

RJ: The Best of...

BEST OF WHAT NOW?

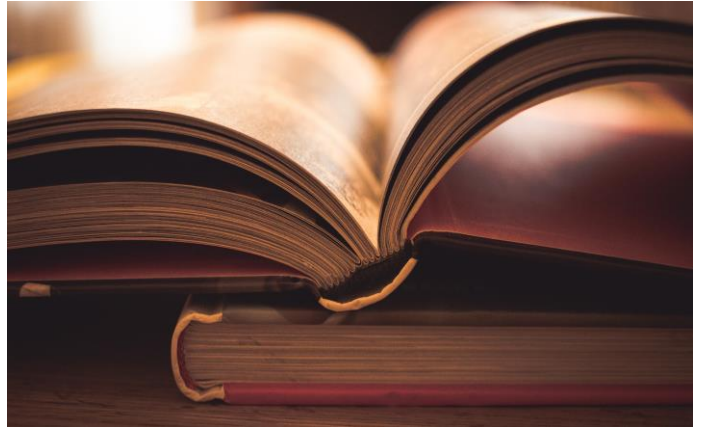
I compiled the “best of...” lists from over a dozen online sources (i.e. syfy.com, goodreads.com, publishersweekly.com, plus a bunch I had never ever heard of) and then I put them into a database and worked some geeky magic. The result is the...

103 best supernatural and horror stories of all time!

Why 103? Because everyone does even numbers and I'm not like everyone else. Besides, I like prime numbers. They only hang out with themselves and the number one. They're very confident, and you can't have a “best of...” list without confidence.

To be fair, there seems to be more emphasis on authors and stories prior to 1970, so I might need to supplement this with a “contemporary” version at some point. Also, especially on Goodreads, there was more emphasis on novels as opposed to short stories or novellas, and nobody differentiated between horror and supernatural, so we're just going to call them *creepy stories*.

So, grain of salt and all that.



Consensus Top 11 Creepy Stories of All Time

Accursed Inhabitants of the House of Bly, by Joyce Carol Oates
The Body Snatcher, by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Bottle Imp, by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Call of Cthulhu, by H.P. Lovecraft
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, by Washington Irving
The Lottery, by Shirley Jackson
The Masque of the Red Death, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Monkey's Paw, by W.W. Jacobs
The Pit and the Pendulum, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Turn of the Screw, by Henry James
The Vampyre, by John William Polidori

As an added bonus, I've compiled the top 11 creepy stories from this list (those that tallied the most mentions).

I hope you find a few that you haven't read and give them a try – either way, this is a great place to start.

Cheers!

– RJ

Robert James

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CONSENSUS TOP 103 CREEPY STORIES OF ALL TIME

A Dream of Red Hands, by Bram Stoker
A Short Guide to the City, by Peter Straub
A Study in Emerald, by Neil Gaiman
A Warning to the Curious, by M.R. James
Abraham's Boys, by Joe Hill
Accursed Inhabitants of the House of Bly, by Joyce Carol Oates
Ah, Are You Digging on my Grave?, by Thomas Hardy
Alone, by Edgar Allan Poe
An Account of Some Strange Disturbances in Aungier Street, by Sheridan Le Fanu
An Occurrence at Owl Bridge, by Ambrose Bierce
At the End of the Passage, by Rudyard Kipling
Beyond the Wall, by Ambrose Bierce
Carmilla, by Sheridan Le Fanu
Carrie, by Stephen King
Dance of the Dead, by Richard Matheson
Dark Spirit of Desart Rude, by Percy Bysshe Shelly
Devil and Tom Walker, by Washington Irving
Dracula, by Bram Stoker
Dracula's Guest, by Bram Stoker
Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard, by Thomas Gray
Frankenstein, by Mary Shelly
Homecoming, by Ray Bradbury
I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream, by Harlan Ellison
It, by Stephen King
Lost Hearts, by M.R. James
Mrs. Zant and the Ghost, by Wilkie Collins
Nightcrawlers, by Robert R. McCammon
One for the Road, by Stephen King
Patient Zero, by Tananarive Due
Premium Harmony, by Stephen King
Psycho, by Robert Bloch
Rosemary's Baby, by Ira Levin
Something Wicked This Way Comes, by Ray Bradbury
Split Lip, by Sam Costello
Sticks, by Karl Edward Wagner
The Ash of Memory, the Dust of Desire, by Poppy Z. Brite

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The Bees, by Dan Chaon
The Bell in the Fog, by Gertrude Atherton
The Body Snatcher, by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Bottle Imp, by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Call of Cthulhu, by H.P. Lovecraft
The Canterville Ghost, by Oscar Wilde
The Castle of Otranto, by Horace Walpole
The Chimney, by Ramsey Campbell
The Dark Country, by Dennis Etchison
The Empty House, by Algernon Blackwood
The End, the Sketch Book, the Spectre Bridegroom, by Washington Irving
The Exorcist, by William Peter Blatty
The Fall of the House of Usher, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Forsaken, by William Wordsworth
The Ghost and the Bone-Setter, by Sheridan Le Fanu
The Ghost Story, by Mark Twain
The Great God Pan, by Arthur Machen
The Haunted House, by Charles Dickens
The Haunted Palace, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Haunter of the Ring, by Robert E. Howard
The Horla, by Guy de Maupassant
The Island of Dr. Moreau, by H.G. Wells
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, by Washington Irving
The Lost Ghost, by Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman
The Lottery , by Shirley Jackson
The Man Who Drew Cats, by Michael Marshall Smith
The Masque of the Red Death, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Minister's Black Veil, by Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Monkey Spoons, by Mary Elizabeth Counselman
The Monkey's Paw, by W.W. Jacobs
The Mortal Immortal, by Mary Shelly
The New Catacomb, by Arthur Conan Doyle
The October People, by Ray Bradbury
The Old Nurse's Story, by Elizabeth Gaskell
The Open Door, by Charlotte Riddell
The Outsider, by H.P. Lovecraft
The Pale Man, by Julius Long
The Pit and the Pendulum, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Planet of the Dead, by Clark Ashton Smith

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The Raven, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Screaming Skull, by F. Marion Crawford
The Shining, by Stephen King
The Signal Man, by Charles Dickens
The Sloan Men, by David Nickle
The Spirits of the Dead, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Striding Place, by Gertrude Atherton
The Tell Tale Heart, by Edgar Allan Poe
The Thing on the Doorstep, by H.P. Lovecraft
The Things, by Peter Watts
The Tomb, by H.P. Lovecraft
The Tractate Middoth, by M.R. James
The Tree, by H.P. Lovecraft
The Turn of the Screw, by Henry James
The Vampiress, by Lord Lytton
The Vampyre, by H.P. Lovecraft
The Vampyre, by John William Polidori
The Vampyre, by Lord Byron
The Willows, by Algernon Blackwood
The Woman in Black, by Susan Hill
The Yellow Sign, by Robert W. Chambers
Uncle Einar, by Ray Bradbury
Was it an Illusion?, by Amelia B. Edwards
We Have Always Lived in the Castle, by Shirley Jackson
William Wilson, by Edgar Allan Poe
Young Goodman Brown, by Nathaniel Hawthorne
Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper, by Robert Bloch

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