

► For Sound issues:

- Click the purple tab in the bottom right 
 - Click the My Settings gear 
 - Click **Audio & Video Settings** to set up your camera & mic, get a dial-in phone number, or adjust your volume
 - *To use your computer for sound, you must use a computer that has a microphone*
-

► To Chat:

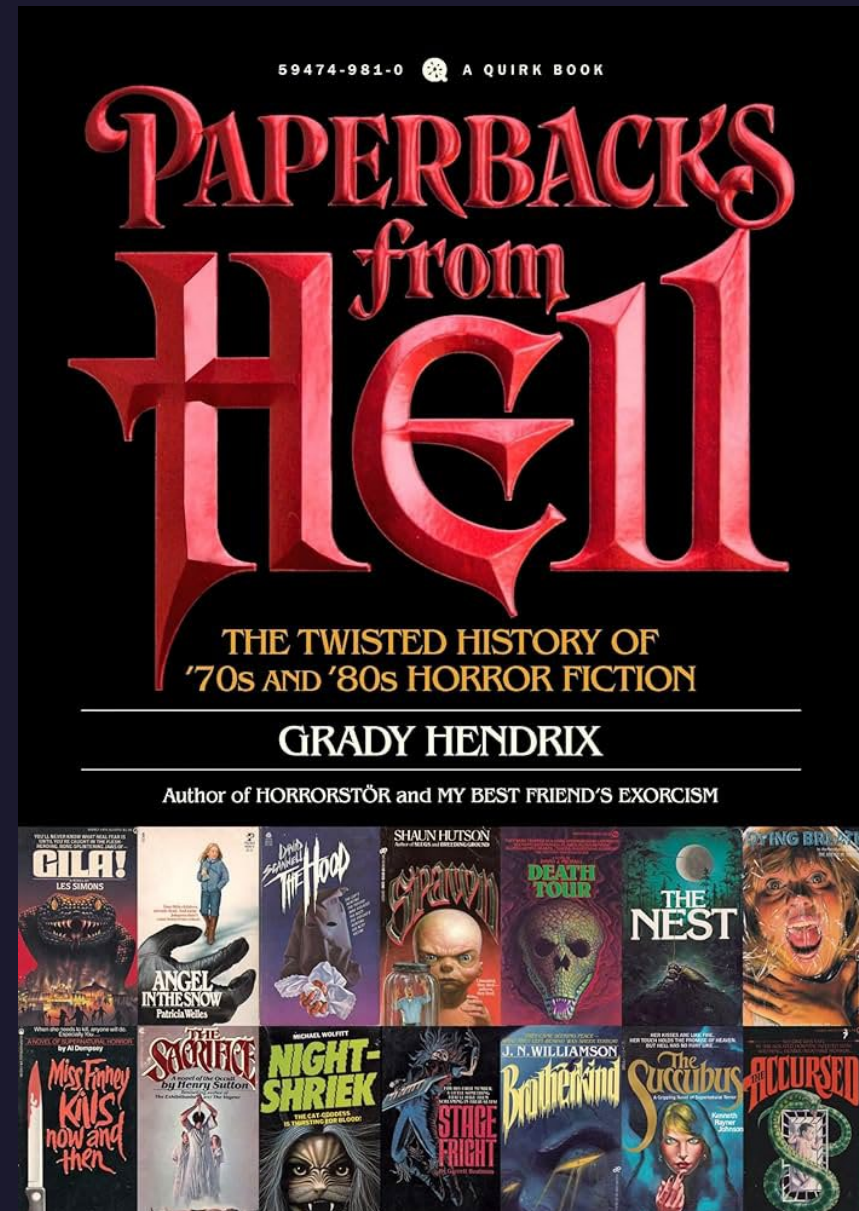
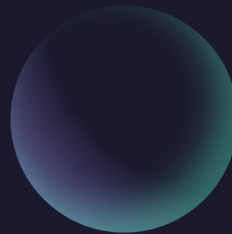
- Click the purple tab in the bottom right 
- Click the Chat bubble 

We Are Not Alone: Slashing Into Horror Fiction

Micah Followay

October 22, 2025

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives



Horror Fiction defined

- It is a story where the intention is to scare the reader
- It is **NOT** a story where the plot focuses more on other things than the scare



Characteristics



- Atmosphere
- Emotions
- Setting
- Character(s)
- Pace
- Antagonist vs. Protagonist
- The ending

In the Beginning

- 18th Century (Greece & Rome)

Pliny the Younger to Lucius Sura

https://www.gutenberg.org/files/2811/2811-h/2811-h.htm#link2H_4_0083

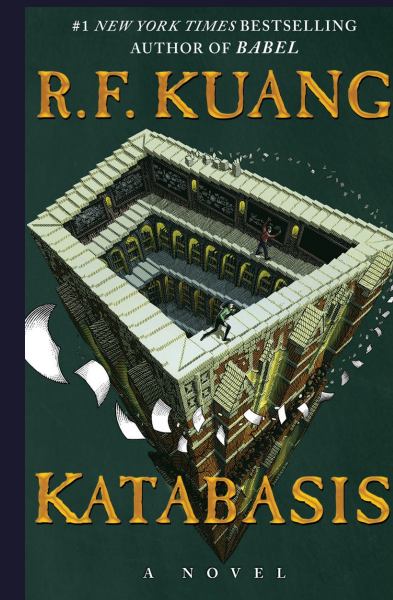
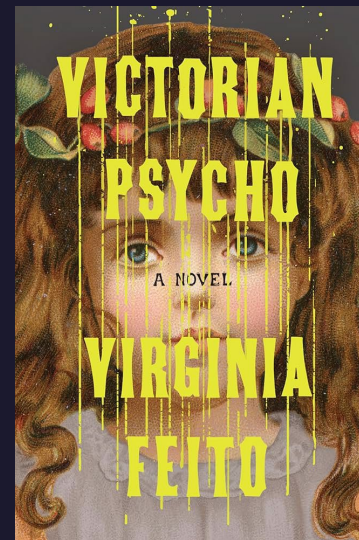
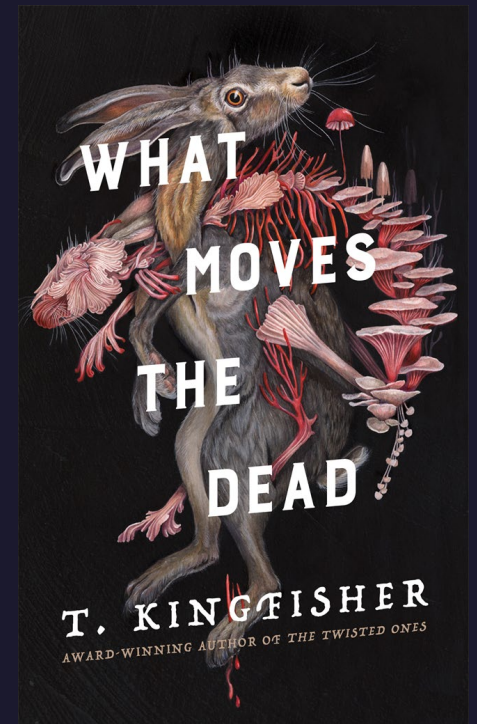
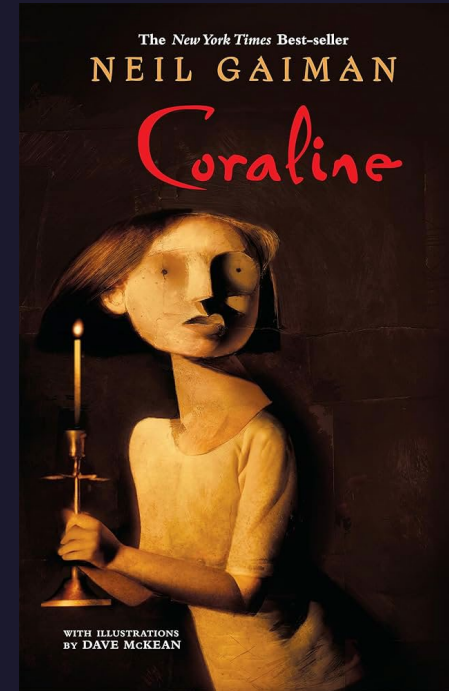
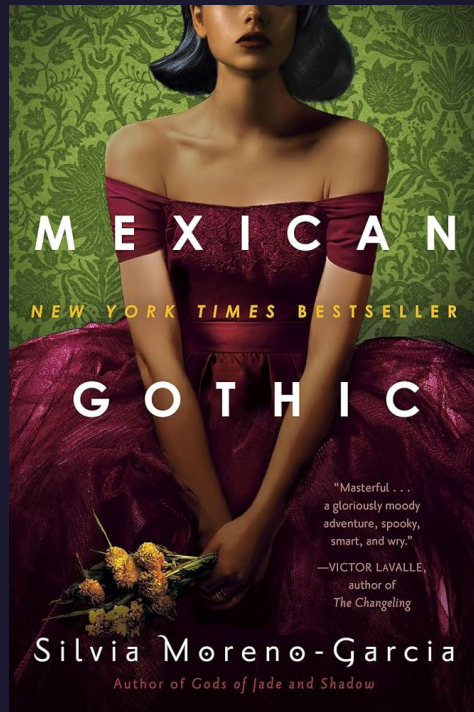


