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TALES OF MYSTERY & THE SUPERNATURAL

# The Hunter of the Ring & Other Tales

ROBERT E. HOWARD



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# Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales by Robert E. Howard

Robert E. Howard

From the unsurpassed mind's eye of the author of Conan, Robert E. Howard, listed here are twenty-one stories of suspense, excessive event and Lovecraftian horror. Foul sacrifices are made to a reptilian God in Hungary, a werewolf prowls the corridors of a fortress in strife-torn Africa, legal masterminds on either side of the Atlantic vie for global domination, an enchanted ring exerts a poor effect upon its wearer...And, as written within the pages of the accursed Necronomicon and Unaussprechlichen Kulten, the good previous Ones watch our global from past the void - and wait...

a long time Hunter of the Ring & Other Tales ago, while i used to be nonetheless in excessive school, Texas-born Robert E. Howard was once considered one of my favourite authors, and this reader couldn't get adequate of him, even if it used to be through such mythical characters as Conan the Cimmerian, King Kull, Solomon Kane or Bran Mak Morn. Flash ahead extra years than I'd care to admit, and in the future i spotted that I hadn't learn a e-book of Howard's in all that intervening time. Sure, i would run around the occasional tale of his now and then; whilst your tastes run to classic pulp fiction, as do mine, and also Hunter of the Ring & Other Tales you learn loads of outdated anthologies and better of bizarre stories collections, the fellow is essentially unavoidable. yet a whole publication dedicated to Howard...it have been eons, for me. Thus, the gathering entitled "The Hunter of the hoop & different Tales"--a big, 400-page affair from Wordsworth Editions' economically priced stories of puzzle and the Supernatural subdivision, which has rescued from oblivion dozens of writers of the macabre--was simply too a lot for me to resist. The booklet encompasses a scholarly essay on Howard by means of M.J. Elliott, through a minimum of 21 of Howard's top stories (none of the tales offers with these 4 recognized characters indexed up top), very easily prepared in chronological order in order that the reader can greater enjoy Howard's expanding ability as a wordsmith as he practiced his craft. Fourteen of those tales were culled from the pages of "Weird Tales" (although the gathering doesn't contain his first tale offered to the mythical magazine, "Spear and Fang," from the 7/25 issue) and the remaining from different competing pulp publications: "Strange stories of puzzle and Terror," "Strange Detective Stories," "Super-Detective Stories" and "Thrilling Mystery." Chronologically, the stories span Howard's complete writing career, from 1925 till the posthumously published "Pigeons From Hell" in 1938 (two years after Howard's suicide, at age 30). And, because it turns Hunter of the Ring & Other Tales out, the booklet is a superb assessment of REH's huge, immense oeuvre. I simply ate this publication up, and totally enjoyed every tale in it. easily stated, this can be one helluva collection. As for the stories themselves, Howard wrote in lots of varied genres--although he nearly single-handedly created the style referred to now as sword & sorcery--and a lot Hunter of the Ring & Other Tales of his genres are represented here. the gathering kicks Hunter of the Ring & Other Tales off with stories facing a French werewolf named de Montour. "In the woodland of Villefore" serves as in simple terms a quick introduction, yet its sequel, "Wolfshead" (the hide tale of the 4/26 "Weird Tales"), is a enormously intriguing affair that transpires in East Africa, of all places, and offers the reader a proof of ways werewolves arose within the first place. Howard was once an important fan of Edgar Rice Burroughs and H. Rider Haggard, and his tale "The Hyena" is

