

Vastarien Vol 1 Issue 1

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Since the early years of the twenty-first century, Matt Cardin has distinguished himself by writing weird fiction with a distinctively cosmic and spiritual focus, publishing two short story collections that have now become rare collector's items. In this substantial volume, Cardin gathers the totality of his short fiction, including the complete fiction contents of *Divinations of the Deep* (2002) and *Dark Awakenings* (2010). Several of the tales have been substantially revised from their original appearances. Inspired by H. P. Lovecraft, Thomas Ligotti, and other masters of cosmic horror, Cardin's fiction explores the convergence of religion, horror, and art in a cosmos that may be actively hostile to our species. In tales long and short (including a new novella co-written with Mark McLaughlin), Cardin rings a succession of changes on those fateful words from the Book of Job: "Let those sorcerers who place a curse on days curse that day, those who are skilled to rouse Leviathan." Aside from his short story collections, Matt Cardin is the editor of *Born to Fear: Interviews with Thomas Ligotti* (2014) and *Horror Literature through History* (2017). He is also co-editor of the journal *Vastarien*.

Reluctant Immortals Empire of Blood Books

In celebration of the release of *FADING IN DARKNESS: EMPIRE OF BLOOD BOOK TWO*, the first book in this dystopian urban fantasy series, *SHINING IN CRIMSON*, is now FREE! Set in a dystopian, religiously-demented American Empire, the city of Las Vegas is no longer a city of sin. Now called Necropolis, it is a city that eats sin. The vampires of Necropolis wait patiently for the Empire's weekly drop off of guilty Penitents; sinners and criminals full of fresh blood. Hank Evans is one of those Penitents and he would gladly let the vampires take every drop of his blood if it weren't for one detail: Toby. Toby is Hank's only son. Now, Hank must do whatever it takes to escape the city of the dead and save his son from an Empire as bloodthirsty as the vampires it uses to keep its people in line. Praise for *Shining in Crimson*: "A big-scale vampire thriller that changes the rules."--Scott Nicholson, author of *Liquid Fear*, *The Red Church*, and *They Hunger* "One of the best surprises I've had in a long while. Writing with a smart, self-assured ease, Robert S. Wilson has given us a gift with *Shining in Crimson*. Part *Underworld*, part *Escape From New York*, *Shining in Crimson* is genuinely frightening, genuinely thrilling, but above all, first-rate storytelling. I'm a Robert S. Wilson fan from now on!"--Joe McKinney, author of *Flesh Eaters* and *Apocalypse of the Dead* "Robert S. Wilson shows a lot of promise here with this debut novel. Now it's time to see where that promise will take him."--Ray Wallace, *The Chiaroscuro* "You'll not find some glistening torsos and smouldering eyes in this book. What you will find is a brilliantly thought out society of Vampires."--Jim McLeod, *Ginger Nuts of Horror* "The Mesh of Religious symbolism and political commentary tucked neatly between pure horror and suspense is superb."--Lisa Lane, *The Cerebral Writer* Cover design by Elena Helfrecht, you can find her and her work at <http://apokryphia.weebly.com/>

The Spectacle of the Void HarperCollins

When junior manager Frank Dominio is suddenly demoted and then sacked it seems there was more than a grain of truth to his persecution fantasies. But as he prepares to even the score with those responsible for his demise, he unwittingly finds an ally in a dark and malevolent force that grants him supernatural powers. Frank takes his revenge in the most ghastly ways imaginable - but there will be a terrible price to pay once his work is done. Destined to be a cult classic, this tale of corporate horror and demonic retribution will strike a chord with anyone who has ever been disgruntled at work.

