



Fear the Fever

Jeff Gelb (Editor / Contributor) , Michael Garrett (Editor / Contributor) , Lucy Taylor (Contributor) , Bruce Jones (Contributor) , Stephen Woodworth (Contributor) , Wendy Rathbone (Contributor) , Jack Ketchum (Contributor) , Edward Lee (Contributor) , more... John F.D. Taff (Contributor) , Lois H. Gresh (Contributor) , J.N. Williamson (Contributor) , James Crawford (Contributor) , P.D. Cacek (Contributor) , Tom Piccirilli (Contributor) , Nat Gertler (Contributor) , Elsa Rutherford (Contributor) , Graham Masterton (Contributor) , Alan Brennert (Contributor) ...less

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An erotic horror anthology includes the works of such popular writers as Jack Ketchum, Edward Lee, Graham Masterton, Lucy Taylor, Bruce Jones, J. N. Williamson, P. D. Cacek, and Alan Brennert.

Fear the Fever Details

Date : Published September 1st 2005 by Pinnacle (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780786016495

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Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Horror, Short Stories, Erotic Horror, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Anthologies

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From Reader Review Fear the Fever for online ebook

Jenn says

I think I enjoyed this one much more than other short story novels because I stopped after every one and wrote a review. That took really great willpower! And without further ado, I present....Fear the Fever:

The Five Percent People

An interesting tale of a love triangle (plus some) that goes horribly wrong during a conference in London. At first, I thought Gwen was pathetic and needed to just get over Caleb. After all, she only had 5% of his love when Alecia had 95%. And I thought Alecia was dumb for allowing Caleb his 5% to go to any other women and have sex with them. Alecia does finally wake up and realize that neither her nor Gwen ever really had Caleb to begin with.

Feeding the Beast

Bruce never comes out and tells you that Franklyn is a lupine, a werewolf, but it's obvious from the very beginning when Trisha awakens to find his furry form in the bed next to her instead of the John she accidentally fell asleep with. After her initial shock, she falls in love. Not with the man, but with the hairy phallus that emerges only at night after the beast feeds. She uses Franklyn for her evil deeds only to find one night that he has discovered her secrets and has a solution to them all...that ends horribly wrong.

Purple Hearts and Other Wounds

Billy's phantom limb is his missing penis, shot off during the Vietnam war. The day before his accident he is having glorious sex with Tian, a Vietnamese hooker. He knows he doesn't love her, as his high school sweetheart is waiting for him at home in the good ole USA. After spending some time in the hospital, he is sent home where his love leaves him as she wants children and a real man. Billy experiences erection and orgasms from his phantom limb. He decides to travel back to Vietnam to find Tian and hopefully have her make some sense of these inexplicable feelings. What he finds there is nothing short of unbelievable.

The Sinister Woods

A young boy seeks the approval of his father - an unloving, non-emotional man who rules with an iron fist. The boy emulates his every gesture from the books he reads right through to his order of foods that are eaten at dinner time. At first his father approves of his friendship with Daniel but later senses there is something not quite right with the friendship and bans Jack from seeing him. Did Jack's father witness the kiss or the touching the two boys shared? Jack and Daniel meet for what will be their final time and run off into the sinister woods where father can't see them. Only one will return.

Love Letters From the Rainforest

Clara doesn't love Howard. In actual fact, she never did. She just loved his money. Howard is a botanist who went to the uncharted rainforest to discover some new fungi. And he did find some new strains, which killed him. Back home, Clara receives his love notes and reads them in between the gymnastic bouts in bed with all those strong men (unlike Howard). Until one day security is called to her campus room to check on a strange smell. I liked the story unfortunately it was too obvious what would happen to Clara.

Orifice

A man, his girlfriend and a tattoo artist called Mutt. A story about letting someone into your head and letting your love out. I guess I prefer my horror to be more realistic and this one seemed really far fetched with a typical horror ending (which isn't really an ending more like just the beginning.)

Sole Man

A foot fetishist who has never told a soul about his proclivities finds one of co-workers undeniably sexy. When she comes on to him he realizes that he needs this affair. His wife Monica no longer takes care of her feet and is no longer a turn on. All hell breaks loose when his wife shows up at the steam room and interrupts his best night of his life.

The Portrait

A young college student only has two months left to get laid before he loses the bet to his roommate. He awakens in the park from an acid trip, only to see an angel. He approaches her in his acid dream to ask if he can draw her portrait. She reluctantly agrees and his plan is pushed into play. What he hasn't figured out is that Dan, his roommate, will throw a wrench into his plans and during his next acid trip all will be revealed. This too had a rather predictable ending.

Two Hands Are Better Than One

The leading man of masturbation has agreed to an interview for a well known skin mag. He tries to explain why he's never had intercourse and why it's not necessary. The reporter, an unbeliever, is given a gallery tour and becomes a believer. Down the road, the reporter is given the final interview before the king of visual erotica dies and finally understands the whole exercise. Unfortunately I don't. I didn't get it at all. Maybe because I'm a female so I don't understand the inner workings of the male anatomy and psyche.

Untamed Sex

It begins with a tv commercial that tickles the married couple's fancy. Married for years, their sex life had become lackluster and unfulfilling. They choose to sample the offerings from Untamed Sex and find their options virtually unlimited. They are offered 15 minutes of virtual plug-in in the animal kingdom as any animal they choose at the height of coitus. They choose wisely, return home to rut and ravage like animals and crave more visits to Untamed Sex. What they don't realize is just how addicting and expensive those sessions can be. Not to mention destructive.

