



Helter Skelter

By Bryan Cassiday

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Evildoers run riot across the sun-drenched Southern California landscape in *Helter Skelter*. Zombies, vampires, and other wicked creatures wreak mayhem and carnage in these shocking horror short stories by Bryan Cassiday. Not all of these tales feature supernatural creatures. Some of the evil creatures are human--perhaps the most terrifying creature of all. These stories defy logic, yet they obey their own inexorable logic of fear.

The Dead of the Night--was that a zombie in my window?

Lamia--a teenager comes of age in an eerie cathouse.

It's for You--the girl next door has an admirer, unfortunately for her.

The Green Parrot--or Leave It to Cleaver.

Blindman's Buff--a blind man plays a game of life or death.

Room 208--this isn't a room at Motel 6.

Black Dog--let sleeping dogs lie.

The Undertaker--a ruthless mortician wants to grow his business, with deadly results.

Shambles--a bad day at work just got worse when an employee finds out just how nasty his boss really is.

Kiss of Death--love sucks for an aspiring writer.

Snakebit--a man bitten by a snake loses his head--and then some.

Confessions from the Grave--a dead, popular senator has skeletons in his closet.

The Invisible Enemy--things aren't like they used to be after an unidentifiable plague hits town.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Swift, thoughtful, and highly entertaining."--*Midwest Book Review*

From the Author

Excerpt from "The Dead of the Night," one of the short stories in *Helter Skelter*. All rights reserved.

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"The Dead of the Night"

A man had torn out the throat of my next-door neighbor last night.

Nobody had heard a sound. The murder victim was an old woman with a wrinkled face like a walnut. She had a cast to one of her blue eyes. She once told me she had great difficulty reading the walk signal at the traffic intersection at the corner of our block. She wore spectacles, but they afforded her little help. She told me she was ninety-two.

That same night a zombie had taken a bite out of my arm . . .

I had been sleeping when I felt tremendous pain in my forearm. The shock of the pain woke me up. I jackknifed upright in my bed.

A man with a ghoulish face was standing over me, blood dripping from his lips. I shoved him away from me. He came back at me. I hauled off and punched him spang in the nose. I thought I heard his nose crack. Whatever it was that cracked, he didn't like the pain it caused. He groaned. He left my room after that. Could fragments of the bone in his nose have penetrated his brain on account of my blow?

I could not figure out how he had gotten into my apartment. Hadn't I locked my door before I had gone to bed? I thought I always did. Locking the door was part of my nightly ritual. For the life of me I could not remember. I realized my arm was bleeding all over my sheets.

I bolted to the bathroom to retrieve a towel. I wrapped the towel around my wounded forearm to stanch the bleeding. Apprehensively, I wondered if the zombie had infected me with his bite. From movies, I knew that if a zombie bit you, you were doomed to turn into a zombie yourself. How much longer did I have to live? The idea of turning into a zombie mortified me.

Should I go to a doctor? What good would a doctor do? After all, doctors could not cure a zombie bite. If I was, indeed, contaminated by the zombie germs, it was only a matter of time before I became a zombie.

I took two Tylenols to kill the pain in my throbbing arm. I looked at the towel wrapped around my arm. I didn't see any blood. Perhaps my wound had stopped bleeding. That was a good sign.

I closed my apartment door, which the zombie had left open when he had departed. I decided to go back to sleep. Easier said than done. I tossed and turned the entire night. I kept worrying about whether I should have gone to a doctor. I sweated bullets wondering how long it would take for me to morph into a zombie. The buzzing of the refrigerator in the kitchen kept me awake. The sound seemed inordinately loud for some

reason. At last I managed to drift off just before sunrise.

From the Back Cover

Bryan Cassiday lives in Southern California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louis Vasquez:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book called Helter Skelter? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have other opinion?

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