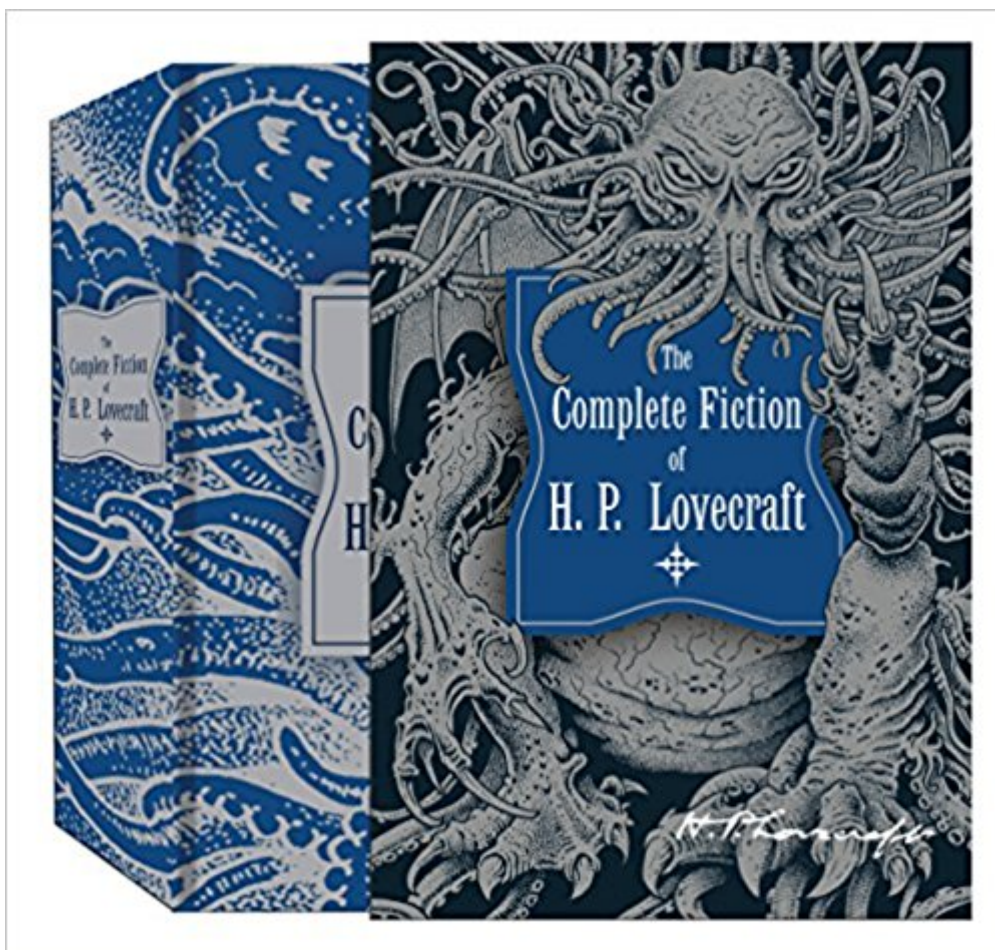


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The Complete Fiction Of H.P. Lovecraft (Knickerbocker Classics)



Synopsis

Another excellent edition in the Knickerbocker Classic series, *The Complete Fiction of H.P. Lovecraft* collects the author's novel, four novellas, and fifty-three short stories. Written between the years 1917 and 1935, this collection features Lovecraft's trademark fantastical creatures and supernatural thrills, as well as many horrific and cautionary science-fiction themes, that have influenced some of today's writers and filmmakers, including Stephen King, Alan Moore, F. Paul Wilson, Guillermo del Toro, and Neil Gaiman. Included in this volume are *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward*, "The Call of Cthulhu," "The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath," "At the Mountains of Madness," "The Shadow Over Innsmouth," "The Colour Out of Space," "The Dunwich Horror," and many more hair-raising tales. The Knickerbocker Classics bring together the works of classic authors from around the world in stunning gift editions to be collected and enjoyed. Complete and unabridged, these elegantly designed cloth-bound hardcovers feature a slipcase and ribbon marker, as well as a comprehensive introduction providing the reader with enlightening information on the author's life and works.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Howard Phillips "H. P." Lovecraft (August 20, 1890 – March 15, 1937) was an American author who achieved posthumous fame through his influential works of horror fiction. Virtually unknown and only published in pulp magazines before he died in poverty, he is now widely seen as one of the most significant 20th century authors in his genre.

Other reviewers have said that this is NOT the complete collection. Seems like a good start to me. Apparently it is missing some stories. I have included some photos of the contents pages. This is a very nice book. I can't wait to read it.

This "Knickerbocker Classics" edition of Lovecraft's (more or less) Complete Fiction is actually an apparently licensed dupe of the contents of the infamous, typo-riddled Barnes and Noble edition (complete with the same font), namely the second "corrected" edition that fixes most of the typos, but introduces a few new ones of its own. The B&N edition has more material, but this edition features an introduction by Eric Carl Link, not S.T. Joshi (Joshi's introductory notes for each story have also been excised). I have checked the text against some of both the typos found in the original B&N edition by Martin Andersson, and the typos in the second "corrected" printing found by myself and another dedicated reader who scoured the B&N "corrected" version for further errors. This new edition issued by Knickerbocker Classics features corrections to some of the additional typos found in the "corrected" second B&N printing, but not all of them (it seems whoever did the corrections for this Knickerbocker volume googled our proofing work and then made the corrections... but stopped at a certain point). I haven't actually read the entire volume yet, so it may have its own special "surprises" lurking, but it seems to be a very fine volume in tandem with the corrected second B&N printing, with a few less typos, albeit this one features none of the "Juvenilia" or other bonuses in the B&N volume, and is slightly less visually beautiful compared to the Leatherbound edition. It does, however, come with a nice slipcover, and is quite heavy and sturdy. These are the typos I've verified so far that are ported over to this volume, left uncorrected from the last B&N volume (please note that the typos are on the left, bordered by hyphens since doesn't allow formatting, with the correct version on the right):