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definitely resembling these nice writers. He used to be additionally keen on Fu Manchu author Sax Rohmer, and *Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales* within the novella-length "Skull-Face," Howard does a Rohmer pastiche that's dead-on, exchanging the Chinese language supervillain with Kathulos, a diabolical mastermind posing as an Egyptian, yet who's eventually printed to be (slight spoiler ahead) a survivor of the misplaced continent of Atlantis! This pulpy tale, crudely written because it is (it ran as a three-part serial in "Weird Tales" in past due 1929), continues to be splendidly entertaining, and remarkably, positive aspects the destruction of 1/10 of London! Howard, of course, used to be additionally keen on (and penpals with) his fellow "Weird Tales" contributor H.P. Lovecraft, and his brief story "Sea Curse" is a really well-done homage. Howard was once keen on referencing Lovecraft's Elder Gods (such as Cthulhu) in his personal stories, in addition to Lovecraft's dreaded booklet "The Necronomicon," and likewise, Lovecraft may pay off the desire by means of pointing out Howard's imaginary evil tome "Nameless Cults" in his personal tales. The gathering in query offers us impressive tales that includes Howard's notorious book: "The Black Stone," a marvelously written piece within which an old Hungarian monolith offers an explorer a glimpse of a terrible worship rite centuries ago, and its sequel of sorts, "The factor at the Roof," within which one other explorer within the Yucatan by some means arouses the wrath of a toad-shaped monstrosity. In 3 of the tales here, males are vouchsafed a imaginative and prescient of 1 in their earlier lives, through a knock at the head or magical influence. Thus, in "The young ones of the Night," a guy sees himself as a warrior struggling with the inhuman population of Britain who predated the Picts (in this story, a personality mentions that the 3 maximum horror tales ever written are *Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales*, Poe's "The Fall of the home of Usher," Arthur Machen's "Black Seal"...and Lovecraft's "The name of Cthulhu!"); in "People of the Dark," a guy sees himself as Conan the Reaver (NOT an identical personality that Howard is most renowned for), scuffling with a subterranean people, set opposed to a love triangle facing a triple reincarnation (!); and within the oft-anthologized "The Cairn at the Headland," an Irishman flashes again to the time while he helped struggle off the Vikings within the 12 months 1014. And conversing of news which were anthologized often, and for solid reason, the gathering additionally contains the glorious story "The factor From the Mound," a Western/vampire hybrid story, in addition to the really scary horror masterpiece "Pigeons From Hell"; this can be the tale that brought readers to the feminine creature often called the "zuvembie," a fair scarier proposition than a zombie, believe me! carrying on with within the Western vein, the gathering *Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales* supplies us "Black Wind Blowing," within which a modern day Texas cowboy is going up opposed to the big cult often called the Black Brothers of Ahriman. Then there's the ubercreepy story "The Fearsome contact of Death"; the name story, "The *Haunter of the Ring*," within which a delightful younger girl is one way or the other *Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales* being pressured to make repeated homicide makes an attempt on her husband; and "The hearth of Asshurbanipal," a story greatly within the sword & sorcery vein (the conceal tale of the 12/36 "Weird Tales"), within which modern day explorers within the Arabian wasteland find a misplaced city, a useful gem...and its hideous guardian.... Howard, to extend his marketplace for promoting stories, and at the recommendation of his agent, Otis Adelbert Kline, began, in 1933, to jot down crime and detective fiction, yet regularly incorporated a few grisly or macabre touch, of course. This assortment supplies us 4 such detective tales. In "Black Talons," an historian and a personal dick workforce as much as conflict a pantherish killer from Africa. Howard may write 10 tales that includes River highway detective Steve Harrison, one in all that is deemed misplaced forever, and the Wordsworth assortment supplies us 3 of those terrific tales. within

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the senselessly titled "Fangs of Gold," Harrison pursues a Chinese language assassin to a Southern bayou, the place he witnesses a surprising voodoo ceremony. In "Names within the Black Book," Harrison and his allies, together with a remarkably difficult Afghani, move up opposed to one other Fu-like mastermind, Erlik Khan, and his felony horde of Mongolians. And within the amazingly grisly "Graveyard Rats," Harrison attempts to find who has been killing 4 brothers one via one, and virtually will get eaten alive via the titular rodents within the process, resulting in this excellent paragraph, which essentially typifies pulp fiction in a nutshell: "In a murdered man's grave, his hand locked within the coffin of a headless corpse, with one thousand gray ghoul-rats able to tear the flesh from his residing frame!" These 3 Harrison tales are lots Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales fun, incidentally, that this reader is tempted now to splurge for the \$40 hardcover "Steve Harrison Casebook," together with all 9 extant Harrison stories, and is presently on hand from the Robert E. Howard Foundation. Howard, of course, will not be everyone's cup of tea, and people readers who delight in polished diction and meticulous prose (a la the works of, say, Clark Ashton Smith), and who're simply disposed of through blood, torture, violence, grisly mayhem, Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales monsters, conflict carnage and suchlike, will most likely have a tricky time Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales here. Howard's type is particularly a lot masculine, rugged and no-nonsense, and his stories continue with a virile force and an emphasis on fast-moving plot. For many, though, together with myself, the man's paintings is irresistibly fun, and this Wordsworth assortment Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales (despite that includes extra typographical error than any publication might be allowed to have) proves to be a most appropriate compendium of his mythical career. How great to reacquaint myself with my outdated highschool pal! greater than hugely recommended! (This review, via the way, initially seemed at Haunter of the Ring & Other Tales the myth Literature website--<http://www.fantasyliterature.com/> --a ideal vacation spot for all fanatics of Robert E. Howard!)

## Haunter Of The Ring Other Tales

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