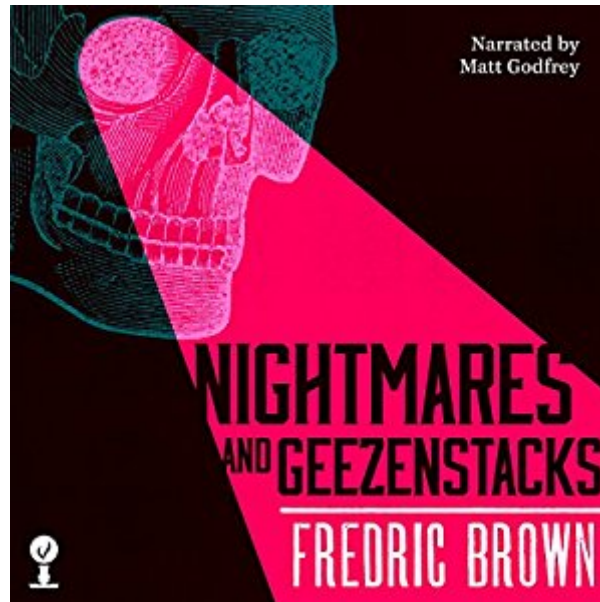




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Nightmares And Geezenstacks



Synopsis

One of the great pulp writers, Fredric Brown (1906-1972) combined a flair for the horrific, a quirky sense of humor, and a wild imagination, and published many classic novels in the mystery and science fiction genres. But he was also a master of the "short-short story", tales only a page or two in length, but hard-hitting and with a wicked twist at the end. *Nightmares and Geezenstacks* (1961) collects 47 short gems by Brown, ranging from science fiction to noir crime to horror, including the chilling and unforgettable "The Geezenstacks". Long unobtainable, Brown's classic collection is available for the first time in almost 40 years and is sure to please both longtime fans and those who are discovering this brilliant writer for the first time. "Might have been written by O. Henry in a black mood; alternately comic, horrifying [and] clever." (Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Review) "My favorite author of all time." (Mickey Spillane) "A distinctive and unique voice...one of the genre's most incisive satirists and outstanding innovators." (Library Journal) "One of the best pulp writers." (Booklist)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is clear from *Nightmares and Geezenstacks* that Fredric Brown is a gifted writer. He has a special talent for opening a story in a highly engaging way and drawing you in quickly. He has to draw you in quick because the story is going to end quick, as these are, as other reviews here described, vignettes or "short short stories," often with clever twist endings. (Imagine condensed, five-minute *Twilight Zone* episodes.) These are to literature what trick shots are to pool. If you like

watching someone set up and pull off trick shot after trick shot, this collection is probably for you. As for me, seeing a couple trick shots is interesting but I quickly tire of watching trick shot after trick shot. I'd rather watch an actual and fuller game unfold. Thus, I've ordered and am looking forward to reading some of Brown's novels. *Nightmares and Geezenstacks* by Fredric Brown (copyright 1961; Valancourt Books edition 2015).

What fun. These short stories (most are flash fiction before that had a name) from pulp icon Fredric Brown were a delight. Like dark genre O'Henry stories most of these end with a twist that I almost never saw coming. And one in particular (*Cat Burglar*) made me laugh out loud so hard I woke up my significant other. There's a lot of stories here and some were misses for me but it was an enjoyable read. Valancourt books did a great job resurrecting this little collection and the narration by Matt Godfrey is perfect for these stories.

Delightful collection of short stories. Several possibly qualified as micro-fiction, being very short, but all were perfectly paced and tersely plotted, with nary a word out of place. Some were ribald, some were scary, most were humorous, and all had a perfect element of a twist ending or surprise reveal in them. Very much recommended to fans of classic SF & Fantasy and all-around well-written stories

There are some real gems in this collection. Forty-seven. Sure some are rough-cut but most are worthy of Crown Jewels. Fredric Brown is the master of the short story; most of which are only a page or two long. Three personal favorites were 'Not Yet The End,' 'Runaround,' and 'The Little Lamb.' It is not very often that a reader can pick up a collection of short stories and find themselves laughing out loud as Brown is quite the comedian. Try reading 'Rope Trick' and see if you don't get a good laugh. Highly recommended.

This is a great read. I remember reading this cover to cover back in the early '60's and lost track of it and who I lent it to. Wanted to revisit these great wonderful short stories that out "Hitchcock" Hitchcock and out "Serling" Serling in irony. So scored a used copy from in paperback. They were the only place I could find it. Wish it could be reissued in hard back cause my paperback is all yellow and brittle, but still worth it. Gotta check out this Fredric Brown book if you're into fantasy and a "now I know where Hitchcock and Rod" might have gotten their inspiration for their tv shows from, this could be it. But....caveat. If you get into this book, it will be a read like "oh, another chapter and

another chapter and oh, just another chapter and maybe just one more chapter, and then another one before I go to bed". Must be read at night before the sun comes up. Enjoy, you won't be sorry.

This book is my favorite collection of short stories. I have now reread it so many times that I've lost count, and each time, I've been amazed that he can tell a complete story, with a fully realized world, in such a short number of words! Really, I know so few people who have read this book, and yet it should be on every writing student's required reading list! If you get a chance, buy it! Skip around in it, and read the nightmare stories first (Nightmare in Blue, etc). Then be prepared to be haunted by the themes. Enjoy.

I wasn't particularly excited about most of the stories. They were kind of corny.

I'm late to the Fredric Brown game, but am delighted to have finally arrived. He packs ten times the wonder and imagination into a 500-word short-short than most modern writers manage in an 800-page novel. The stories range from science fiction to crime to horror, and each one is a joy to experience.

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