



I Shudder at Your Touch

Michele Slung (Editor) , Clive Barker , Stephen King , Ruth Rendell , Thomas M. Disch , Stephen R. Donaldson , Valerie Martin , May Sinclair , more... Carolyn Banks ...less

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There is no sexual act that is not dangerous...

And every caress, no matter how innocent, has the power to open our lives to the dark mysteries of desire, the places where outrageous fantasies and fears are held in check.

Held in check, that is, until it occurs to such supremely talented manipulators of the macabre as Stephen King, Ruth Rendell, Clive Barker, or Patrick McGrath, to let them loose, turning our erotic anxieties into art. Here are gathered the best of their chilling, thrilling, upsetting, and unsettling experiments with our sexual psyches. And rest assured, flesh will tingle--but whether from horror or pleasure or a bit of both, we'll leave you to judge.

From its opening pages, with King's blackly humorous portrait of a very, very mad housewife to its conclusion, where we find Barker's wholly shocking tale of a deadly quest into the heart of passion, *I Shudder at Your Touch* brings you a host of kinky, perverse, bizarre and creepy figures. You'll find a cricket-playing vampire, a sleek sea creature likely to give mermaids a bad name, a strangely seductive handyman who's equally adept at knocking down apartment walls and female inhibitions, and a plastic religious statue offering X-rated enlightenment from its perch atop the family TV.

I Shudder at Your Touch features 22 daring writers who prefer to go too far, writers whose every tale will have you fighting back a scream...and a cry of delight.

Contents:

The revelations of 'Becka Paulson / Stephen King --
Sea lovers / Valerie Martin --
Psychopomp / Haydn Middleton --
A glowing future / Ruth Rendell --
The tiger returns to the mountain / T.L. Parkinson --
Consanguinity / Ronald Duncan --
Keeping house / Michael Blumlein --
The Villa Desiree / May Sinclair --
Cleave the vampire, or, a gothic pastorale / Patrick McGrath --
The swords / Robert Aickman --
Salon Satin / Carolyn Banks --
How love came to Professor Guildea / Robert Hichens --
Wings / Harriet Zinnes --
The Basilisk / R. Murray Gilchrist --
A quarter past you / Jonathan Carroll --
The master builder / Christopher Fowler --
Festival / Eric McCormack --
Ladies in waiting / Huch B. Cave --
Death and the single girl / Thomas M. Disch --

Master / Angela Carter --

The conqueror worm / Stephen R. Donaldson --

Jacqueline Ess: her will and testament / Clive Barker

I Shudder at Your Touch Details

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From Reader Review I Shudder at Your Touch for online ebook

Pauline says

(Être malade et incapable de lire pendant 4 jours.)

Une anthologie qui s'en sort pas trop mal, sans être incroyable non plus.

Au final, sur les 22 histoires, seules 4 ont reçues 5 stars; 7 autres au moins 3.5 et +; le reste reste dans la moyenne, mais rien de transcendant.

King, Barker, Banks et Aickman sont les meilleurs auteurs présents; déception pour Angela Carter.

Des histoires drôles, tristes, parfois, mais surtout sanglantes et (très) bizarres.

Seba Alcoverro says

This book is not a 'sensational' anthology, as it left me with mixed feelings after reading it. I'll make a quick review of it in case you want to know what is going to be worth it and what is going to be a waste of time for you to read. First things first, Stephen King has his first word in the book and it couldng be different. I mean, placing a short story from Your Majesty in the middle of the antholovy would be just disrespectful, and you would surely bother to look up the page and start reading his as you open the book. I'm glad to see how distinkted his style and story-telling is from the rest. He's not too much of this or too much of that, he is just God and if he leaves something written, he will be always right. No discussion. The ending of his short story in this book is a bit non-sense, like if this should have been a long novel from the beginning. But is pretty good. From the rest of the authors, if you want to find good stuff, then read Valerie Martin, TL Parkinson, Michael Blumlein, Robert Aickman, Jonathan Carroll, Stephen R. Donaldson and Clive Barker. The rest of the authors... Just dont bother, dont waste your time. Clive Barker's story... Leave it for a quiet day. A quite night, I would say. It's a really sick, twisted, disturbing horror story which you will only like once you see some daylight.

Abby Luces says

This is a collection of stories from several great writers, the name of Stephen King and Clive Barker lured me in to buying it; not to mention the packaging "Tales of Horror and Sex" *whistles. Like all collections of short stories, there were some I liked more than others, and some made no sense to me at all. These are the stories that I did like:

- The revelations of Becka Paulson (Stephen King)
- Sea Lovers (Valerie Martin)
- Salon Satin (Carolyn Banks)
- How Love Came to Professor Guildea (Robert Hichens)
- Jacqueline Ess: Her will and Testament (Clive Barker)

there is little sex in this book, and not much horror as well; but some of the story concepts are worth reading and finding out about.

Sammy Loves Books says

Not scary at all!! What a let down.

