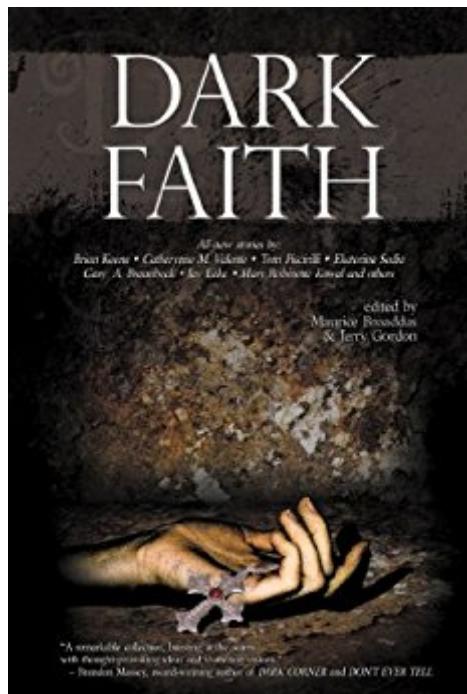


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Dark Faith



Synopsis

2010 Stoker Award Nominee for Superior Achievement in an Anthology 2010 Black Quill Award Nominee "Ghosts of New York" Nebula Award Nominee "The Days of Flaming Motorcycles" WSFA Nominee The destructiveness of passion, both earthly and supernatural, makes cities bleed and souls burn across worlds, through endless time. Experience the spiritual side of the zombie apocalypse in "The Days of Flaming Motorcycles" and transcend both hell and nirvana in "Zen and the Art of Gordon Dratch's Damnation." Look into "The Mad Eyes of the Heron King" to find the beautiful brutality written in the moment of epiphany or "Go and Tell it On the Mountain," where Jesus Christ awaits your last plea to enter heaven if there is a heaven to enter when all is said and done. Horror's top authors and promising newcomers whisper tales that creep through the mists at night to rattle your soul. Step beyond salvation and damnation with thirty stories and poems that reveal the darkness beneath belief. Place your faith in that darkness; it's always there, just beyond the light.

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dark Faith, edited by Maurice Broaddus and Jerry Gordon, is a very strong anthology and contains over thirty stories and poems, all centered around the theme of religion. Several faiths/denominations are represented and the stories move between horror and humor . . . fantasy and bleak literary. The first story in the collection, GHOSTS OF NEW YORK, is one of the strongest. This short pays tribute to September 11th--one of the most tasteful tributes I've read in awhile. The main character literally relives the day again and again, which mirrors our own reality in reference to this tragedy. THE MAD EYES OF THE HERON KING is another great read. Leonard loves to watch the herons out on the lake. Through his watching, he encounters and succumbs to a very twisted redemption. There are humorous tales as well. GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN finds the faithful lining up to meet Jesus . . . a very modern (possibly lapsed) Jesus. DIFFERENT FROM OTHER NIGHTS is especially dark. I could go on . . . In short, Dark Faith is well worth the price of admission. As with any anthology of this size, some stories are better than others. There were a few (very few) stories that didn't quite match the theme. Having said all that, this book (if you divide it up over a month) will give you thirty different takes on faith. Whether a poem or a story, this book leaves the reader with plenty to think about.

I received this book free of charge in exchange for an honest review under the Apex Publishing

Minion Review Program. Great anthology with some excellent tales playing with (and challenging) some of the negative elements of faith, religion, and the afterlife. Some straight up horror stories, some broader fantasy/urban-fantasy, but all are strong and enjoyable. The Dark element was consistent throughout, but I did get the feeling a few of the later ones were a little thin on the Faith theme. Overall I felt this was a really well put together anthology, in a way that is more than just the quality of the stories. I got a sense of respect for the topic from this book, there was an 'even-handedness' that meant I didn't feel religion as a concept was being attacked (a danger for such a collection). But equally importantly, it also didn't take an easy route of avoiding any real life religions. Aspects of faith are examined honestly, sometimes brutally, through the fiction included here, in a way that is not flippant nor dismissive. Thematically it encompasses a broad range within the Faith umbrella. These stories cover a disappointing meeting with Jesus after rapture, detail a number of types of horrifying afterlives, show us exactly what it would be like to live directly under the oppressive and brutally omniscient presence of an unforgiving god on Earth, and so on. Multiple religions are referenced, both real and imaginary, and there is enough variety to ensure that most readers should be satisfied.

