



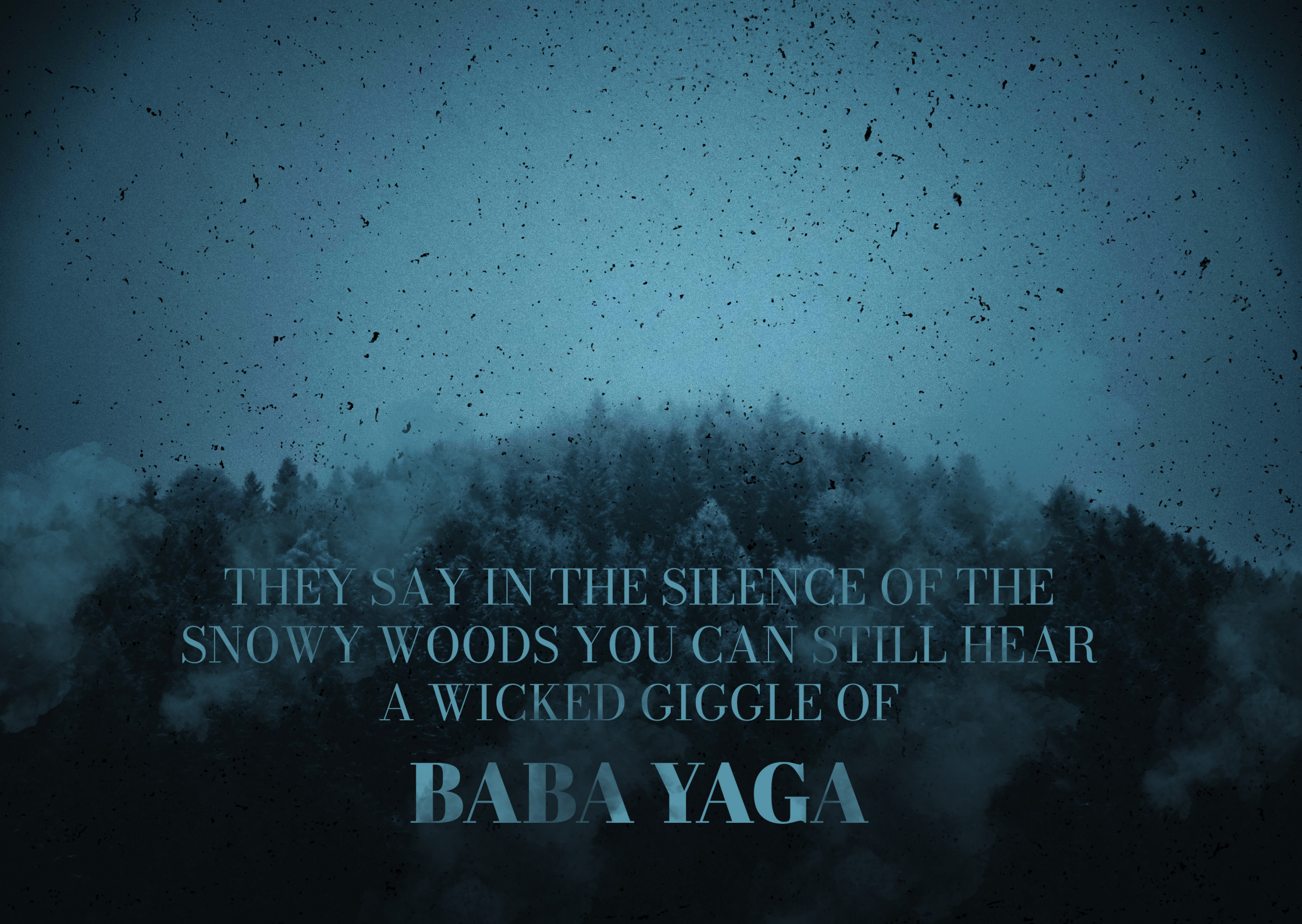
their ghoulish reputation

a folk horror anthology

**THEY
ARE
COMING**

**INTRODUCING
24 TALES
OF
FOLKLORIC
TERROR**

**BY 24
AUTHORS
FROM
AROUND
THE WORLD**



THEY SAY IN THE SILENCE OF THE
SNOWY WOODS YOU CAN STILL HEAR
A WICKED GIGGLE OF
BABA YAGA

CHAPTER 01

Breaking Bread

by

Brianna Malotke

An innocent woman being played by Baba Yaga for the witch's own fun and games. The tale is centered around a Russian woman, Ivy, who feels trapped in an abusive relationship. Seeking her own place within the woods, she stumbles upon the Baba Yaga. Instead of eating her, Baba Yaga takes pity on Ivy and offers her a deal. If she cooks her favorite breakfast for her husband, Baba Yaga will help Ivy find her own place within the vast woods. Agreeing, Ivy goes along with what the witch says and through following the witch's rules, Ivy does indeed get her own cabin. But at what cost?



Brianna Malotke

Brianna Malotke is a freelance writer and member of the Horror Writers Association. Some of her most recent work can be found online at The Crypt, Witch House Amateur Magazine, and Sirens Call Publications. She has poetry in The Spectre Review and The Nottingham Horror Collective. Her horror work can be read in the anthologies Beneath, Cosmos, The Deep, Beautiful Tragedies 2, and The Dire Circle. More recently, she had two body horror poems included in the Women in Horror Poetry Showcase, Under Her Skin. Looking ahead, in 2023 she will be a "Writer in Residence" at the Chateau d'Orquevaux in France.

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Jenny With the Iron Teeth

by
Josh Strnad

Taking an inspiration from the poem 'Jenny Wi' the Airn Teeth' by Alexander Anderson, Josh Strnad weaved a disturbing tale of a monster, Jenny, who devours sheep alive and every so often, crying babies.

Josh Strnad

My name is Josh Strnad, and I am a writer and a librarian from South Florida. My fiction has appeared in multiple collections over the years including the Bram Stoker Award winning *After Death* anthology, *The Dark Hall Press Cosmic Horror* anthology, and *Phantasmagoria*, and I also have upcoming stories in the *Parliament of Wizards* anthology and the *Diabolical Plots* webzine.