The Forbidden Territory Del Rey

"An uncompromising collection of thirteen modern tales of desire and self-destruction" Provided by the publisher

Vastarien Polis Books

"A fractured mind is often the way into a world not suspected by those of an innocent normality." Enter the universe of renowned horror master Thomas Ligotti—a universe where clowns take part in a sinister winter festival, a scheming girlfriend makes reality itself come unraveled, a crumbling asylum's destruction unleashes a greater horror, and a mysterious Teatro comes and goes, leaving only shattered dreams in its wake. In the tradition of Edgar Allan Poe and H. P. Lovecraft, Ligotti's sophisticated tales of terror take us to places few would suspect exist, where madness is only a thought away. *The Nightmare Factory* adapts four of Ligotti's most chilling tales into fine graphic literature by famed writers and artists Stuart Moore, Joe Harris, Colleen Doran (*The Sandman*), Ben Templesmith (*30 Days of Night*), Ted McKeever (*Batman*), and Michael Gaydos (*Alias*). Featuring all-new introductions to each story by Thomas Ligotti.

Teatro Grottesco NYU Press

IN THE BEGINNING, MAN WAS PREY. WITHOUT THE GODS, THEY'LL BE PREY AGAIN The old gods have fled, and the monsters they had kept at bay for centuries now threaten to drown the city of Valentine, hunting mankind as in ancient times. In the midst of the chaos, a serial killer has begun ritually sacrificing victims, their bodies strewn throughout the city. Lilac Antonis wants to stop the impending destruction of her city by summoning her mother, a blood god—even if she has to slit a few throats to do it. But evading her lover Arcadia and her friends means sneaking, lying, and even spilling the blood of people she loves. Alex and Cecil of Ace Investigations have been tasked with hunting down the killer, but as they close in—not knowing they're hunting their close friend Lilac—the detectives realize the gods may not have left willingly. As flooding drags this city of cars and neon screaming into the jaws of sea demons and Arcadia struggles to save the people as captain of the evacuation team, Lilac's ritual killings at last bear fruit, only to reveal her as a small piece in a larger plan. The gods' protection costs far more than anyone has ever known, and Alex and Cecil are running out of time to discover the true culprit behind the gods' disappearance before an ancient divine murder plot destroys them all. Set in an alternate reality which updates mythology to near-modern day, *No Gods For Drowning* is part dark fantasy, part noir detective story, and unlike anything you've read before, from an author whose imagination knows no boundaries.

America's Dark Theologian Baen Books

With themes reminiscent of Shirley Jackson, Thomas Ligotti, and Bruno Schulz, but with a strikingly unique vision, Jon Padgett's *The Secret of Ventriloquism* heralds the arrival of a significant new literary talent. Padgett's work explores the mystery of human suffering, the agony of personal existence, and the ghastly means by which someone might achieve salvation from both. A bullied child who seeks vengeance within a bed's hollow box spring; a lucid dreamer haunted by an

impossible house; a dummy that reveals its own anatomy in 20 simple steps; a stuttering librarian who holds the key to a mill town's unspeakable secrets; a commuter whose worldview is shattered by two words printed on a cardboard sign; an aspiring ventriloquist who spends a little too much time looking at himself in a mirror. And the presence that speaks through them all.

A Season of Loathsome Miracles Pickman's Press

Contributions to this collection creatively address the theme of wisdom. Featuring: Cover Art by Serge Lecomte Poetry by Nancy Cook, Terry Cox-Joseph, Winston Derden, Hugh Findlay, Erika Girard, Duane Herrmann, Ann Howells, Sandra Kacher, Thomas Mampalam, Kenneth Pobo, Jennifer Thal, Maya Tobi, and Brian Yapko. Fiction by Hillary Chapman, Rosalind Goldsmith, and Allen Weber Visual Art by Michelle Brooks, Martha Clarkson, Briana Gervat, Serge Lecomte, Christian McCulloch, and Geroge Stein Creative Nonfiction by Terese Brasen, Martha Clarkson, Jennifer Hildebrandt, Kimberly Horg, and Lisa Lebduska. Drama by Joan Leotta

Ghastly Tales of Gaiety and Greed JournalStone

Vastarien: A Literary Journal is a source of critical study and creative response to the corpus of Thomas Ligotti as well as associated authors and ideas. The journal includes nonfiction, literary horror fiction, poetry, artwork and non-classifiable hybrid pieces. Cover art by Jason Barnett. Contributors include Gwendolyn Kiste, Daniel Braum, Wendy N. Wagner, Joe Koch, Ivy Grimes, and many more!