Gothic Horror

- 1706 – The Apparition of Mrs. Veal
 - Daniel Dafoe
 - The first modern ghost story
- 1716 – The Dummer of the Haunted House or The Haunted House
 - Joseph Addison
 - Play
- Other Titles
 - The Castle of Otranto
 - The Romance of the Forest

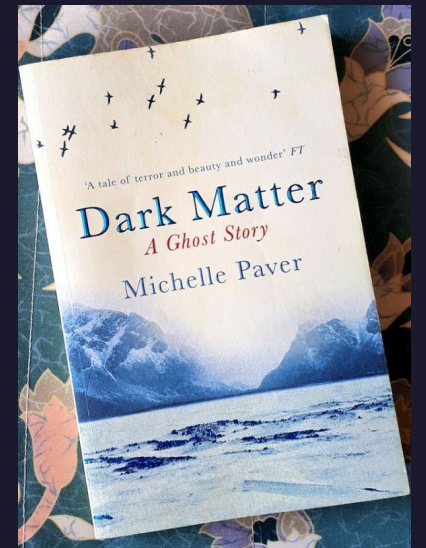
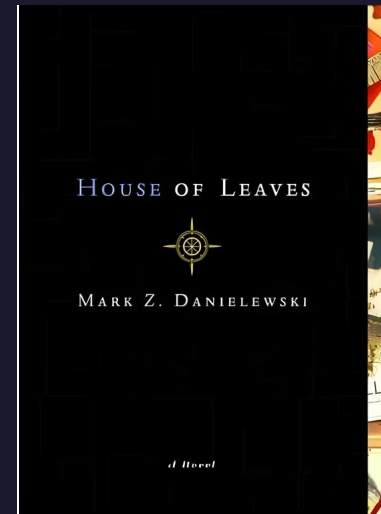
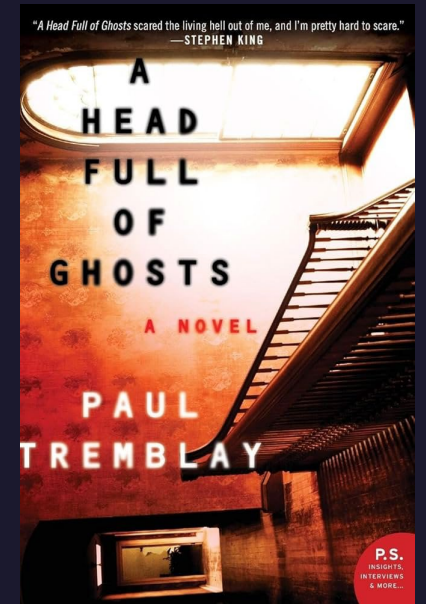
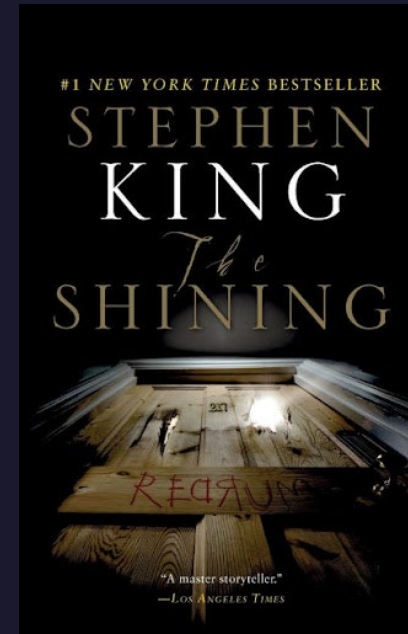
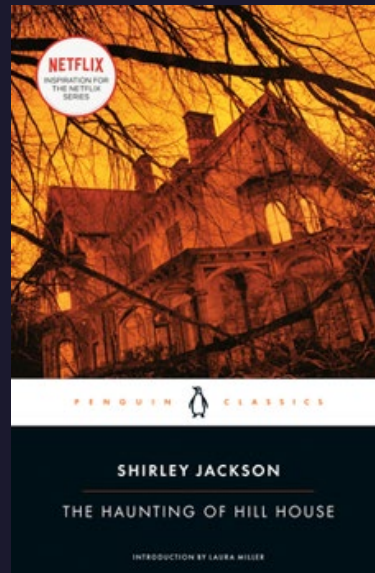
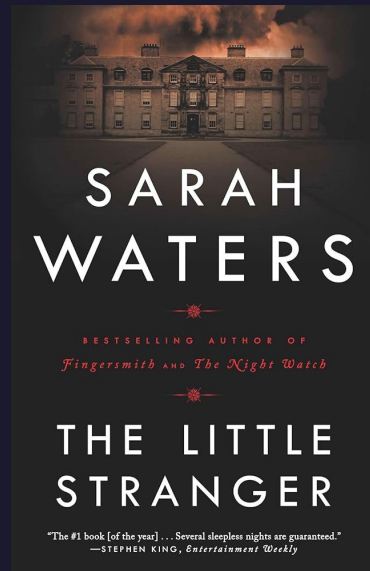
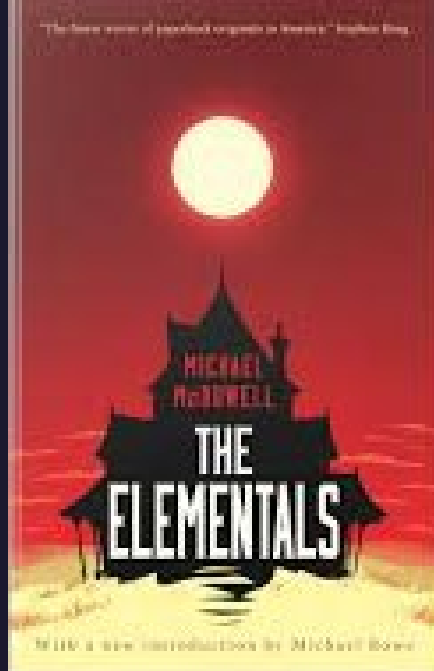


Gothic Horror Today



Paranormal Horror

- Ghosts and spirits
- Internal conflict among everyone with sighting of the unknown.
- Characters deal with inner demon, the great known fears is important.