Darrow's Dead

by
Elyse Russel

This is a story of a boy and his dead mother. This is a story about an isolated town with zombie sheep. Based loosely on an old Grimm's tale (The Old Beggar Woman), Darrow's Dead is a trip to the dark side of unspeakable horror.

Elyse Russel

Elyse Russell is a writer of short stories and graphic novels. She has works accepted with: Mermaids Monthly, Crone Girl's Press, HyphenPunk, Outcast Press, and more. Her horror graphic novella, "The Fell Witch," will go to Kickstarter in April 2022 with Band of Bards comics.

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CHAPTER 04

Deliver Us

by
Sydney Koeplin

When three teenage girls are murdered in a quiet Midwestern town, the rumor mill begins to swirl. Was it an escaped convict, spiteful classmates, or something more sinister? As the case grows cold and suspicion pits neighbor against neighbor, the townspeople must grapple with what exactly brought them to this bloody breaking point.

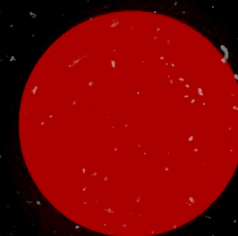
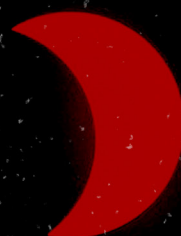
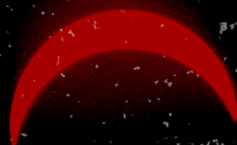


Sydney Koeplin

Sydney Koeplin is a Chicago-born editor and writer with a special interest in speculative fiction. Her work has appeared in the Allegheny Review, the Lovers Literary Journal, and Qu Literary Magazine. She won the Elmira Nelson Jones Prize for Creative Writing from Colby College in 2021.

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Foxmother

by
Elou Carroll

A tale of old gods and rural justice. After an accident that leaves her scared to go outside—especially in London—Isla escapes to a village in the country for a period of rest and relaxation. In the village, something has happened to the children and Isla is the only person who has seen them since. Desperate to recover and to help the grieving mother of the boy who haunts her at night, Isla must find out the truth behind the children's disappearance and the secret of the mysterious Foxmother.



