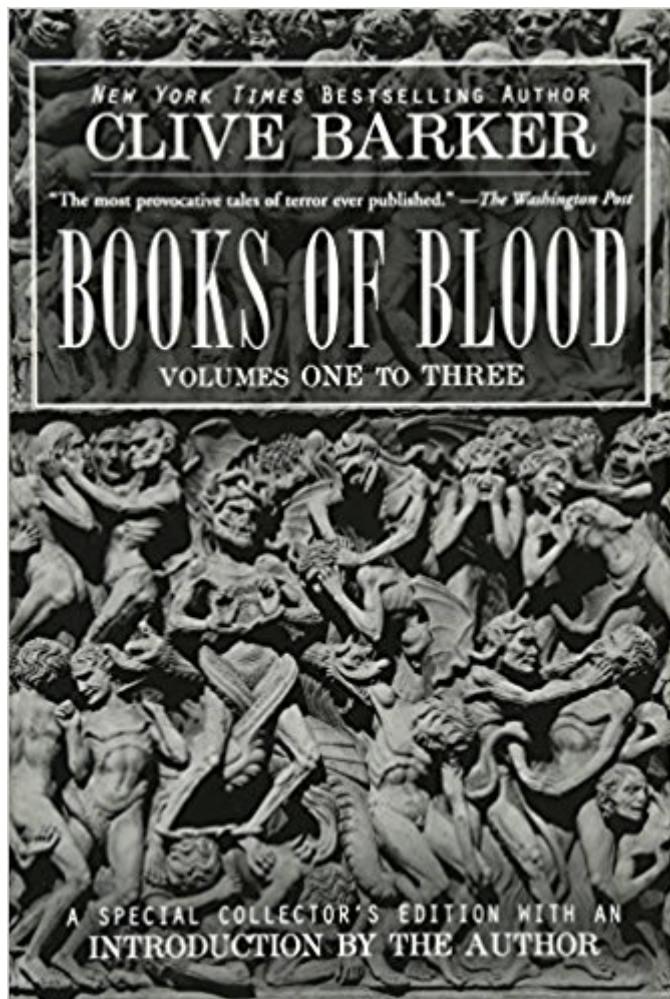


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Books Of Blood, Vols. 1-3



Synopsis

With the 1984 publication of Books of Blood, Clive Barker became an overnight literary sensation. He was hailed by Stephen King as "the future of horror," and won both the British and World Fantasy Awards. Now, with his numerous bestsellers, graphic novels, and hit movies like the Hellraiser films, Clive Barker has become an industry unto himself. But it all started here, with this tour de force collection that rivals the dark masterpieces of Edgar Allan Poe. Read him. And rediscover the true meaning of fear.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Everybody is a book of blood; wherever we're opened, we're red." For those who only know Clive Barker through his long multigenre novels, this one-volume edition of the Books of Blood is a welcome chance to acquire the 16 remarkable horror short stories with which he kicked off his career. For those who already know these tales, the poignant introduction is a window on the creator's mind. Reflecting back after 14 years, Barker writes: I look at these pieces and I don't think the man who wrote them is alive in me anymore.... We are all our own graveyards I believe; we squat amongst the tombs of the people we were. If we're healthy, every day is a celebration, a Day of the Dead, in which we give thanks for the lives that we lived; and if we are neurotic we brood and mourn and wish that the past was still present. Reading these stories over, I feel a little of both. Some of the simple energies that made these words flow through my pen--that made the phrases felicitous and the ideas sing--have gone. I lost their maker a long time ago. These enthusiastic tales are not ashamed of visceral horror, of blood splashing freely across the page: "The Midnight Meat

Train," a grisly subway tale that surprises you with one twist after another; "The Yattering and Jack," about a hilarious demon who possesses a Christmas turkey; "In the Hills, the Cities," an unusual example of an original horror premise; "Dread," a harrowing non-supernatural tale about being forced to realize your worst nightmare; "Jacqueline Ess: Her Will and Testament," about a woman who kills men with her mind. Some of the tales are more successful than others, but all are distinguished by strikingly beautiful images of evil and destruction. No horror library is complete without them. --Fiona Webster

Barker launched his best-selling career in 1984 with the Books of Blood trilogy, which are published together here as a single volume. In addition to the numerous short stories contained in the Books, this edition also sports a new introduction by the author. Bloody good fun. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Unbelievable. I'm a very slow reader, and I read this book cover to cover in about 3 days. I couldn't put it down. Clive Barker can honestly do no wrong. I read "Hell Bound Heart" and then purchased "Books of Blood." I didn't think another book could measure up to "Hell Bound Heart," but this one came pretty close. I love the way Clive Barker writes. The way he writes is so immersive and terrifying. He destroys your expectations and he keeps you salivating for more and more terror. Basically books of blood is a collection of 25-30 page short stories. Each short story is extremely horrific, graphic, and deliciously creepy. My favorite was story "Dread." Not only did it keep me up at night, but I remember driving to work the day after reading it and letting the horror pass through my mind over and over again. The following day, "Dread" still had its hold on me. I couldn't shake the horror, I couldn't shake terror and I couldn't wait another hour before reading another story. To make a long story a short story....READ THIS BOOK!