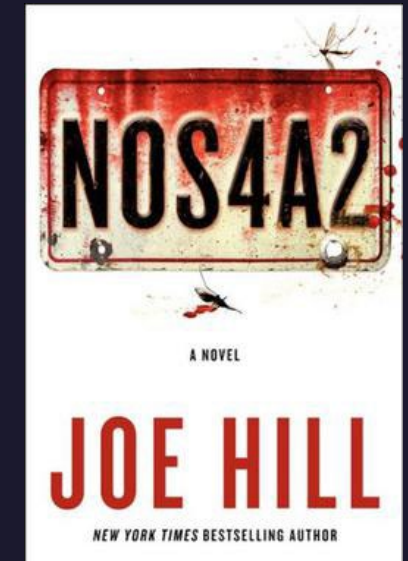
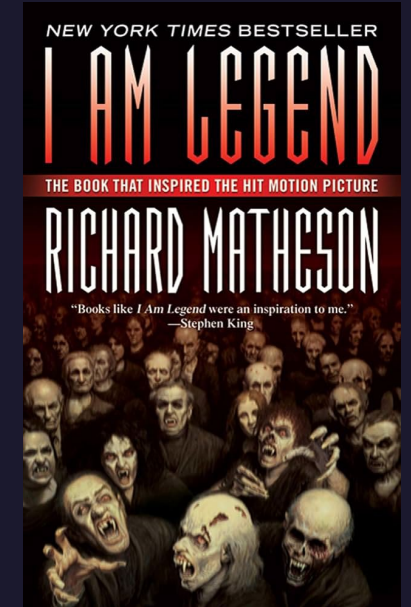
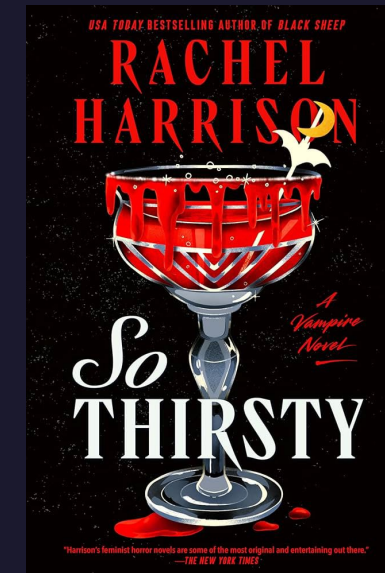
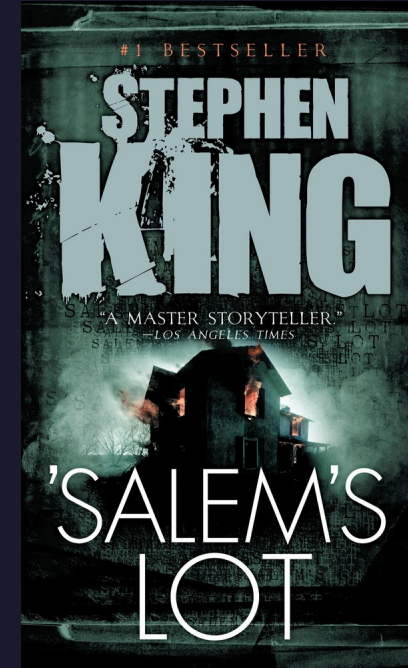
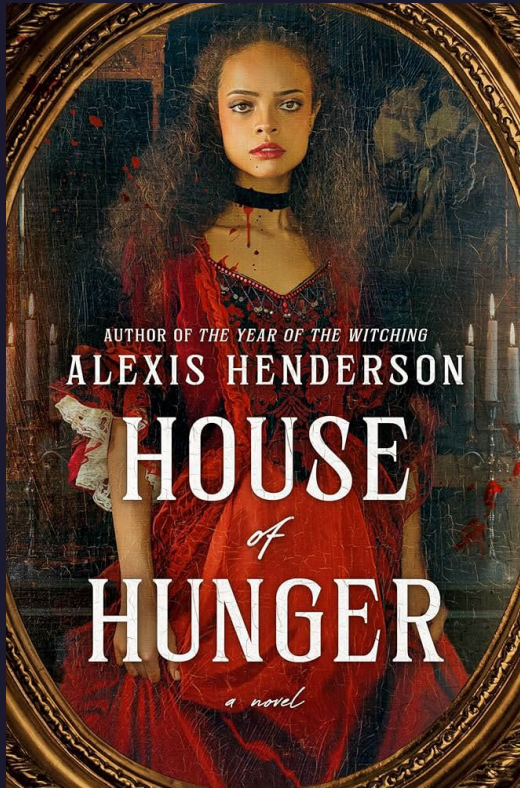


Vampires

- Dates to the 1700s with Eastern folklore
- Anne Rice & *Interview with the Vampire*
- Love / Hate relationship
- The portrayal of vampires today