Bandit says

I think with a name like this and a cover like that and a promise of 22 tales of sex and horror, this book disappoints. Clearly, these stories were meant to be subtle, which one can appreciate, but the subtlety in most cases seem to have translated into sheer boredom IMO. A lot of authors I was not familiar with and yet the best stories come from well known names, such as King, Barker and Carroll. Barker's story, actually, seems to be the only one that really meets the anthology's theme. The best part of this book for me was the story by Christopher Fowler, whom I've been meaning to give a try. He does indeed write "urban anxiety" so well. I'd recommend this book for fans of classic, old school, slow and very subtle horror or horrorish stories.

Samantha Anderson says

One of the best collections of short stories I have ever read. Each one of them unique and just a little bit macabre.

My favorites and the ones that stand out the most to me are, "The Revelations of 'Becca Paulson" By Stephen King, "Keeping House" By Michael Blumlein, and "Salon Satin" By Carolyn Banks.

Not for the feint of heart or the closed of mind. I recommend I Shudder to anyone who enjoys a little bit of dark humor and a lot of horror.

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

Unfortunately I did not get the full 22 stories on the audio version, but probably got the best 4
The revelations of 'Becka Paulson / Stephen King -- Becka Paulson accidentally shoots herself in the head while cleaning out the attic. The bullet lodges in her brain, and begins to have some strange effects.
A glowing future / Ruth Rendell -- Maurice returns to Betsy after a year in London and delivers a nasty shock
Death and the single girl / Thomas M. Disch -- A depressed young woman makes a date with death.
Cleave the vampire, or, a gothic pastorale / Patrick McGrath -- an unstable woman begins to see vampires everywhere.

I thoroughly enjoyed this short story collection. All are quirky, and in their own peculiar way, quite humorous.

Claudia says

I don't think this audio book version contained all the stories that were supposed to be in this volume.

Daniel says

Well this is a collection of horror/erotica. It ain't something I read that often, nor is there a mainstream audience or writers that put a bunch of this stuff out. To be honest, I got this from the Science Fiction Book Club years ago and I just never got around to reading it. I've spent the last few days rolling through it and yeah, it's a bit left of center! LOL

I have to say that this one isn't for everyone nor is it for the faint of heart. There are some really disturbing things going on in some of these short stories, and yet its kind of hard to put down. That sounds weird but you just have to try this genre for yourself. It makes you smile as often as it gets your blood pumping and makes you cringe. Yeah..... figure that one out.

Well there is something out there for everyone and I'm sure there is a few people out there that really dig this sort of stuff. Me, well the jury is still out but I can say its possible I reckon.

Danny

Donald says

I picked this up primarily to read "The Revelations of 'Becka Paulson", which was a very good, creepy, short story! What 'Becka did with her eyebrow pencil nearly made me squirm right outta my skin! Ewww.... And it was cool to read this "original" version of the story, before it's appearance in "The Tommyknockers"! Oh, by the way, I work at the post office, and never in my 15 years has a gal like Nancy Voss transferred to my office. I wish! Just sayin'...

The rest of the collection? Meh.

Hilary says

Creepy and hot. You might not think those two things could go together, but our apparent fascination with vampires as sexual beings is just scratching the surface. Try a mermaid. A werewolf. Sentient pants. (I couldn't make this stuff up.) It's Stephen King meets Xaviera Hollander. Don't hurt yourself.

Elizabeth says

I really loved this collection. It's rare that I find one where I love all the stories but I really enjoyed the

majority of these and they all seemed to be of a good length so I didn't feel "stuck" in any of them for too long. Definitely a little heteronormative, but wonderful and weird and haunting.

Amanda says

I wasted a Hoopla checkout on this audiobook, which only contain 4 of the 22 stories but that part was fine. I don't think I could have listened to one more.

Holly says

Three stars, this book was pretty much what you would expect. Most of the stories in the collection fit the theme accurately. I thought that some were better than others. 'A Quarter Past You' and 'The Master Builder' were psychological creepers. 'Ladies In Waiting' and 'Master' were both excellent with more elements of the paranormal. 'The Basilisk' was my favorite, a retelling of the Russian legend of Marina written in a style that is the literary equivalent of Pre-Raphaelite art; romantic, lush, descriptive and beautifully detailed. Unlike many reviewers of this collection, I do not have praise for the stories of the two "big name" authors, Barker and King; to be honest I was not impressed with the contributions of either.

Cessa says

Nein, keine Angst hier handelt es sich nicht um etwa anstößige Literatur.

In diesem Buch finden sich Kurzgeschichten von verschiedensten Horrorautoren die eine Brücke zu schlagen versuchen um die Erotik in ihre Geschichten miteinzubeziehen.

Da diese Geschichten alle schon deutlich älter sind, sind sie natürlich für unser heutiges Verständnis werder besonders gruselig noch besonders erotisch. Zumindest habe ich es so empfunden. Ich habe mich desöfteren gefragt was mir der Autor wohl mit seiner Erzählung mitteilen wollte denn oft war eine Kurzgeschichte zu Ende und ich fand mich kopfschüttelnd und verwirrt die letzten Sätze betrachtend wieder.

Wer auf etwas aussergewöhnlichere "Horror"-Geschichten von altbekannten Größen den Genres steht kann hier ruhig mal einen Blick riskieren, für mich war es aber nichts.