Grimscribe Bloomsbury Publishing USA

A vengeful witch twists time and space on her way to the pyre, and hundreds of years later, a woman loses everything to the addictive lure of omniscience. *A Season of Loathsome Miracles* has begun, a season untethered to the sun and spanning across centuries. A World War I flying ace is conscripted into war on a cosmic scale, and a musician of the distant future travels beyond known space to play the ultimate concert. A vice cop scours the streets of Manson-era Los Angeles in search of a sentient snuff film while, in our own time, a yoga student learns a new practice that transforms her, body and soul. Max D. Stanton's debut collection assembles thirteen short stories of gruesome horror, bleak ascensions, and gallows humor.

The Secret Name Random House

Vastarien: A Literary Journal is a source of critical study and creative response to the corpus of Thomas Ligotti as well as associated authors and ideas. The journal includes nonfiction, literary horror fiction, poetry, artwork and non-classifiable hybrid pieces. All Color Issue - Cover art by Danielle Hark and 13 illustrations by Danielle Hark, Giuseppe Balestra, Donyae Coles, Rhiannon Rasmussen, and Michael Sawecki.

Vastarien JournalStone

An annual anthology of strange and darksome tales, which this year profiles the work of 21 contemporary scribes: V.H. Leslie, J.T. Glover, Joanna Parypinski, Steve Rasic Tem, L.S. Johnson, Daniel Braum, M. Lopes da Silva, Mathew Allan Garcia, April Steenburgh, Charles Wilkinson, Farah Rose Smith, Arnel Dagorn, Cate Gardner, Jackson Kuhl, Christi Nogle, Ross Smeltzer, Jennifer Loring, Tim Jeffreys, Elana Gommel, Mike Weitz, Kirsty Logan. "A very promising anthology." -Ellen Datlow, Best Horror of the Year "An annual highlight of the genre." -Anthony Watson, *Dark Musings* "Weirdness with truth at its heart." -Des Lewis, *Real-Time Reviews*

The New Lovecraft Circle JournalStone

Vastarien: A Literary Journal is a source of critical study and creative response to the corpus of Thomas Ligotti as well as associated authors and ideas. The journal includes nonfiction, literary horror fiction, poetry, artwork and non-classifiable hybrid pieces. Contents Venio Gemma Files The Lord is an Active Shooter Fiona Maeve Geist The Sisters F.J. Bergmann Horror Religiosus The Dark Passions of Mark Samuels David Peak The Curse of the Biblical Magi Sepehr Goshayeshi Aharesia Natalia Theodoridou Silhouette Pelems S. E. Casey Orchard Architecture K. A. Opperman All the Stage is a World Forrest Aguirre Burger Shop Jayaprakash Satyamurthy Rat King Lia Swope Mitchell Vanpool C. M. Muller Magic, Madness, and Women Who Creep: The Power of Individuality in the Work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman Gwendolyn Kiste The Ageless Agelasts Rhys Hughes In the Way of Eslan Mendeghast Farah Rose Smith Effigies of Former Supervisors Matthew M. Bartlett Contributors *Vastarien, Vol. 2* Baen

"Matthew M. Bartlett is an open channel to the darkness" —Michael T. Cisco, author of *Unlanguage* A hair product's occult properties give the unsuspecting consumer more than just luxurious locks. A rural museum's shocking exhibits explore the dark and deathly aspects of laughter. A house travels the skies by night to find the man who long ago hid from terror in its abandoned halls. An actor on a movie set recites a scripted incantation that summons unholy apocalypse. An unseemly birthday party novelty turns out to be a diabolical tool of revenge. A town's dark devotion to a dead child spells danger for unwary day trippers. A senior citizen van takes an unexpected detour to hell. Join Matthew M. Bartlett, author of *Gateways to Abomination*, as he takes you on a tour through witch-ridden Leeds, Massachusetts, through hex-haunted Hulse, Massachusetts, and beyond, to the darker precincts of existence, where the chance rotation of a radio dial leads to cosmic madness, where devils reign, where doom creeps, where fiends flourish...where night cowers. "Reading Bartlett is like watching the offspring of François Rabelais & Al Columbia frolic like demented wildlife, where people wear the faces of a Hannah Höch portrait while giggling macabre wisdom over obscene broadcasts from radio stations located deep within dark forests." —Christopher Slatsky, author of *The Immeasurable Corpse of Nature*