Vampire Fiction Today

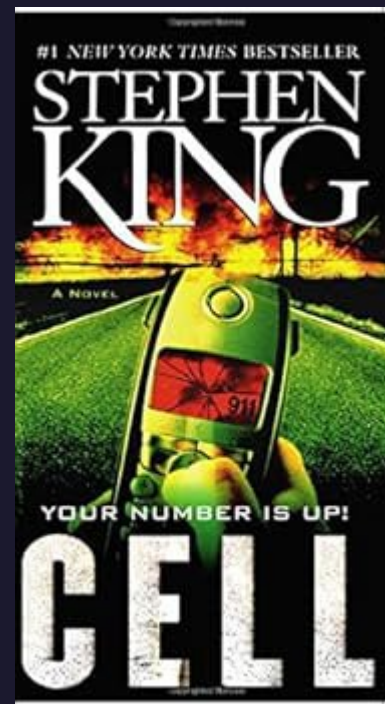
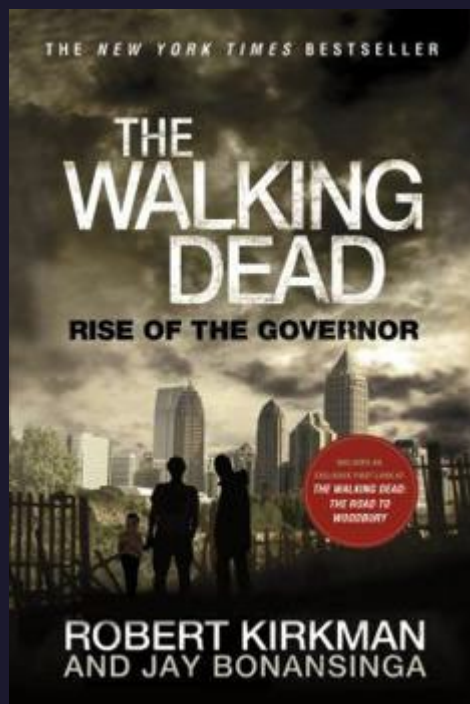
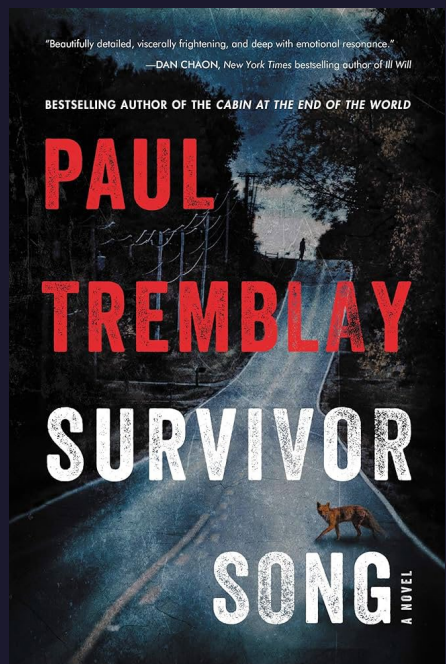
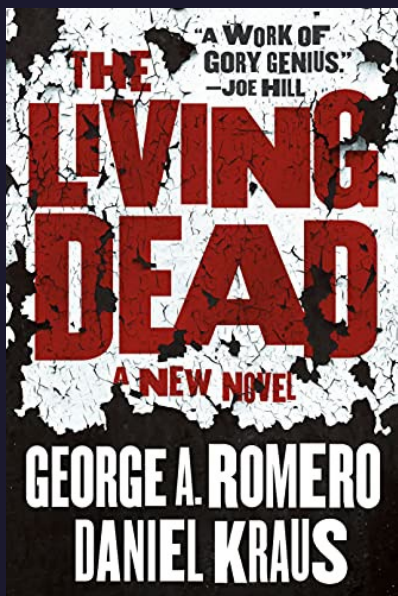




Zombies (Brains)

- Destroy to kill the living and follow the undead
- Continues to be popularized in films and gaming
- The destruction of humanization
- The desire of power and controlling society.

Select Zombie Titles



Shapeshifters



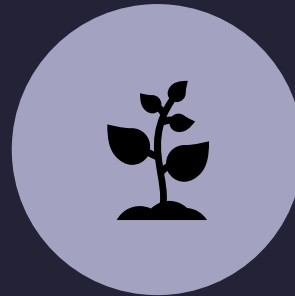
Dogs, snakes, spiders, cats,
etc.



The fear of attack.

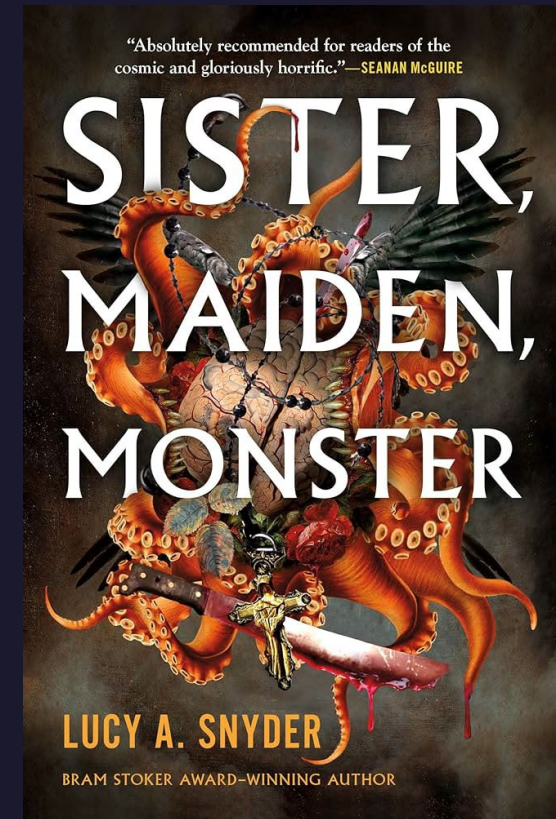
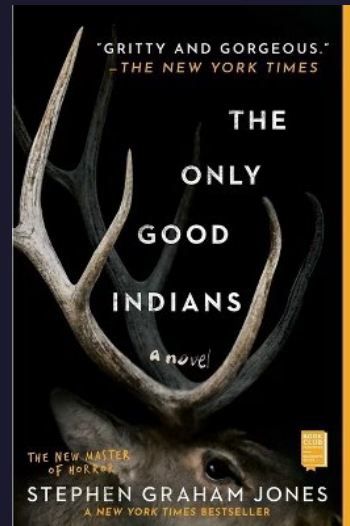
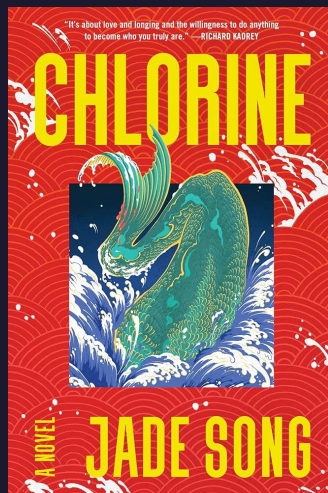
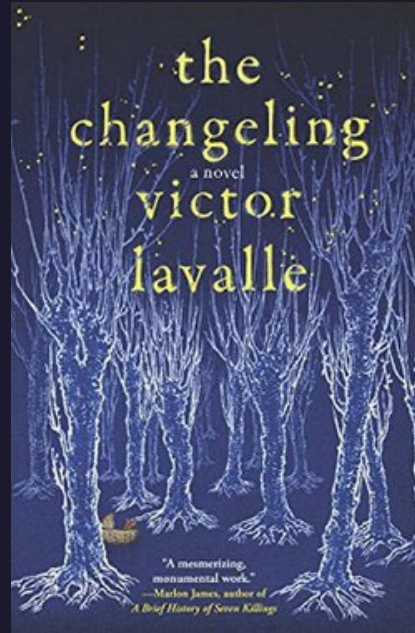
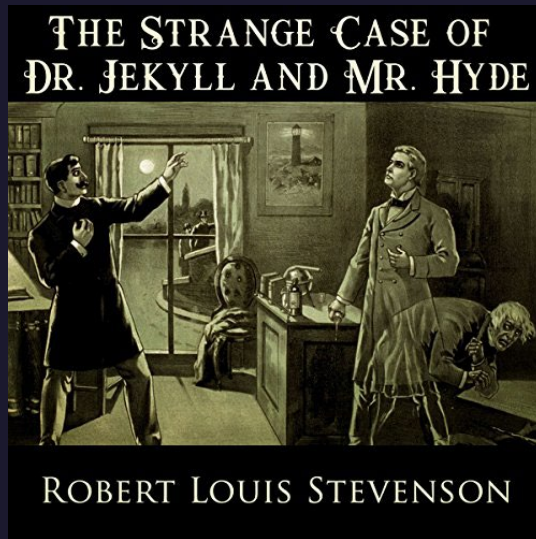


The creature prepared to
destroy the human race.