Elou Carroll

Elou Carroll is a graphic designer and freelance photographer who writes. Her work appears or is forthcoming in Hexagon SF Magazine, Apparition Lit, Underland Arcana, Luna Station Quarterly, In Somnio: A Collection of Modern Gothic Horror (Tenebrous Press), Spirit Machine (Air & Nothingness Press), Ghostlore (Alternative Stories Podcast) and others. When she's not whispering with ghosts, she can be found editing Crow & Cross Keys, where she publishes all things dark and lovely

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The Withy Witch

by

Deborah Tapper

Four students - Samira, Iona, Takeo and Nils - are on a field trip to a remote Scottish peat bog. That night Takeo and Iona tell stories about the Withy Witch, a woman buried alive in the bog thousands of years ago who lives on, stealing the bones of anything she touches. Samira discounts their stories, but she hears strange sounds in the dark and sees a boneless bird the next day.



Deborah Tapper

Deborah Tapper loves telling stories and has had over forty published. She lives in the middle of nowhere with her understanding partner and an extensive dictionary collection, drinks too much strong tea and writes at an old desk surrounded by five hundred pet bugs.

Ruined

by
Angela Sylvaine

Aleksandra enjoys a simple life in the woods near Krasnaya Lyaga with her beloved sister and mother, until the evil of men turns this daughter of nature into the most infamous witch in Russian folklore.



Angela Sylvaine

Angela Sylvaine is a self-proclaimed cheerful goth who still believes in monsters. Her debut novella, *Chopping Spree*, an homage to 1980s slashers and mall culture, is available now. Her poetry has appeared in *Monstroddities* and *Under Her Skin*, and her short fiction has appeared in various publications and anthologies, including *Dark Recesses*, *Places We Fear to Tread*, and *Not All Monsters*.

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The Dhampir of Siebenbürgen

by
Graham Rodgers

In an isolated 18th century Eastern-European village, a mysterious plague has taken over. The town's leaders have no idea how to move forward. In the dead of night, they are approached by a mysterious travelling stranger in a face mask. He claims he can cleanse their rural parish through an unorthodox ritual that involves exhuming the dead bodies. They follow his terms under cover of darkness. But after the final exhumation draws attention, he is banished. In the years that follow the town's recovery, they celebrate the stranger's banishment. On that day, he returns to prove to every townsfolk that the supernatural holds true.



Graham Rodgers

Graham Rodgers was born in a town that has one of the earliest documented cases of undead revenants walking about in England. He grew up near the National Forest. He is of Scottish ancestry and identifies as neurodiverse. He loves reading up on folklore. His work has previously been published in “The Big WELCOME Cafe” by People Express Arts, “Incandescence Transcendent: An Oloris Fairy Tale Anthology” by Oloris Publishing, “Beyond the Spectrum” by Writing East Midlands, & “NeurodiVERSE” by Flapjack Press.

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TRVE CVLT

by
Ian A. Bain

Franz lives in an idyllic village, protected by invisible entities known as the Trve. All the Trve require in exchange for their protection is the sacrifice of anyone who has the ability to see them. When Franz fails to hide the fact that he can see these shape-shifting creatures, his village, family, and friends must track him down and sacrifice him before the Trve come for their meal.



Ian A. Bain

Ian A. Bain is a writer of dark fiction from Muskoka, Ontario. When he's not writing, Ian can be found searching for monsters in the swamps.

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The Sisters of the Thread

by
Anja Rekeszus

Anna, a young peasant woman, is unexpectedly bewitched and led away from her home by a mysterious stranger wearing a black choker. The woman, who later introduces herself as Mary, brings Anna to the House of the Sisters, where many other young women wait to be 'saved'. For this, they must operate a magical loom. With Mary's help, Anna manages to do so by recalling memories of a life she left behind. Mary is pleased with Anna's performance, and leads her to her cell; there are, however, threatening noises in the house, and Anna does not feel put at ease despite Mary's best efforts.