202.11: sins like Ptolemaism, Calvinism, -anti-Darwinism-,] sins like Ptolemaism, Calvinism, -anti-Darwinism-,456.34: The next day they -spoke with- a ship with violet sails] The next day they -spoke- a ship with violet sails902.11: I made no -progress-.] I made no -progress-.994.1 I had seen him -one- or twice in my youth] I had seen him -once- or twice in my youth

The contents don't seem to be listed anywhere, so I'll transcribe from the table of contents:

CONTENTS:- "Introduction" [by Eric Carl Link]- The Beast in the Cave- The Alchemist- The Tomb- Dagon- A Reminiscence of Dr. Samuel Johnson- Polaris- Beyond the Wall of Sleep- Memory- Old Bugs- The Transition of Juan Romero- The White Ship- The Street- The Doom That Came to Sarnath- The Statement of Randolph Carter- The Terrible Old Man- The Cats of Ulthar- The Tree- Celephael's - The Picture in the House- The Temple-

Facts Concerning the Late Arthur Jermyn and His Family- From Beyond- Nyarlathotep- The Quest of Iranon- The Music of Erich Zahn- Ex Oblivione- Sweet Ermengarde- The Nameless City- The Outsider- The Moon-Bog- The Other Gods- Azathoth- Herbert West-Reanimator- Hypnos- What the Moon Brings- The Hound- The Lurking Fear- The Rats in the Walls- The Unnamable- The Festival- Under the Pyramids- The Shunned House- The Horror at Red Hook- He- In the Vault- Cool Air- The Call of Cthulhu- Pickman's Model- The Strange High House in the Mist- The Silver Key- The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath- The Case of Charles Dexter Ward- The Colour Out of Space- The Descendant- The Very Old Folk- History of the Necronomicon- The Dunwich Horror- Ibid- The Whisperer in Darkness- At the Mountains of Madness- The Shadow Over Innsmouth- The Dreams in the Witch House- Through the Gates of the Silver Key- The Thing on the Doorstep- The Evil Clergyman- The Book- The Shadow Out of Time- The Haunter of the Dark- "The Life and Times of H.P. Lovecraft" [essentially a condensed timeline style biography]- "Further Reading"

I own both the first and second B&N Complete Lovecraft editions and this is, far and away, the best of them all. I won't go into the typos that appear in both the B&N editions and this one (that's already been covered by another reviewer) but I will talk about the books themselves. The 2008 B&N edition is rather plain and underwhelming, with basic black boards, plain purple end-papers and a rather unattractive dust-jacket. But, at the time, it was the only book that collected all (or almost all, at any rate) of Lovecraft's fiction in one volume. Plus, it was only \$12.95. The 2011 B&N reprint is a much spiffier affair. Bound in faux leather -- which, despite feeling kind of cheap-ish is still very nice -- with silver gilt edging, a satin bookmark and very cool marbled end-papers, it's definitely a step-up from the 2008 edition. I'm not personally thrilled with the design of the cover, but that's just my opinion. It sells for \$18.00. This Knickerbocker Classics edition blows them all away. The slipcase, which boasts a very well-done Cthulhu illustration, is thick and remarkably sturdy. The text on the front of the slipcase is embossed and the Cthulhu illustration is printed in silver, metallic ink. It makes for a very impressive presentation. A minor annoyance is a paper describing the book is glued to the back of the slipcase. I tried to carefully and slowly remove it and some of the paper of the slipcase began to come away with it so I guess it stays. It would be nice, however, if it were easily removed if desired. Unlike the two B&N editions which have glued bindings, this edition has a stitched binding which should hold up better over time. The cloth-bound covers are very impressive in blue and metallic silver, and there is a silver satin bookmark. The end-papers are light grey with a scale-like design, nice, but not nearly as nice as the end-papers on the 2011 B&N edition. The paper is of a very similar stock on all three editions and is certainly on the thin side; there is a fair amount of

text-bleed through the pages. But all three books in question are nearly 1100 pages so thin paper is a bit of a necessity to keep the weight and size at manageable levels. Overall, this edition is the far superior one. The first B&N edition has cheap written all over it, plus there are the hundreds of typos to contend with. The second B&N edition is decent but the faux leather and somewhat ugly cover design doesn't do it any favors, and it ends up looking and feeling like a book that's trying to be a lot more than what it actually is. The Knickerbocker edition looks and feels elegant. It's really quite beautiful and if it cost twice what it actually does it would still certainly be worth it. A very, very nice book.

For those new to treading the ancient tracks blazed by the Old Gentleman of Providence, and to those who have long suffered from the insanity and wonder gained from endlessly trying to pronounce "Cthulhu" correctly, you will find no finer edition of Howard Phillips Lovecraft's collected works of fiction. From "The Beast in the Cave" to "The Haunter of the Dark" and everything in between, these extraordinary works of literature chronicle the even more extraordinary mind of the man who is, in my opinion, the greatest writer of the 20th century. The simply fabric cover of the book with its elegant ribbon bookmark provides a handsome and subtle home for these legendary tales of astonishing madness, and it's refreshing to see on the slipcase an illustration of Cthulhu that actually looks like Cthulhu for a change. All in all, this is the finest book in my collection and will likely make a similar contribution to your own shelf.

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