The inclusion of plants
being used as
shapeshifters.

Selected Titles



The Occult

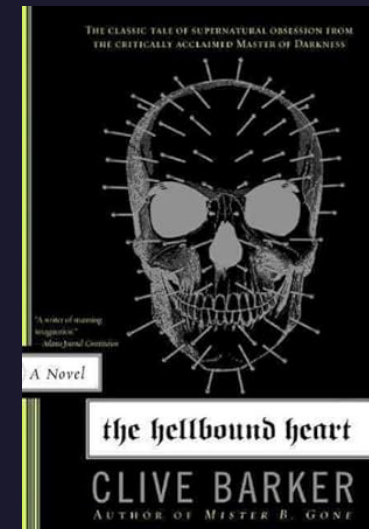
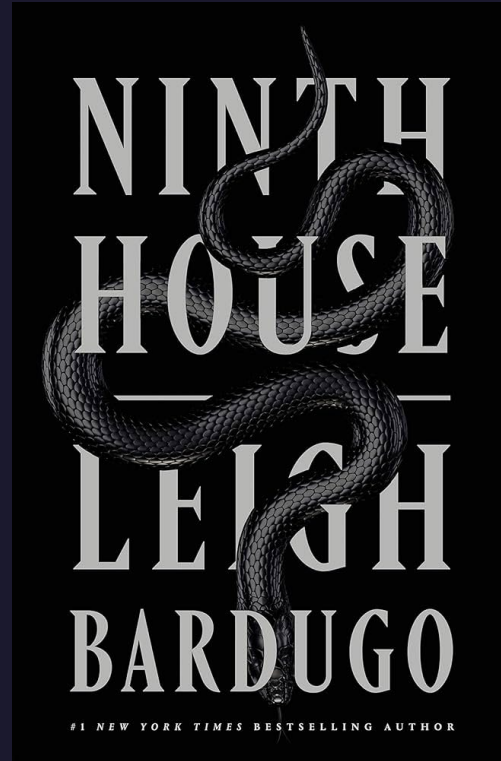
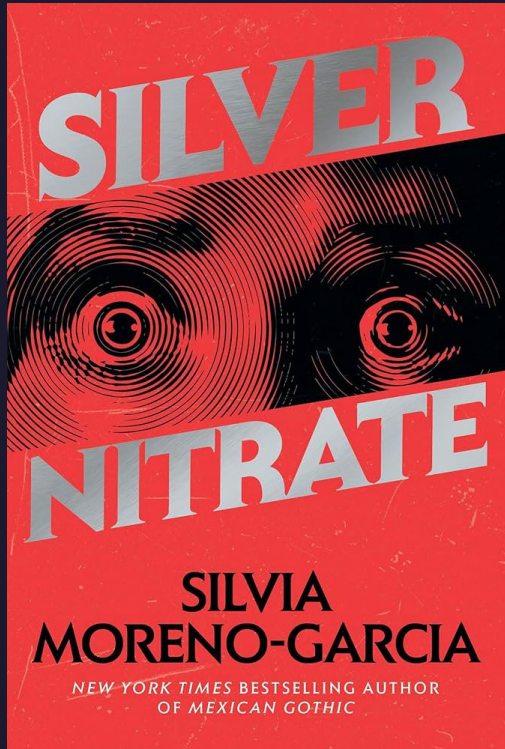
Witches, fortune tellers, spell casters, etc.

Setting: New England, New Orleans, small cities & towns.

Stories can be told both orally and written.

Danger, danger, danger.

Selected Titles

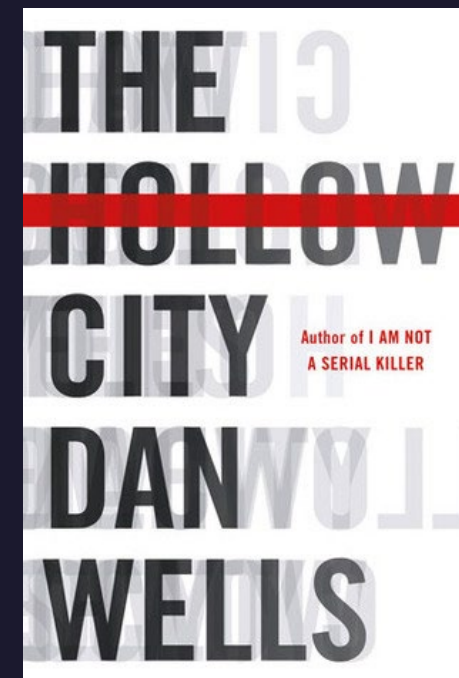
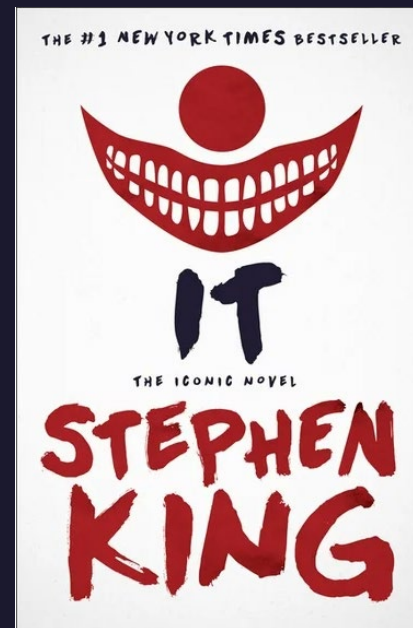
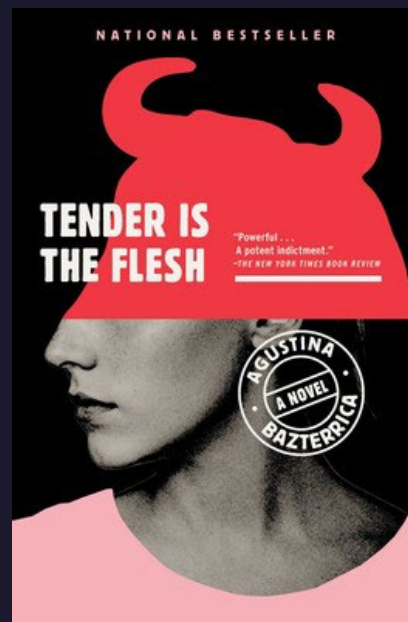
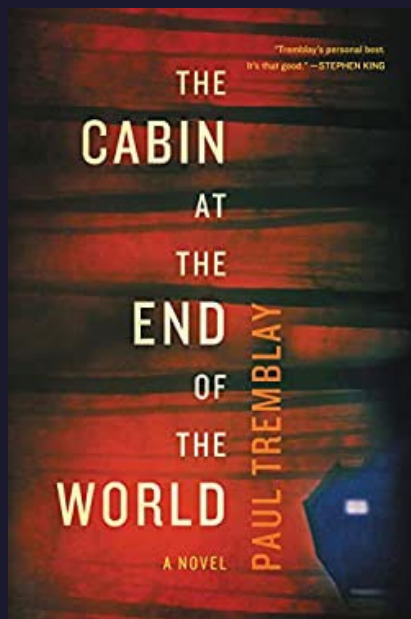
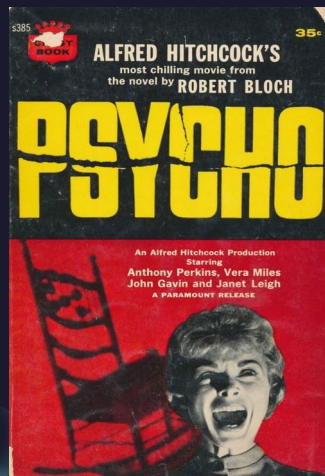