Anja Rekeszus

Anja Rekeszus is a German-born writer and researcher. She loves in particular reading and writing fantastical works inspired by psychology, feminism, and nature. She is currently finishing her PhD at King's College London, where she researches women writers' fairy tales of the 19th century.

Speechless

by
Nina Shepardson

Having beautiful flowers and priceless jewels spill from your lips when you speak might seem like a fairy-tale boon. But the narrator in "Speechless" becomes increasingly unsettled by the nature of her gifts. As they get stranger and stranger, she wonders where the unearthly cascade will lead, and whether the old woman she helped truly has her best interests at heart.



Nina Shepardson

Nina Shepardson is an Associate Member of the SFWA and Affiliate Member of the HWA. Her short fiction appears or is forthcoming in *On Spec*, *MetaStellar*, and *Vastarien*. She lives in New England with her husband.

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The Seventh Son of Cerro Corá

by
Henry Herz

In 1870 Paraguay, a boy celebrates his birthday with his sister in a small Guaraní village near Cerro Corá, site of the final battle of the War of the Triple Alliance. When he interrupts three European teens from desecrating the graves of Paraguayan soldiers, they chase him into the forest with murderous intent. Hiding in a secret hilltop cave lined with ancient petroglyphs, he discovers he possesses a latent supernatural power. The story leverages historical Guaraní culture and mythology. By the 19th century, fear of the seventh son lusion was so powerful, that some families murdered their seventh sons to prevent the legend from coming true. To deter this awful practice, the Argentinian President began adopting seventh sons in 1907, claiming this would stop the curse!



Henry Herz

Henry Herz's speculative fiction short stories include "Out, Damned Virus" (Daily Science Fiction), "Bar Mitzvah on Planet Latke" (Coming of Age, Albert Whitman & Co.), "The Magic Backpack" (Metastellar), "Cheating Death" (The Hitherto Secret Experiments of Marie Curie, Blackstone Publishing), "Unbreakable" (Musing of the Muses, Brigid's Gate Press), "A Vampire, an Astrophysicist, and a Mother Superior Walk Into a Basilica" (Three Time Travelers Walk Into..., Fantastic Books), "The Case of the Murderous Alien" (Spirit Machine, Air and Nothingness Press), "The Crowe Family" (Castle of Horror V, Castle Bridge Media), "Demon Hunter Vashti" (The Jewish Book of Horror, Denver Horror Collective), "Maria & Maslow" (Highlights for Children), and "A Proper Party" (Ladybug Magazine). He's edited three anthologies and written twelve picture books, including the ALA Notable Children's Book, I Am Smoke.

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CHAPTER 13

STRAW

by

Emmeline Teague

Straw is a tale of what happens when the edges of the world beside ours turn into razors and cut through, spilling out hungry things.



Emmeline Teague

Emmy is a bisexual disaster who is probably playing Skyrim and eating leftover challah instead of writing or working on grad school. She lives in Cincinnati, OH with her partner and way too many cats.

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CHAPTER 14

The Cold Within

by

Christopher O'Halloran

A love triangle becomes the least of their worries when a mysterious cave imparts on a group of twenty-somethings a curse that leaves the affected with an inescapable chill.



Christopher O'Halloran

CHRISTOPHER O'HALLORAN is a milk-slinging, Canadian actor-turned-author with work published or forthcoming from HellBound Books, Tales to Terrify, The Dread Machine, and others. His novelettes can be found in anthologies Howls from Hell and Bloodlines: Four Tales of Familial Fear. Fans of stories about vein-removal and Phoenix-women against the patriarchy can visit COauthor.ca for stories, reviews, and updates on his upcoming novel, *Pushing Daisy*.

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Gelert

by
Thomas Stewart

Llywelyn has made a mistake, a mistake that will cost everything. But he and his wife choose to bury it and carry on with their lives. Little do they know; they have cursed themselves and that curse is catching up with them. A modernisation and sequel to the Welsh myth, Gelert is The Killing of a Sacred Deer meets Hereditary meets Revolutionary Road.



