

Chapter 1 : Review: The Children of Cthulhu

The Children of Cthulhu is a stellar collection, well worth the time and effort of reading it. At it's best, in stories like I have a confession to make. I am not a huge H.P. Lovecraft fan.

Lovecraft himself encouraged other authors to expand his horrific universe with stories of their own, the Cthulhu mythos has spawned so many slavish imitators that it tends not to seem so scary these days. Editors John Pelan and Benjamin Adams seek to remedy that with *The Children of Cthulhu*, an anthology of 21 stories by modern macabre masters. The results are mostly terrific. Offerings from Poppy Z. Brite "Are You Loathsome Tonight?" Sims "A Victorian Pot Dresser" are the best of the bunch. Many of the stories are reminiscent of the Vertigo line of DC Comics, with dark, urban settings and gross-out violence, so the book is more likely to appeal to readers of contemporary horror than to fans of classic Lovecraft. In twenty-one dark visions, a host of outstanding contemporary writers tap into our innermost fears, with tales set in a misbegotten new world that could have been spawned only by the master of the macabre himself, H. A curious boy discovers that within the splinters of cracked wood or the tangle of tree branches, the devil is in the details. When Edgar Allan Poe arrives, a callow man finally gets what he always wanted—and what he may eternally despise. A couple in love with terror travels beyond their wildest dreams—and into their nightmares. Given his contribution to the horror genre, such consideration is well deserved. *The Children of Cthulhu* tries to work with all of it. Sometimes it works, sometimes not. Too much homage is not a good thing. But it also suffers some fairly weak ones which is unfortunate. This could have been a finer volume of fiction than was finally published. The first three stories are quite good. Details, by Mieville gets the collection off to a good start. Visitation, is also a fine story and I liked the historical fiction in *The Invisible Empire*. Many stories are either weak in chills, low on atmosphere or seem to be trying to hard to be modern Lovecraft. This suggests that a bit more edit, better selection and polishing might have made this a better collection. So expect a few gems along with a few rocks. While there are stories set in Arkham or involving Shub-Niggurath to cite two examples, the stories are interesting in their own right, rather than being excuses to add new lore. This is going to be the anthology to beat in the field of Mythos fiction. There were no rules, except that we could not write stories that were sexually explicit because Del Rey wanted to market the book to young readers. It is certainly one of the finest modern anthologies of tales inspired by H. Lovecraft and I am honored to be within its pages, however lacking and uninspired my own story may be. The book was a huge success and sold well both as hardcover edition and trade paperback. If you want innovative and superbly written tales that explore Lovecraftian ideas and yet are utterly original and decidedly modern, this book is for you. And I mean a lot. In the new millenium, the Old Ones are new again You really have to read it to believe it. So, in the end, is this anthology worth your time and money? The writing quality is high, many of the ideas are original if oddly developed? The remainder of the tales drop names or refer to classic tales to remind the reader of the nature of the anthology. A few of the tales, such as "A Victorian Pot Dresser," begin well, but soon descend into standard horror cliches, with tight little endings that follow standard movie logic. Most of these stories skip such implications and head straight for the gruesome monsters and the spattering blood with a near-complete lack of subtlety. Best to skip this one and stick with older material, if not Lovecraft himself. Most of the anthologies published by Chaosium are far superior. Many of the stories follow tried-and-true Lovecraft conventions too closely. Some others do succeed in escaping the boundaries of Lovecraft while keeping essential Mythos ideas intact. Superior Mythos Anthology By on Mar 02, This new anthology is one of the best of recent Cthulhu Mythos literature, 21 exceptional stories that are fresh, imaginative and most of them quite witty. These are not run of the mill pastiches. The writers attempt to provide a different approach to the material, and for the most part are quite successful. Among the best ones are: The stories and authors do Lovecraft proud and the fact most are set in contemporary times, is definately an added bonus. If you are a Lovecraftian as opposed to a Cthulhuian, this is the anthology for you and you are interest in updating the Mythos to near times, as opposed to the s This is a superior anthology of cosmic horror, unspoiled that had me turning every page. I can only hope that we will see more. Uneven, but have some gems If anything, they fall