Psychological

- Mind games, insane, murderers, psychos.
- Antagonist is often trusted by the protagonist(s)
- Appeal factors:
 - The pressure of personal demons
 - There is a killer within the character(s)
 - Real-life situations

Selected Titles

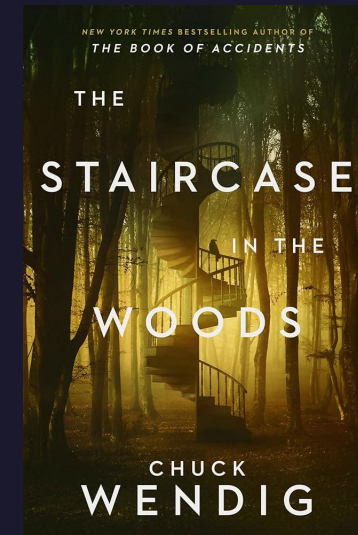
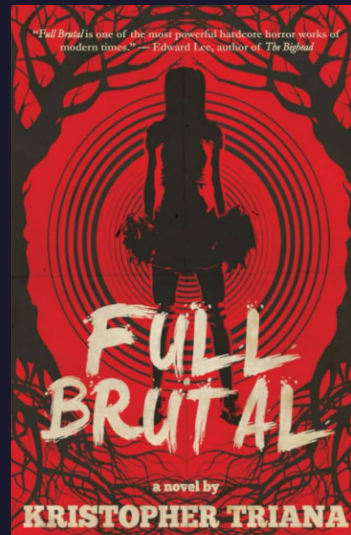
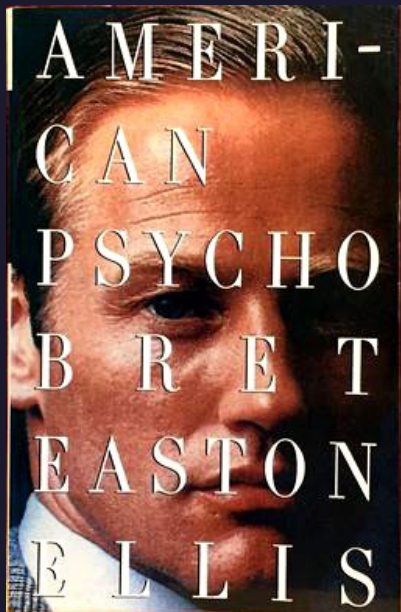
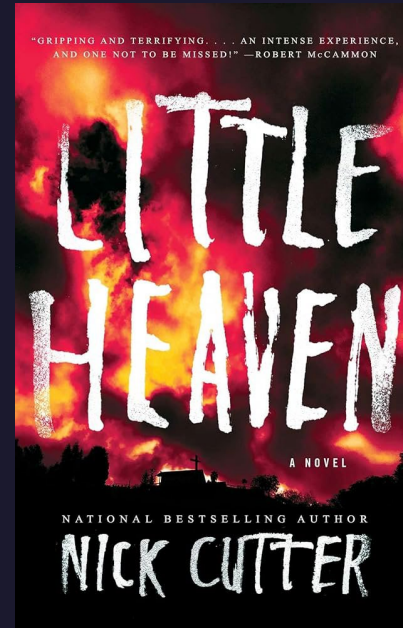
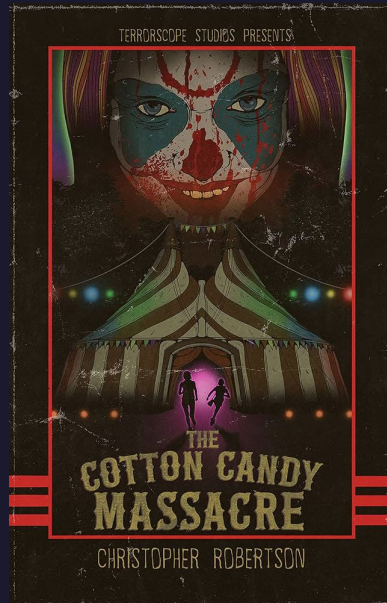


Visceral

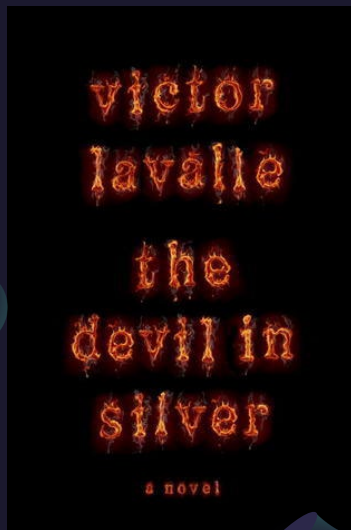


- Fast paced, on the seat of your pants from start to finish.
- You do not have to like the book but want to know what happens next.
- Synonymous with “splatterpunk” from the 1980s.
- There is no limits, everything and anything can happen.

Selected Titles



The Devil



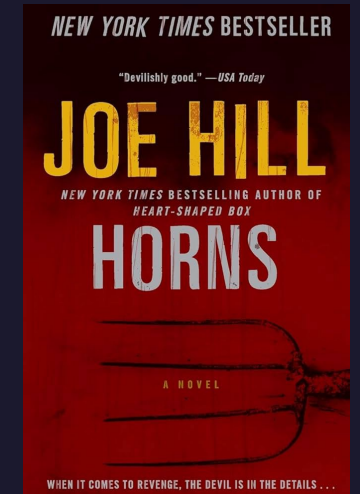
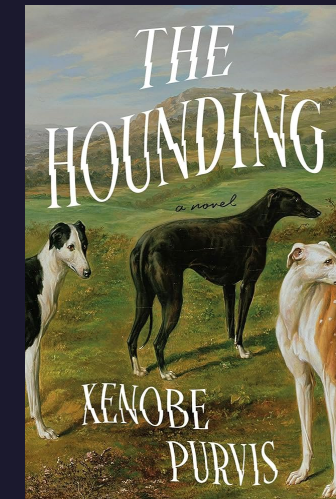
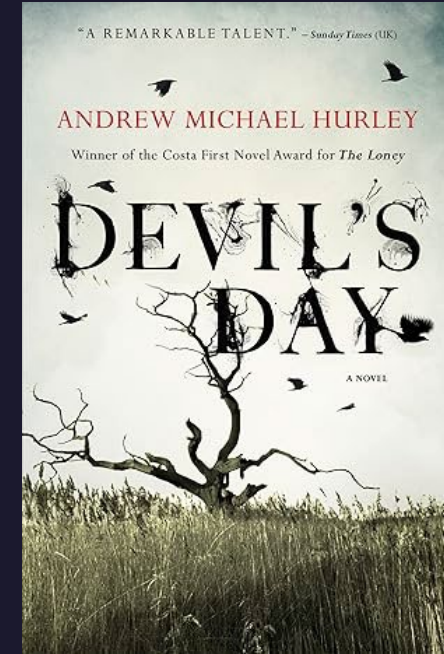
- Represented all around world.
- Can mean signs of death and evil.
- Various religious affiliations
- Common plotlines