We are Happy, We are Doomed HarperCollins

Featuring stories from R.L. Stine and Madeleine Roux, this middle grade horror anthology, curated by New York Times bestselling author and master of macabre Jonathan Maberry, is a chilling tribute to Alvin Schwartz's *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*. Flesh-hungry ogres? Brains full of spiders? Haunted houses you can't escape? This collection of 35 terrifying stories from the Horror Writers Association has it all, including ghastly illustrations from Iris Compiet that will absolutely chill readers to the bone. So turn off your lamps, click on your flashlights, and prepare—if you dare—to be utterly spooked! The complete list of writers: Linda D. Addison, Courtney Alameda, Jonathan Auxier, Gary A. Braunbeck, Z Brewer, Aric Cushing, John Dixon, Tananarive Due, Jamie Ford, Kami Garcia, Christopher Golden, Tonya Hurley, Catherine Jordan, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Alethea Kontis, N.R. Lambert, Laurent Linn, Amy Lukavics, Barry Lyga, D.J. MacHale, Josh Malerman, James A. Moore, Michael Northrop, Micol Ostow, Joanna Parypinski, Brendan Reichs, Madeleine Roux, R.L. Stine, Margaret Stohl, Gaby Triana, Luis Alberto Urrea, Rosario Urrea, Kim Ventrella, Sheri White, T.J. Wooldridge, Brenna Yovanoff

Shining in Crimson Unnerving

TALES OF THE WAR THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN What if the United States had gone to war with the Soviet Union? What if these rival superpowers had fought on land, sea, air, and the astral plane? What if the Soviets and Americans had struggled for dominion across parallel dimensions or on the surface of the moon? How would the world have changed? What wonders would have been unveiled? What terrors would have haunted mankind from those dark and dismal dimensions? Come closer, peer through a glass darkly, and discover the horrifying alternative visions of World War III from some of today's greatest minds in science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Includes new stories by David Drake, Brad R. Torgersen, Mike Resnick, Sarah A. Hoyt, and many more! About the Contributors: "Drake couldn't write a bad action scene at gunpoint."—Booklist on David Drake "He's one of the most talented authors I've ever read."—Larry Correia on Brad R. Torgersen "[A] tour de force: logical, built from assumptions with no contradictions . . . gripping."—Jerry Pournelle on Sarah A. Hoyt "Lostetter remains at the forefront of innovation in hard science fiction."—Publishers Weekly on Marina J. Lostetter Contributors: David Drake Brian Trent Mike Resnick Erica Satifka Brad R. Torgersen Kevin Andrew Murphy Dr. Xander Lostetter and Marina J. Lostetter Martin L. Shoemaker Sarah A. Hoyt Deborah A. Wolf Stephen Lawson Ville Meriläinen Peter J. Wacks and Bryan Thomas Schmidt Alex Shvartsman C.L. Kagmi Nick Mamatas T.C. McCarthy Eric James Stone John Langan

Iris Literary Journal Guide Dog Books

We are Happy, We are Doomed collects fifteen stories of the strange and the terrifying and weaves them into a dark tapestry that magnifies and explores the collective madness of our world. In these pages you'll enter into cosmic blob-worshiping cults and "utopian" communities with dark secrets. You'll experience extra-dimensional coming-of-age rites and the disturbingly colorful end of the world. You'll stumble upon factories that manufacture living emptiness, comedy shows for the dying, and small towns where bizarre and menacing dogmas hold sway. And, all along the way, you'll hear the decaying heart of our civilization hammering out its violent pulse. *We are Happy, We are Doomed* presents its readers with stories for a world on the precipice of annihilation. They are a warning for change. They are an illumination of the insanities of our age. They are, perhaps, glimpses into our always already doomed future.

