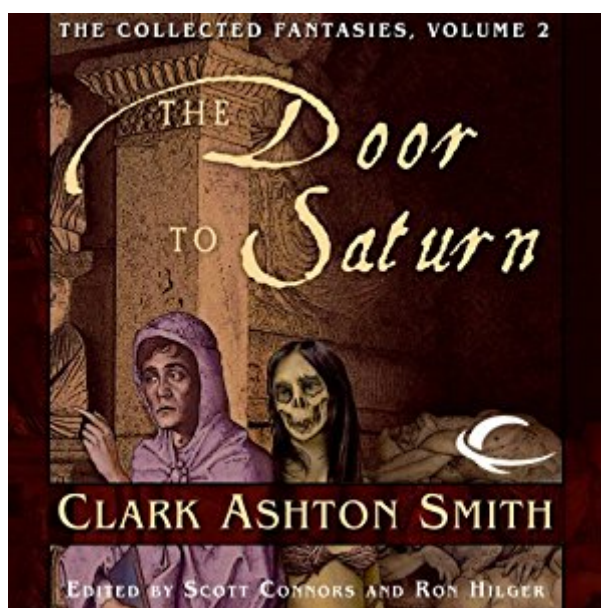


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The Door To Saturn: Collected Fantasies Of Clark Ashton Smith, Book 2



Synopsis

Published in chronological order, with extensive story and bibliographic notes, this series not only provides access to stories that have been out of print for years, but gives them a historical and social context. Series editors Scott Connors and Ronald S. Hilger excavated the still-existing manuscripts, letters and various published versions of the stories, creating a definitive "preferred text" for Smith's entire body of work. This second volume of the series brings together 20 of his fantasy stories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Truly a fantastic book. The tales found within its covers transport the reader to strange worlds that have always existed deep in our minds but lie vague and forgotten in the mist that congregates about the dim objects of our childhood fancies. Wonder and terror are beautifully interwoven by this most talented and underappreciated of authors.

I read this book right after reading Vance's Tales of the Dying Earth, and that may have helped a little: Vance is a beautiful user of language, and so is CAS, perhaps to an even greater degree. He was a poet who turned to pulp writing to support aged parents, and never stopped writing poetry in creating his pulp fiction. A Door to Saturn is volume 2 of the 5 volume Night Shade complete collected works, so I guess its not for everyone in that there are cheaper collections of CAS's best work out there. But oh! the moments of beauty in every tale in the book, even in those "weaker"

tales. The best stories in the book are the titular "The Door to Saturn", with a superb opening sentence that not only packs a punch, but also contains so much information, despite a potential over-use of commas: "When Morghi, the high priest of the goddess Yhoundeh, together with twelve of his most ferocious and efficient underlings, came at morning twilight to seek the infamous heretic, Eibon, in his house of black gneiss on a headland above the northern main, they were surprised as well as disappointed to find him absent." And it only gets better from there, full of dark humour and dire consequences for all involved. "A Rendezvous in Averogne" is a chilling little vampire tale from when vampires were evil, and scary, and would dominate your will and drink your blood. "The Ghoul" is unforgettable, as is "The Good Embalmer": both are short tales with a big impact. CAS tells a wonderfully descriptive parable in "The City of the Singing Flame". The possible meanings vary from reader to reader - is it about religion, money, drugs, obsession, or something else altogether. "The Return of the Sorcerer" is a horror story full of boding dread and impending doom. There are a host of other stories - 20 in all - all with endnotes containing discussion of the stories, usually by way of correspondence between CAS and HP Lovecraft. Sometimes this is perhaps a little too much of a glimpse at the man behind the curtain, but in a definitive collection of work I can certainly understand its place. This is a superb collection of works, and should be more widely read.

Smith was a better writer than his contemporary, Lovecraft, and this is great stuff.

Very satisfied with purchase.

As a fan of Clark Ashton Smith's writings, I'm very happy that his collected works are now made available in multi-volume sets. Makes a fine addition to one's library.

It's probably the best of the Nightshade books. A full collection of some of Smith's best work

Great collection of stories with awesome intro. The appendices giving the story behind the stories are a real treat for CAS fans.

Also received just one short story in the Kindle edition. Description is incorrect. Do not purchase for Kindle.

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