Possession

Worships and rituals

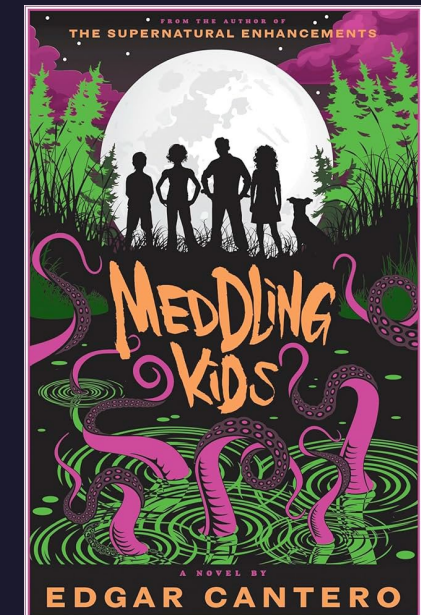
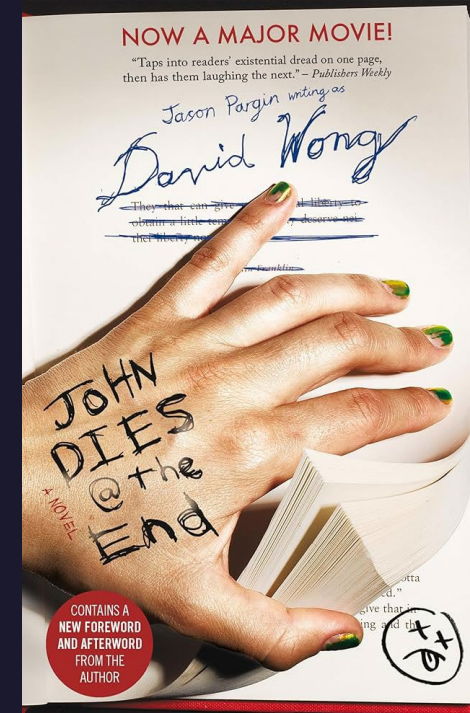
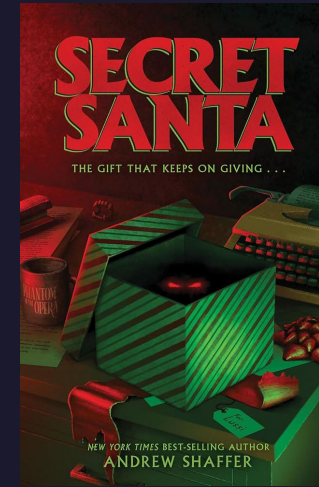
Curses / cursed objects

Sell Your

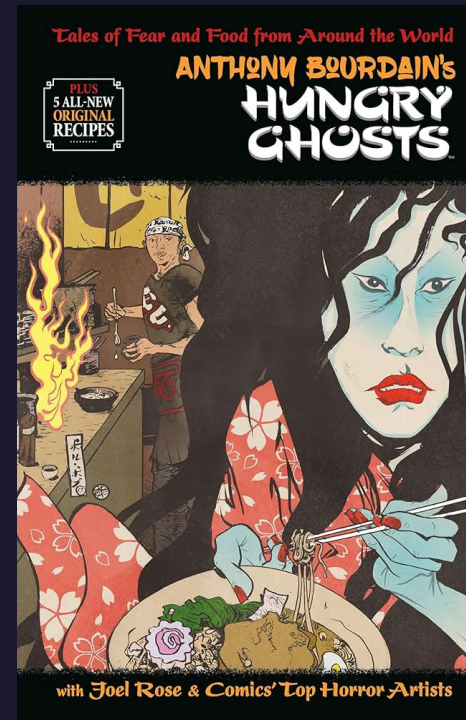
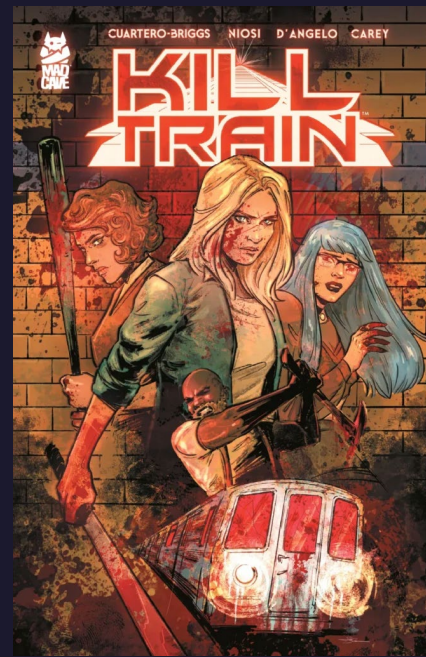
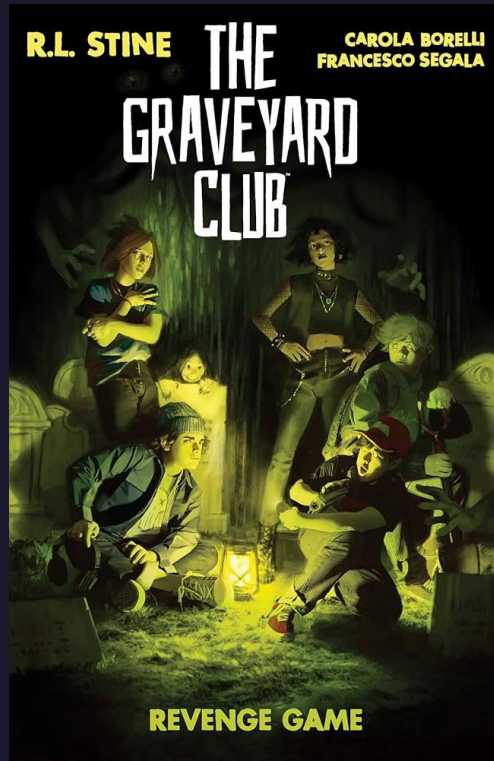
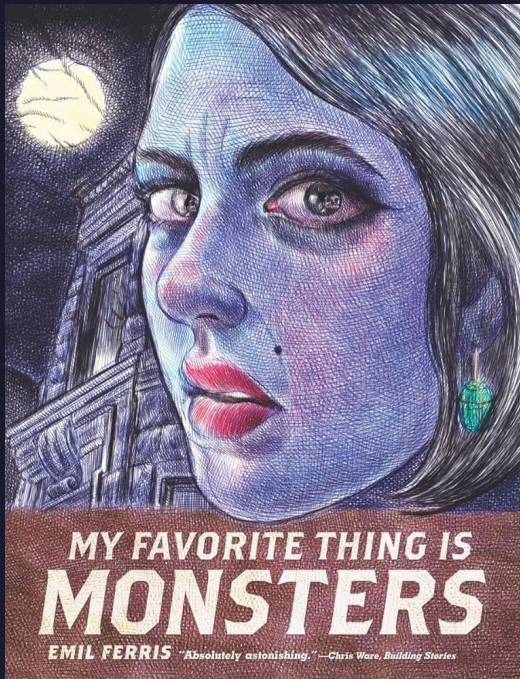


Humorous

- More recent genre, spoofs drawn from television and films.
- Anything that can happen, could happen.
- Awkward situations
- Slap comedy
- What's the worst that can happen in a funny way.