Hits

All of the stories are great, but some really stuck in my mind. Right from the beginning, it kicks off with a great ghost story by Jennifer Pelland *Ghosts of New York* dealing with the tormented spirits of those who died in the Twin Towers on 9/11. We then shift to *Sing a New Psalm* by Brian Keene, where a man asks the question of how god can give love only to take it away, and he decides on terrible and violent answer. Moving on to we hit another great story by Richard Dansky in *The Mad Eyes of the Heron King*; a weird tale of a sad little man who finds something worth worshiping in a proud, talking, Heron. *A Loss For Words* by J.C. Hay was a captivating if grim alternative look at Calliope the Greek Muse in a modern (and commercial) setting.

Misses

In my view, none of the stories could strictly be classified as *misses*; by this I mean that they were all strong and entertaining. However, as I said at the start, some of these stories seem to be a little outside the concept of faith or belief, which does work against an otherwise deeply thematic anthology like this. *Scrawl* by Tom Picirilli was a solid piece of dark (S&M erotic) storytelling but I couldn't connect it with religion or spirituality in any real sense. *Sandboys* by Richard Wright was an excellent tale (and as a father I both loved it whilst it still hit me where it hurts) but faith?...I felt the connection was tenuous at best (or I missed it anyway). There were also some short poems scattered about in between the stories. These were fine, but ultimately didn't make much of an impression on me (probably because I'm a bit poetically

ignorant). This review can be found (with a few additional words and links) here:

<https://uncertaintales.wordpress.com/2016/01/03/book-review-dark-faith-anthology-edited-by-maurice-broaddus-jerry-gordon/>

Try bringing aspects of religion into your horror writing and see what kind of reaction you get from the God-fearin' folks. Or, you could just ask Maurice Broaddus about it. Maurice, himself a devout Christian, has no qualms in recognizing the darker elements of faith, as well shining a little of that gospel of the terrifying. And considering the caliber of authors he coerced into contributing to this anthology, the guy knows how to strike a balance. It's just kind of funny to hear how such a nice, talented guy gets such strange looks from others when they find out the kinds of stories he writes. We've all been there, I suppose. Dark Faith amasses thirty-one authors with short stories, and a couple poems, that all deal in one way or another with faith. From that one starting point, each author goes off on their own path, each story following its own north star, as it were. Now, I'm still a guy who doesn't shine towards poetry, so my focus was on the fiction. Two short stories immediately jumped out at the beginning of the anthology with disparate tones, but equally rending effect.

Jennifer Pelland's "Ghosts of New York" is a sad portrait of a woman's afterlife in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. As I recall, Jennifer was a bit hesitant about how this story would be received by readers, given its setting, but I thought it was tragic feat of beauty. Then, there was Brian Keene's "I Sing a New Psalm," with a hard-bitten tone that practically jumps off the page and dares you to hit back. From there, the anthology carries on with stories like Ekaterin Sedia's "You Dream", a story I liked despite its use of second-person POV which I rarely enjoy; Catherynne M. Valente's "Days of Flaming Motorcycles", which was already a favorite of mine after reading it online in a couple other venues; plus Tom Piccirilli's "Scrawl" and an increasingly creepy stroll through fetishism and self-loathing. The book is just about the furthest thing you can get from a religious screed designed to convert or dissuade people from God. If you're thinking that, you can knock it off. This anthology is a bit like a confessional, but more like a open-ended prayer uttered to no one god in particular. Whatever ear the song falls on, it is hopefully a friendly one. For an atheist like me, it was kind of nice to see horror and faith meet with a more sophisticated approach than evil priests and generic zealotry posited as villains. What villains there are in this book are ourselves, more or less. Our frailties. And no matter which god you believe in, Westboro Baptists notwithstanding, you ought to see that the book may be dark, but it does shed some light on the idea of faith. With thirty-one stories and poems packed into one book, you are bound to not like all of them, but--by gawd--you should like most of 'em. There's a Dark Faith 2 in the works, and I think it's set for release sometime

in the latter half of 2012, so you can bet that I'll be keeping my eye out for that one when the time comes. I may not be a good little Christian soldier, but I am a satisfied customer.

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The Dark Is Rising Sequence, Book Two: The Dark Is Rising (Dark Is Rising Sequence (Audio))
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