Under Her Black Wings JournalStone

NEW STORIES OF FUTURE WARFARE FROM THE HOTTEST NAMES IN SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, AND HORROR TALES OF THE WAR BEYOND THE NEXT What if there were a war after Armageddon? How would the survivors emerging from World War III's radioactive slag heaps fight in this conflict? Would they wage it with sticks and stones...and sorcery? Or would they use more refined weapons, elevating warfare to an art and unleashing bureaucratic nightmares worse than death? Would they struggle against themselves or inter-dimensional invaders? What horrors from the desolate darkness might slither into the light? Wipe away the ashes of civilization and peer into a pit of atomic glass to

witness the haunting visions of World War IV from today's greatest minds in science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Contributors include: Jonathan Maberry Steven Barnes D.J. Butler Brad R. Torgersen Martin L. Shoemaker T.C. McCarthy Eric James Stone Stephen Lawson Freddy Costello and Michael Z. Williamson Laird Barron Nick Mamatas Brian Trent Erica L. Satifka Kevin Andrew Murphy Maurice Broaddus and Rodney Carlstrom David VonAllmen Deborah A. Wolf Nina Kiriki Hoffman Julie Frost Weston Ochse John Langan Will they find answers there, or is this only the first stage in their search? At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital Rights Management). About *Weird World War IV*: "Editor Hazlett follows *Weird World War III* by looking even further into the future at the war after the next big one. As such, these 21 skirmishes are not straight extrapolations of present-day politics but veer into alternate timelines in which dinosaurs invade to escape their own troubles ("Reflections in Lizard-Time" by Brian Trent) or artificial intelligences reshape humans into new species suitable for the poisoned Earth ("Mea Kua" by Stephen Lawson). Cosmic horrors are summoned by combatants in "Deep Trouble" by Jonathan Mayberry and beaten back by "elder beasts" from African myths in "The Door of Return" by Maurice Broaddus and Rodney Carlstrom. Not every story quite fits the theme of a war to follow the next war, but all feature postapocalyptic settings where conflict brews. The best, like "Wave Forms" by Nina Kiriki Hoffman and John Langan's Arthurian "Future and Once," keep the battle to come a tantalizing tease. The broad ideological range here—"The Eureka Alternative" by Brad Torgersen blames the apocalypse on wokeness, while Weston Ochse's "A Day in the Life of a Suicide Geomancer" critiques the MAGA crowd—means not every story will be for every military SF reader, but the sheer weirdness of many of these pieces is a testament to the genre's creativity and verve." —Publishers Weekly "Although this might seem to be a limited theme, the various authors have risen to the challenge, and produced a wide variety of fiction incorporating science fiction and fantasy concepts into tales of struggles that do not always take place on battlefields." —Tangent

The Nightmare Factory Simon and Schuster

Reynolds presents a new anthology of stories set within or about extraterrestrial ruins.

Weird World War III Del Rey

Thomas Ligotti is often cited as the most curious and remarkable figure in horror literature since H. P. Lovecraft. His work is noted by critics for its display of an exceptionally grotesque imagination and accomplished prose style. In his stories, Ligotti has followed a literary tradition that began with Edgar Allan Poe, portraying characters that are outside of anything that might be called normal life, depicting strange locales far off the beaten track, and rendering a grim vision of human existence as a perpetual nightmare. The horror stories collected in *Teatro Grottesco* feature tormented individuals who play out their doom in various odd little towns, as well as in dark sectors frequented by sinister and often blackly comical eccentrics. The cycle of narratives introduce readers to a freakish community of artists who encounter demonic perils that ultimately engulf their lives.