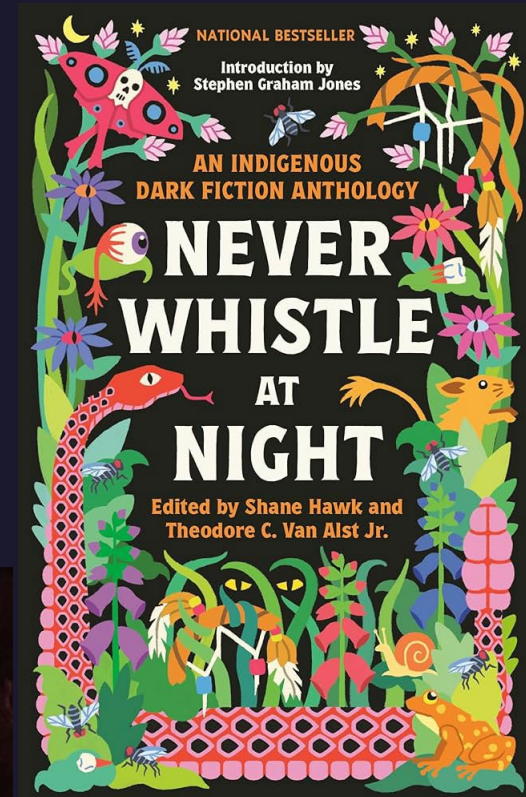
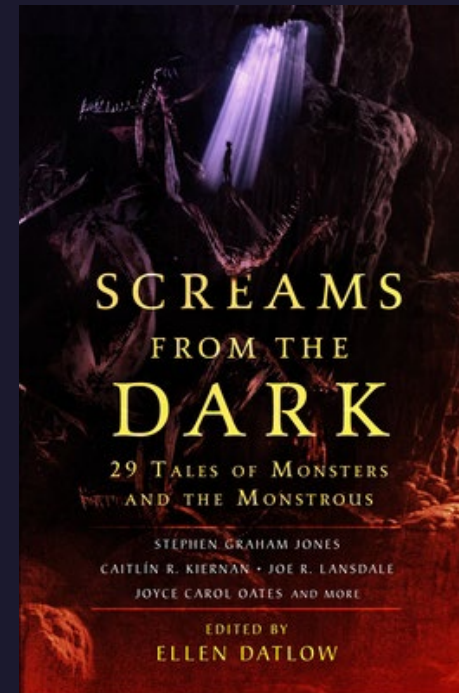
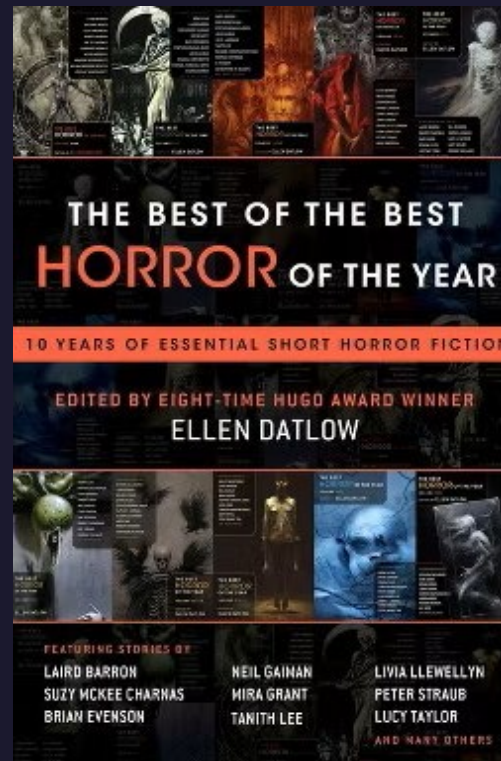
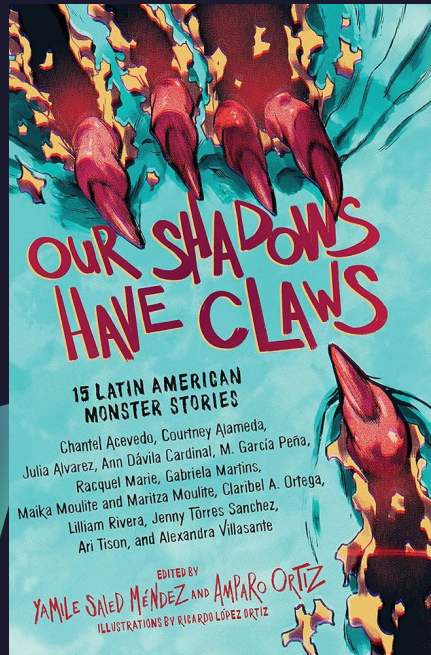
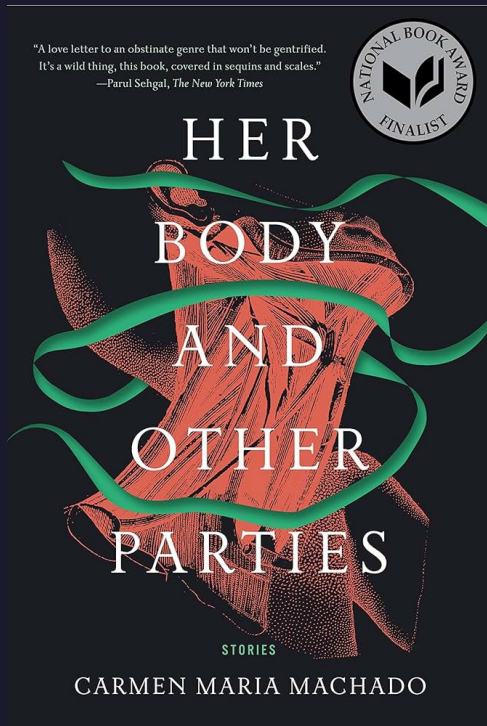
Graphic Novels



- Plenty of emotions expressed.
- Pairs the reader with gore and suspense of what is going to happen next.
- Illustrations displays the reaction of the character(s)
- Judge a book by its cover

Short Stories / Anthologies

- Less of a commitment to finish, pick up and put down.
- Convenience of finding new authors you may not know about.



Online Resources

- Horror Writers Association (www.horror.org) – Bram Stoker Award
- Creepypasta (www.creepypasta.com) – Free online stories
- Nightmare Magazine (www.nightmare-magazine.com)
- This is Horror (www.thisishorror.co.uk)
- Horror World (www.horrorworld.com)
- Godless (<https://godless.com>)
- Open Library (openlibrary.org/subject/horror) - Part of the Internet Archive





Q & A

Thank you for
attending!