in the same traps as he did! Writing Cthulhu mythos stories is very difficult. While no story exactly fails, very few bring you to the brink of insanity either. Some stories, like "Details", "Meet me on the other side", and "Parameters and Principles" soars. At its worst this book helps bring back memories of those magic days of terror when you could read the real thing, and for that I really like it. Lovecraft had a very powerful, dignified way of telling a story that appears nowhere in *The Children of Cthulhu*. Nothing truly new is contributed, and a bunch of familiar Lovecraft ideas are recycled and bandied about. Lovecraft wrote like a gentleman of the 17th century, scientific and cold, and most of his main characters are like him. None of the contributors to *The Children of Cthulhu* create characters this way, most of them being very ordinary, somewhat uninteresting people. None of the stories in this volume feel Lovecraftian in this sense, containing characters of a very ordinary motivation. No insanity, no aversion to all normal life, no cosmic fear, just money. Lovecraft himself would be disgusted. None of the others do, either. We hear a lot of Lovecraft references, but seldom see any. Too much talking, too much character, not enough weird ideas. Even this story completely fails to capture that sense of the grand, the terrible, that Lovecraft was seeking to create. For Lovecraft, as China Mieville says, character and plot were simply not the point. The story lacks taste and power. Most of the stories in *Children of Cthulhu* are plot-heavy and character-heavy. People today seem to have no shortage of characters to write about, but they have a remarkable shortage of brilliantly original ideas. Perhaps the only one who could really write like Lovecraft was Lovecraft himself. But I have the strong suspicion that they were scanned and put together. The number of typos in this book are distracting. Especially in the story *Dark of the Moon*: The other stories I read I bought this title for a college course and we were only required to read specific stories were easier to read, though they also had their share of typos. A great read for anyone who loves H. P. Lovecraft. By Robert Saucedo on Mar 25, This book is awesome. Also, I got the book quickly and without any hassle. Although not Lovecraft himself, these authors have done their best. I thought I was reading the titled story that left my mouth hanging open as I turned the page to see a new story. Some of them are true life scary. Every one was a great read. I wanted to read something by this author. Many people recommended as a starter book. I am now a fan of David Brian. The twenty-three contributors provide entertaining tales that would not turn H. P. Lovecraft over in his grave as many Cthulhu "experts" do. As an aside to the editors: This short story collection provides a big payback to horror fans, but Lovecraft fanatics will feel another let down as the original remains undisputedly the best even after seven decades of "fixing it". Many readers have become mired in his prose, but he creates a sense of disquiet and in some cases lingering terror that makes you reconsider what lurks within the seas, the stars, the woods and forests and mountains. The only modern writer who evokes a similar sense of unease in the reader is Thomas Ligotti, but good luck finding his work in print. Many Cthulhu collections are reprints of stories found elsewhere, but this collection is nearly all original work and fresh to the Mythos. Some do include the usual suspects Yog Sothoth, Shub Niggurath, shoggoths but that is no assurance of quality. I was optimistic that this would be a superior collection because the work was new and because China Mieville was one of the contributors. His short story is excellent, but perhaps not as a Lovecraft tale. A few others are worthwhile, but quite a few made me feel embarrassed for their respective authors -- they were poorly written and felt overeager to please. I hate to pan this book as the world needs more Cthulhu and less V. Add a Book Review Book Summary: This particular edition is in a Paperback format.

Chapter 2 : Cthulhu - Wikipedia

A Cthulhu Mythos anthology is a type of short story collection that contains stories written in or related to the Cthulhu Mythos genre of horror fiction launched by H. P. Lovecraft. Such anthologies have helped to define and popularize the genre.

Children of Cthulhu, published January , is their first original anthology of Lovecraft-influenced work, assembled by John Pelan and Benjamin Adams. What is initially obvious about Children of Cthulhu is the company it wants to keep. The smaller Children of Cthulhu will sit comfortably on the shelf with my Lovecraft and pastiche shelf. Also worthy of note is the quality of the paper the book it printed on. Lovecraft fans are noted bibliophiles, something encouraged by Derleth and Arkham House and the subject of a future essay, I expect , so Del Rey may feel it necessary to keep the quality of the book high to satisfy us. In addition to its physical attributes, The Children of Cthulhu is significant because it is not a "Cthulhu Mythos" anthology. I would have to say that they have succeeded; you will not find a single Derlethian house built on malice in the lot. While all anthologies are uneven, Children of Cthulhu is more consistent than most. Virtually all of the stories are a pleasure to read, free of the awkward prose or odd descriptions of inexperienced authors pushing out their first Lovecraft pastiche. A good sense of history, combined with careful, believable character work and a fine knowledge of the pettiness of men makes make this a surprisingly powerful story. It is one of the few light stories in the anthology, but it in no way clashes with the mood of the other stories of the anthology. Both "The Stuff of Stars, Leaking" and "Spectacle of Man" deal quite well with insanity, as told from the perspective of someone whose mind has been warped by external forces. Both these stories maintain the broken logic that the unwell mind creates for itself, hinting at unknown glimpses of cosmic truths that Lovecraft maintained would break the human mind if seen whole. The bitter loneliness and nihilism of the story cast a pall over the rest of the day that I read it and began this review. A few of the stories are less than successful, and I sometimes find it instructive to go back and look at stories that do not fit generally well into an anthology. It runs a total of six pages, in which there is much information about Elvis, but if Brite is insinuating something, I certainly missed it. Considering that the rest of the story is made up of properly constructed sentences, I can only conclude that these are intentional. What the effect on the reader was supposed to be I fail to understand, but the affectation annoyed the living Hell out of me. This, combined with a rather impressionistic approach to the story that described little but the sketch of a plot, and failed to communicate much in the way of internal logic made it one of the two real disappointments of the lot. As is often the case for a Lovecraft-influenced anthology, the "Notes on the Contributors" are interesting reading. Without a doubt, the stories are good enough to make the anthology worth reading. The editors have done a good job of selecting exciting stories that do not simply retread the same old ground in the same old way.

Chapter 3 : The Children Of Cthulhu: Stories Download

*The Children of Cthulhu: Stories [Alan Dean Foster, China Mięville, Yvonne Navarro, John Pelan, Benjamin Adams] on calendrieldelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. >Descend to the depths of primal horror with this chilling collection of original stories drawn from H. P. Lovecraft's shocking.*

Chapter 4 : The Children of Cthulhu: Chilling New Tales Inspired by H.P. Lovecraft by John Pelan

THE CHILDREN OF CTHULHU is an engaging horror anthology written by many of the more popular genre authors of the last decade. The twenty-three contributors provide entertaining tales that would not turn HP Lovecraft over in his grave as many Cthulu Ć expertsĆ do.

Chapter 5 : Cthulhu Mythos anthology - Wikipedia

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About The Children of Cthulhu. Descend to the depths of primal horror with this chilling collection of original stories drawn from H. P. Lovecraft's shocking, terrifying, and eerily prescient Cthulhu Mythos.

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Chapter 7 : THE CHILDREN OF CTHULHU by John Pelan , Benjamin Adams | Kirkus Reviews

Descend to the depths of primal horror with this chilling collection of original stories drawn from H. P. Lovecraft's shocking, terrifying, and eerily prescient Cthulhu Mythos.