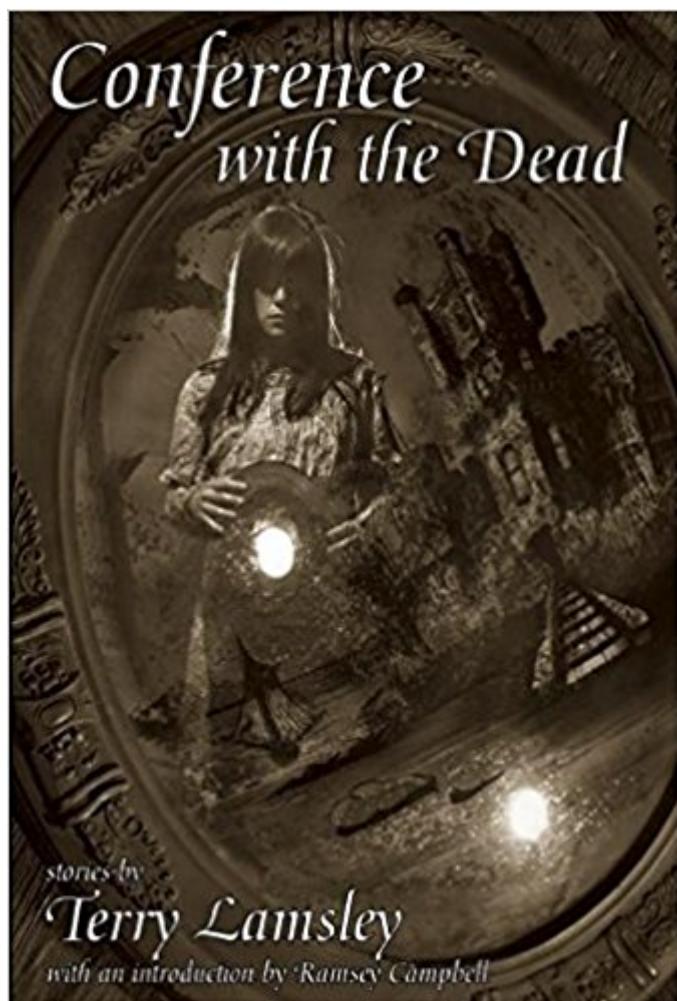


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Conference With The Dead



Synopsis

Originally published in a 500 copy edition by Ash-Tree Press, Terry Lamsley's Conference with the Dead has long remained almost unobtainable. A nominee for the World Fantasy Award, and winner of the International Horror Guild Award, this chilling collection of ghost stories set in England has remained out of print for far too long. Skyhorse Publishing, under our Night Shade and Talos imprints, is proud to publish a broad range of titles for readers interested in science fiction (space opera, time travel, hard SF, alien invasion, near-future dystopia), fantasy (grimdark, sword and sorcery, contemporary urban fantasy, steampunk, alternative history), and horror (zombies, vampires, and the occult and supernatural), and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller, a national bestseller, or a Hugo or Nebula award-winner, we are committed to publishing quality books from a diverse group of authors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

No Bio

The author of this book is one of the leading lights among the proponents of the kind of darkness (rather oxymoronic statement, I am afraid) that is envisioned by the followers of M.R. James. The stories are of a very high quality, and they are so polished that you would feel rather disheartened if you try to detect the tell-tale signs of craftwork in these stories (for that, you may go back to his first collection: "Under The Crust"). The contents are: -(*) Introduction by Ramsey Campbell1) Walking the Dog2) Blade and Bone3) The Break4) Someone to Dump On5) Running in the Family6)

Screens) The Toddler8) The Outer Darkness9) Inheritance10) The Extension Among all these stories, the most 'Jamesian' kind would be "Blade and Bone", while all others are of the most superior quality. BUT, I was rather stunned to find that in all these stories the protagonists, without doing anything wrong, kept coming to most unsavoury ends at the hands of the nasties, without any chance of retribution in sight. Some of these stories also veered towards Lucius Shepard territory, where you know that something horrifying is going to take place, but neither you nor the author nor even the protagonist shows the inclination to save himself/herself. Pretty frustrating in the end, and hence one star knocked off! Otherwise, a very good collection of horrifying stories, with emphasis upon the inflicting of pain & sorrow, and NOT on the supernatural.

I first discovered Lamsley's fiction when he was printed in the old DAW's Year's Best Horror edited by the late Karl Wagner. The story that I initially read was truly unique and exhibited a style and a voice and a point of view that was completely new. So I did not hesitate to purchase CONFERENCE WITH THE DEAD as soon as I learned of it. I was not disappointed, and the years between my discovery of his work and the appearance of this collection have not diminished my impression. Lamsley's stories are just as I recalled them. His is a singular voice with a style unlike that of any of his contemporaries. His stories are extremely well executed, and very, very disturbing. I look forward to his next collection.

Met my expectations

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