Some books are guideposts, planes upon which your (writing/reading) life refracts, shifts, changes course. Books that have done this for me, not only to my writing/reading life, but to my life: The Shining (King), a collection of poems (e.e. cummings), Generation X (Coupland), The Great Gatsby (FSF), The Hours (Cunningham), Ninety-Two in the Shade (McGuane), A Prayer for the Dying (O'Nan), Winter's Bone (Woodrell). Now: add to this list: Books of Blood, Vols. One to Three (Barker). What a revelation this book was for me. It came out in 1984. I love horror. I'm a Constant Reader of (mostly vintage) King. But I just finally got around to reading this. Wow and wow. Deeply affecting stories, superbly written. Not flawless, no. No such thing, and for risk-taking stories like

these, there's no way one can limn to the standard of flawless. Barker is known for films to the general public. However, these stories got him started and they are brilliant. The writing is sublime. He has such a lovely touch, though maybe sometimes he could dial it back a bit, cut a bit more. But I'm not complaining. There are many point-of-view shifts mid-story, even mid-scene, but Barker's so talented, he doesn't jar you out of the story with it--you find yourself going with it and shaking your head in awe. All of these long-to-novella-length stories are quality. Of course, some work better than others. None are weak. The ones that really pierced deepest: "Pig Blood Blues" - my favorite; just scary and resonant and so well-written and executed. "In the Hills, the Cities" - this story, a not exactly subtle allegory about collectivism and The State, got to me in such a way that I had to put it down as I read into the night, needing the sober light of day to get me through. Truly creeped me out. This is the most lush and purple of all of these, but so gorgeously wrought, so eloquent, and so haunting. I can't stop thinking about the images and the way this story made me feel, makes me feel. "Sex, Death and Starshine" - just made me smile. Barker has a background in theater and this may be a paean to those times. "Rawhead Rex" - fantastic, ballsy yet straight-up gothic monster story. Set piece after entralling set piece. A clinic of a story. "Dread" - for the ending...jeez. Scar-y. "Scape-goats" - this one is resonating with me, subtle and horrible and poetic and even elegiac. And I really like the ender "Human Remains" - more a violent mystery ending on a haunting, melancholy, heavy, existential note. The aspect of Books of Blood that makes me gush? The writing. The eloquence. The verve. His rendering of sentences, the deft touch, the lyrical flourishes that somehow manage to remain self-possessed, his wink of insight, his understanding of the human condition. The humanness of these stories. You can tell: he had fun writing these. Barker's face, with this book alone, belongs carved into the mountain with Poe, Lovecraft, King. It's that good, he's that good.

Clive Barker is an amazing author!!! Books of Blood deserves five stars! It is interesting and very suspenseful right from the start! I love how he always starts off with a sort of poetic meaningful bit at the beginning of his books, this beginning is about how the dead travel on highways and how sometimes they cross into our world. And sometimes they chose someone to write their stories on, this is called the books of blood, and the rest of the book is their stories. Right off bat, the first guy's story is suspenseful, as we get introduced to the killings going on in his home town as we meet our lead guy and then we get to meet the killer, this chapter goes from the good guy to the killer, who don't know of each other, yet, but it seems like he might be the victim the killer has been searching for all night! I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a good thrill, but be warned, it's

not for the weak stomached, don't eat while reading this book! I almost couldn't finish my lunch as I read this book, it was great!!!

I can't sing Barker's praises loudly enough...especially regarding these short stories. I read all of these as a teenager and have since read most of them multiple times. Rawhead Rex, Dread, Pig Blood Blues, The Midnight Meat Train (just to name a few) all masterpieces of Horror. Some of the scariest stories ever written.

This is a fantastic book! I could hardly put it down. Admittedly Clive Barker weaves some over the top (hard to envision) tales, there are others that he offers here that are GREAT! The prose is engaging, witty, and the characters are interesting and relateable! Do you wish you could read about characters who happen to be LGBT?? You are in for a treat! I love that Mr. Barker has decided to tackle this in a relateable and realistic way! My favorite story here is Pig Blood Blues!!

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