Thomas Stewart

Thomas Stewart (he/him) is a Welsh writer. empire of dirt, his debut poetry pamphlet, was published by Red Squirrel Press in 2019. Based on a true story, his second pamphlet, will be published in November 2022 by fourteen publishing. In 2021 he was awarded a New Writers Award from Scottish Book Trust. He was highly commended in the Verve 2020 Poetry Competition and his poetry has been selected for the Best Scottish Poems 2019 anthology and We've Done Nothing Wrong, We've Nothing To Hide, published by Verve Poetry Press, 2020. His work has also been published in Poetry Wales, Butcher's Dog, fourteen poems, Best Scottish Poems 2019, The Amsterdam Quarterly, And Other Poems, The Glasgow Review of Books, The Stockholm Review of Literature, among others. He was a writer in residence at Arteles, Finland.

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A Sheep Among the Wolves

by
Timothy Lantz

A wolf attack upsets the natural rhythm of life in a medieval English Village. But the people are on the brink of starvation, and one family comes under the scrutiny of the bishop, more concerned with stopping poachers than feeding his people. Rumors abound that it is no mere wolf that menaces them. Who or what is responsible, and what will become of the family whose youngest son has come under the bishop's interest?

Timothy Lantz

Timothy lives in the Pacific NorthWest. He has published a DCC adventure module: The Headless Haunting of Berengar Manor, and his entry was selected for inclusion in the 2020 HP Lovecraft Film Festival Micro Fiction contest. He enjoys books of all kinds, but has had a life-long love affair with Fantasy, Sci-Fi, and Horror of all stripes. He thinks writing is hard work, but also work worth doing. He hopes you liked his story and he looks forward to reading yours someday.



A Blue Moon on Lost Lake

by
William Wandless

“A Blue Moon on Lost Lake” centers on Aunt Sweetness, the Crickerwitch, one of the spirits who goes by thousands of names in the lore of the lakes. What she is, what she does, and what she wants depends on the accounts one comes across, what one gleans from the wealth of stories that has grown up around her. All lake-dwelling folk can say with certainty is that she keeps coming back when the blue moon rises, answering a summons only she can hear, giving to some and taking from others, doing as she must to make sure her story never ends.



William Wandless

William Wandless is a professor of English at Central Michigan University by day, but by night he is a writer of horror and dark fantasy fiction. His fiction tends to be speculative in the consequential sense, teasing out the implications of good and bad choices and behavior. His most recent fiction appears in *Dissections*, *Not one of Us*, and *Dark Moon Digest*, and in 2021 he released his first chapbook of poetry, a volume titled *Notwithstanding*. He also blogs intermittently at WrackwellAbbey.com.

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Army of the Bear

by
Nick Petrou

Set in rural Greek Macedonia, circa 1947, an adolescent boy named Alec wants to fight in the Greek Civil War alongside his partisan brothers. After one of the brothers, Kosta, returns home wounded, it is revealed that the third and eldest brother (along with the partisans under his command) has become ensnared in something sinister and unnatural. Alec and a wounded Kosta sneak out into the woods to save their brother from the dark fate awaiting him.



Nick Petrou

Nick Petrou works as a freelance copywriter out of Fremantle, Western Australia, where he likes to read unsettling fiction and complain about the sun. His short fiction has been (or will soon be) published by PseudoPod, The Arcanist, and others, and he reads for Etherea Magazine.

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The Stegton Skulls

by
Adam Fleet

In 1987, in the small British village of Stegton, three school friends discover a set of mysterious skulls in a local field. Hoping for treasure trove, they each take one home, but a series of strange events and supernatural visitations soon befalls them - all linked to their mysterious discovery of The Stegton Skulls.



Adam Fleet

Adam Fleet is a writer from the UK, living in Melbourne / Naarm, Australia. Film nerd, punk, record collector, he has written for The Guardian Australia, Screen Realm and Scream Horror Magazine. His fiction was selected for performance at a live reading by Spineless Wonders / Little Fictions in Sydney in 2017 and he was a daily winner of the Writer's Victoria Flash Fiction challenge in April 2021 and 2020.

