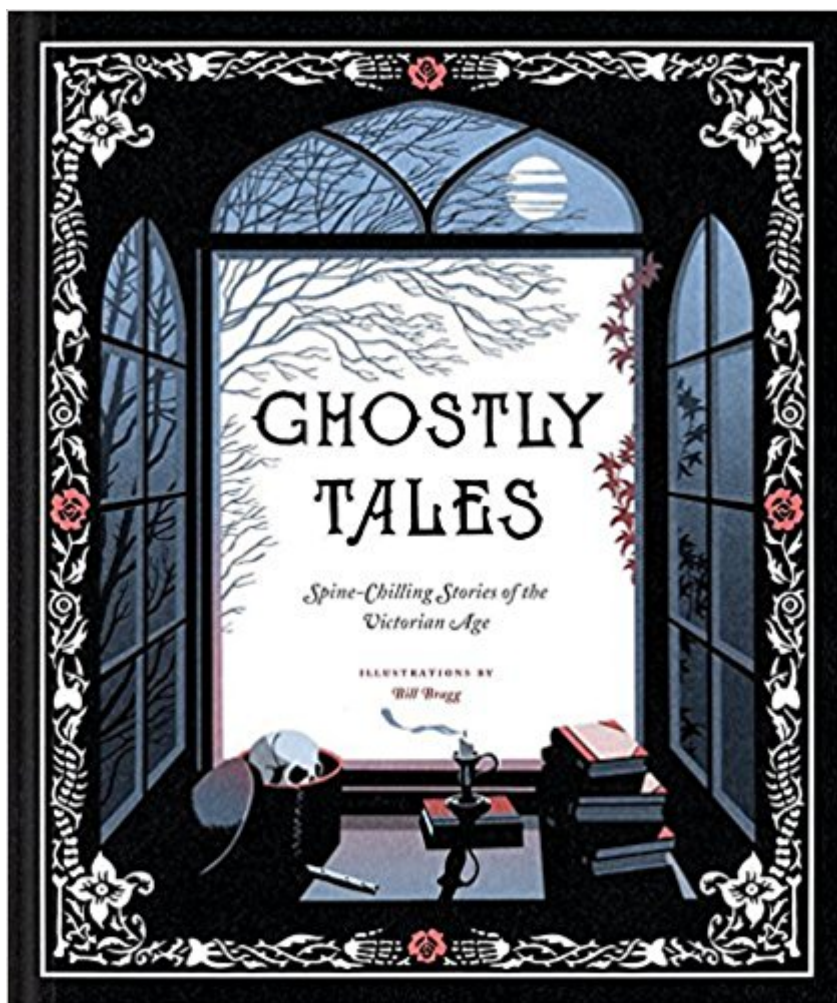


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Ghostly Tales: Spine-Chilling Stories Of The Victorian Age



Synopsis

A vengeful phantom lurks in a country graveyard. A whaling crew becomes trapped on a haunted ship. A human skull is kept locked in a cupboard, but sometimes at night, it screams. . . . This collection of tales transports the reader to a time when staircases creaked in old manor houses, and a candle could be blown out by a gust of wind, or by a passing ghost. Penned by some of the greatest Victorian novelists and masters of the ghost story genre, each story is illustrated with exquisitely eerie artwork in this special gift edition featuring an embossed textured case and a ribbon marker.

Book Information

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I received a copy of this short story collection from the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Ghostly Tales is a collection of classic, and often analogized, stories. While it is true that occasionally one runs across a classic that, for whatever reason, escaped your attention, most fans of classic horror have read or at least heard of these stories. That

doesn't make them any less great, just familiar. Oh Whistle, and I'll Come for You, My Lad. M.R. James is one of the pillars of the modern tale of the supernatural. Most of our plot mechanics and story lines come from him. As influential, albeit perhaps not as literary, as Poe, the included story is one of his best and for my money one of the top 5 ghost stories ever. And it is actually still scary after all these years. The Old Nurse's Story. A creepy story about a malevolent spirit of a murdered child. Very good form of a tale that is still being retold today in modern stories and movies. The Signalman. Dickens, like most Victorians, loved his stories of phantoms, ghosts, and communications from the other side of death. Classic and atmospheric if not particularly scary. I don't know if he created the concept of the story of the dead warning the living, but this is certainly one of the true classics of its type. The Body Snatcher. Stevenson's story is dripping in atmosphere of fog and damp and one can't help but think of the glorious Hammer Films that sprang from this story and others like them. More fun and gruesome than scary. The Captain of the Pole-Star. I guess I will just say it---Doyle's best work was the Sherlock Holmes canon. Everything else is interesting, especially for the time, but the concepts were done better by other writers. This story is no exception. A play on The Rime of the Ancient Mariner this story was well written by not particularly riveting. The Phantom Coach. I had not read this one but was very glad that I did. Absolutely fantastic with a chilling ending. This story was so well done and so chilling I could place myself in that coach with our narrator. One of my favorite classic horror stories. The Screaming Skull. One of several famous stories about severed body parts that attack the living, this one has the added fun of a mad narrator. I found it a bit overdone, but still entertaining. I do have one complaint about this book and it was a reason that I was quite disappointed in the book. The illustrations are wonderful. However, there is just one per story. If you are selling this as an illustrated book I would expect at least 2 or 3 illustrations per story. 4 stars. Needs more illustrations.

The tales in this book remind me of campfires and s'mores. Each tale is spooky, fun and short enough to be a great campfire tale. The stories are from a different time, but they still maintain a spine tingling sense of wonder, horror and excitement of the things that can go bump in the night. While written for adults, I feel like this brings out a child-like sense fear through a good old fashion ghost story.

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