Metelica

The easiest way to describe this one is: a slightly deranged woman gets off on PAP smears and visits numerous gynecologists until she manages to steal forceps from one. What she does with so called lover when she gets home is beyond my words.

Call it

A man enjoys phone sex with a married woman...until her husband comes home and nearly catches them in the middle. The man listens intently to the lovemaking that should be his as the phone hasn't quite disconnected properly. He grows jealous and wanders to the kitchen drawer to find a knife. I think I missed something with this story as I don't understand why he's cutting his own hands, stabbing himself and playing heads and tails with the flipping knife.

Daddy's Dirty Books

An interesting take on the first person narrative. The child obviously has a friend over to his home when his daddy is at work. Like all curious boys he has discovered the hidden girlie mags in his dad's underwear drawer and wants to show his friend. But the other things they find hidden are truly frightening and leads to a by tragic ending.

Restin' Piece

Imagine a dead man who passes away while porking. That's not unusual you might say. However this particular dead guy can't quite croak until he has finished his business. And his business happens to include a

happy ending. He keeps showing up at his friend's place who helps him to meet his unfinished business...in whatever way he can, with no expenses pared.

Flesh and Blood

You know from the beginning that nothing good will come from this story. You also know there is more to the story of Caroline and Rusty. They are madly in love but in the South a black and a white just cannot mix, even if the Creoles are themselves a mixed race bunch of folk. Even after all of the tragedies have struck, past and present, the very last paragraph will make your jaw drop with disbelief and disgust.

Fantasies

Fantasies can come true. Just ask Jack. After 6 months of wooing, he marries the woman of his dreams, only to find out that in the same amount of time in married life she doesn't do it for him anymore. In order for him to sustain an erection he must create new fantasies. It miraculously works and they have a darling daughter, Sheila. But watching her grow up is painful for Jack, for she reminds him of those fantasies he used to produce years ago. And if he thinks they stop there, just wait until Sheila has a child of her own. An impossible tale that was still quite likable.

The Secret Shih Tan

The world's best cook, young, meets his culinary critic match who invites him to come read The Shih Tan, a cookbook of Chinese descent. There were no known copies however Craig had been taught of its existence from the Asian side of his family. He is intrigued and agrees to the ultimatum after a night's sleep - if he reads the book he must create one of the recipes for the book's owner. The recipes are not what one would have imagined and after another night's sleep he chooses the one...and he chooses well with only a slight change in ingredients.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book even if out of 17 tales there were 2 I didn't understand and 1 I detested. The remaining 14 were wonderful, all completely different from each other. They were well written and many were executed by the finest horror authors - Jeff Gelb, Graham Masterton, Jack Ketchum and Edward Lee to name the most famous. It would be a great find to come across (no pun intended,) the remaining anthologies in this series. The mixture of sex and horror always seem to go hand in hand, and there was nothing juvenile about these scribblings as can be so. Often found in some 80's and 90's horror.

Mary says

from the back cover should be one heck of a ride a mixed bag very talented writers

innae says

Another winner in the Hot Blood series. Sometimes I read a story and wonder...WHY do I read these books? and then the next story I say...oh yeah. I can't say I enjoyed all the stories, or that I understood where all the authors were going, but many of the stories were entertaining. I have to say my favorite was Restin' Piece. Oh, and a couple of Colorado girls had contributions to this edition in the series, so that is cool (Patricia D. Cacek and Lucy Taylor)

Edward Kinney says

There some gems in this anthology. Great little reads before bedtime- or just anytime. Some fantastic horror authors give some quite eerie and often taboo stories that have some kind of sexual innuendo in the story. Give it a read. Trust me.

Timothy Boyd says

A nice collection of short stories that are more erotic than horror. Recommended

Timothy McNeil says

This is probably closer to two-and-a-half stars than two, but there were a number of stories that didn't work (as horror, erotica, or — in one instance — as writing). It does feel very dated, in part because several of the authors made too much of an effort to make some stories seem very "now".

Given how hard it was for my library to track this book down for me, I was hoping that it would be much better.

Jack says

This is a tough one to rate, as sometimes happens with anthologies or collections. I bought the book without really knowing what it was. I knew that Jack Ketchum, Edward Lee, and Graham Masterson were in it. That was good enough for me. The Jack Ketchum story is actually a collaboration with Edward Lee, which means that two of the headlining writers were responsible for one of the stories. That story, "The Letters from the Rain Forest" was one of the highlights of the book for me, which shouldn't be surprising, given the level of talent that wrote it. The rest of the book is a mixed bag. Some of the stories were good. Some were okay. Others didn't work for me. That's the wonderful thing about a collection. If you don't connect to a story on a good level, there is always a chance for the next one.

I really enjoyed Lucy Taylor's "The Five Percent People" and think it holds up as more than just a horror story. There is a lot going on there as it relates to love, lust, and a number of other human attributes.

Several of the stories had a heavy Twilight Zone influence to them, but with a more adult bent. All of the stories deal with sex in some way, but I would stop short of calling this erotic horror. There is nothing erotic about many of the stories. Some are more body horror than anything else. Some have great twists, and some have twists so telegraphed that you can see them coming from page one.

As a whole, I enjoyed the book, but the majority of the lifting is done by two or three well-written stories.
