if you want only one version, I'd recommend the Kindle version. The print version really is a brick and can be bulky to carry around. The loss or addition of these stories does not in any way affect the overall ambience or structure of what the VanderMeer's have accomplished. A fourth feature is that the VanderMeer's have specifically requested that there is NO DRM software. This is a bit of a technical issue and I had to look up what that actually means (not the most computer savvy person in the world). From what I understand (others feel free to comment or correct any errors I make here) having no DRM software means you can view this book on your other devices without getting an error message or something weird happening (e.g., you can go from Kindle to iPad without huge tech issues). Nice feature. They are very clear in their caveat that this does NOT mean you can start mass producing the e-copy of *The Weird*. First, it's illegal. Second, it's totally uncool. The VanderMeer's are hella cool, so be cool in return and don't take advantage of their coolness. In summary, for the Kindle version:

- 1) The Kindle formatting is outstanding (NO text running together or anything weird like that; only your fiction is weird, not your formatting)
- 2) It has a "missing" story "The Colomber" by Dino Buzzati and an "extra" story "The Portal" by J. Robert Lennon
- 3) Great Table of Contents; easily navigated
- 4) No DRM, so you can use it on any other device you want
- 5) HIGHLY recommend you buy this

Once again, I cannot say enough good things about this book as a whole but as many other reviewers have already said those things (far more eloquently than I can), I won't recreate the wheel. Happy reading and thank you Ann and Jeff VanderMeer for your truly outstanding contribution to the field. Good luck at the World Fantasy Awards; I already have \$50 on you to win.

I will echo another review that described *The Weird* as the most important anthology since Hartwell's *The Dark Descent*. Both anthologies approach their respective subjects with a clear point of view and are exhaustive (but not exhausting) in following where these points of view lead. *The Weird* is notable for, while embracing, still not be limited to traditional genre stories. I have had a lifetime love of the macabre in literature but still found much new to me here, and much of the new being astoundingly good. I'm one of those who after buying the paperback edition felt compelled to purchase the hardcover. Not because I really need another copy but because *The Weird* is so good I couldn't NOT buy the hardcover.

A history of the weird tale across time and a way to read how writing and storytelling have changed and evolved over that time. Not every story is great, some are less and some are beyond but this is a collection that is nonetheless worth the read. I sincerely hope they do another.

I came across this book in my local library, and thought it looked good. However, I realized, after I checked it out that I wanted to own it. I also realized that the physical book was very unwieldy...hard to handle. Anyway, this book contains new and classic stories...all weird and wonderful. I was drawn to it because I remembered some of the older stories and wanted to read them again. However, the physical book is quite large. My Kindle is quite small. So, I bought the Kindle version, the most expensive Kindle book I have ever bought. It is well worth the price. One suggestion, should you purchase the Kindle version...bookmark the "table of contents" and use that to choose the stories you read. I like that much better than the "go to" or whatever it's called. (as a small bonus, I actually learned how to use bookmarks.) This is a premium collection of the weird and creepy...and worth every penny.cb

This is a great compilation of short stories for anyone who is interested in exploring weird literature. There are some phenomenal authors in here, of which I've moved on to explore more of their work. It opened a lot of doors for me, and all of these stories are full of depth and underlying meanings. Really great read. It's something you'd probably want to hang on to forever. Forever....

I don't give many five-star reviews, but in this case the book deserves it. There are a lot of stories here, and the editors do a great job of selecting the best stories from the past 100 years or so. There are stories I've never read from my favorite authors as well as great stories from authors I've never heard of. The VanderMeers selected the best weird stories from the 20th century and put them in chronological order so the reader can get a sense of how this genre has developed over time. If you are interested in weird fiction at all, this is a must-have book.

Loved it. Introduced me to so many new writers. The size is a little cumbersome but so what.

An incredible view of the history of Weird Fiction going back way further than I expected. Also, some of these stories simply stopped me in my tracks--I had to stop reading for the rest of the day, I was so blown away. A few of the stories have not aged particularly well, but most are still really intriguing.

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