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CHAPTER 20

The Barn

by
Ben Lathrop

A failing graduate student seeks seclusion in rural Iowa to finish their thesis and slowly discovers the horrible family secret that has lurked beneath the soil for generations.



Ben Lathrop

Ben Lathrop has written and taught on the history of cinema with a focus on the horror genre and cult audience behavior. He is a native Iowan, former television horror host and present librarian. He lives with his family in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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THE WOMAN IN THE HOUSE IN THE FIELD NEAR THE SEA

by
CK LOVE

A young woman, Adelyn, travels through a sparsely populated northern country to get to her destination—a university where she is to give a lecture on her upcoming book about loneliness and isolation. She is not familiar with this country; its meandering countryside and strange creatures, and soon she is caught up in a malevolent force, a woman with broken spells. The woman, Harlik, has entrapped travellers, and threatens Adelyn's life. With the aid of a small ancient book of incantations, Adelyn remembers her power, and with the aid of the strange creatures, she defeats the woman in the house in the field near the sea and sets the travellers free.



CK LOVE

CK is a multi-hyphenate artist, an award-winning filmmaker, an optioned screenwriter, and a published writer.

After years of searching for her “purpose” in life, receiving a degree in Architecture, working in visual design and art in various capacities, she left all of it to deep dive into the practice and study of the spiritual traditions of the East becoming a yoga studio owner. She is a trained therapist and works with people in transition who want to deepen their understanding of their creative selves. Writing has always been CK's go-to creative expression, and for the last seven years, she has been honing her skills as a screenwriter and filmmaker. She has just recently entered the world of self-publishing. Her favourite genres to write are Urban and Folk horror, and Femnoir thrillers.

CK created Restless Spirit Productions for her work in film (writing and directing), and her passion for spiritual work where you'll find offerings for yoga, meditation and therapy/guidance. She published an anthology under Restless Spirit Productions with her new endeavour—The GLOW Project: Glorious Ladies of Writing.

CK lives where it snows a lot.

Close Your Eyes and Stay Forever

by

M. G. Doherty

Celly has been driving for so long that she no longer remembers where she is going or why she needed to flee in the first place, but all around her, the landscape shifts and she is pursued by a pair of glowing headlights that glow in the fog. No, not headlights — those are the eyes of La Lechuza, a type of witch manifestation well-known to Celly and residents of South Texas.



M. G. Doherty

M. G. Doherty is an Irish Latina speculative fiction writer and visual artist who has lived in four states and counting. Her current work is centered on isolation, mythmaking, and the forging of emotional connections across vast distances. She holds a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the California Institute of the Arts.

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CHAPTER 23

THE MOTHER

by

Erica Summers

Aging widow Lana Wilson discovers something horrific in the earth as she gardens at night in her back yard revealing her deep longings for creation and motherhood and overwhelming feelings of intense isolation.



Erica Summers

Erica Summers is an independent filmmaker, screenwriter, painter, film industry grip, and novelist with an undying passion for horror in all that she does. A number of her feature film screenplays have been produced and screened worldwide in the horror genre including Obsidian, Mister White, and Loverboy (Available on Amazon Prime and other streaming services.) Her religious horror/comedy novel, Mantis, is also available on Amazon in print and kindle ebook formats. Born and raised in Casper, Wyoming, Erica actually spent the majority of her adult life in the swampy American South. She now resides in New England where she continues to work in the film industry and engage audiences with horror fiction. When she is not working, she is typically slathered in garden dirt or entrenched in horror movies with her boyfriend and their two spastic jack russell terrors.

Do Elephants Dream of Paradise?

by

Jennifer Jeanne McArdle

Old Bet was one of the first elephants brought to North America in the early 1800s. Her owner, Hachaliah Bailey helped kickstart the traditions of the American circus and exotic animal trade in the USA. Bailey is an historical hero in his hometown, but what about the animals caught up in the greed and fear of the men who used them?



Jennifer Jeanne McArdle

Jennifer grew up in Somers, New York. She's also lived in South Korea and Indonesia. She currently lives in a different part of New York, with her partner and an agent of chaos (her dog) and works in animal conservation.

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their ghoulish reputation

PART II

C O M I N G 2 0 2 3



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