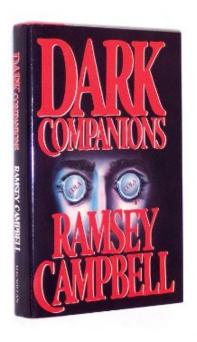
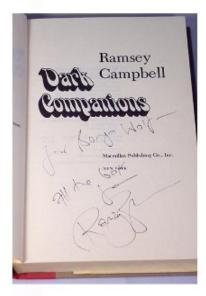


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#### Review

One of the best of contemporary horror writers."

- --Publishers Weekly
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- "The Companion" (included in this collection) is "one of the three finest horror stories I have ever read...horror beyond my ability to describe."
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### About the Author

Ramsey Campbell has been given more awards than any other writer in the field, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Horror Writers Association, a Living Legend Award from the International Horror Guild, and a Grand Master Award from the World Horror Convention. He has also received three Bram Stoker Awards, four World Fantasy Awards, two International Horror Guild Awards, and twelve British Fantasy Awards.

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A brilliant collection of stories by one of the masters of horror.

Not all companions are friendly. There are many that you most definitely do not want to see. When Elaine was working late at the office, she thought she was all alone. But something sinister was in the elevator shaft...working its way to her floor. Miles, too, thought he was alone in his new house, the house of a murderer, but he, too, had an unwanted companion. And Knox will never forget what was waiting for him in the dense fog.

Come and meet all of these companions and more in this chilling collection of horror tales by award-winning master of terror Ramsey Campbell. That clawing sound you hear, the haunting singing, the moving shadow—they all mean that something is waiting to make your acquaintance.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Probably the single best volume of Campbell's stories.

By Dallas Fawson

Dark Companions is a great collection of Campbell's short fiction. In addition to containing his two best known stories, The Companion and Mackintosh Willy, it's a consistently good volume all around which also includes several lesser known gems.

While it's not as comprehensive or easy to find as Alone With the Horrors, story per story it's the more consistent of the two collections, since Alone With the Horrors is more of a retrospective than a "best of." While both volumes have their place, I find myself reading from Dark Companions more often.

Ramsey Campbell is unmatched by any contemporary horror writer other than perhaps Thomas Ligotti when it comes to creating mood and atmosphere, and stories like "Out of Copyright" and "In the Bag" illustrate this beautifully- something as simple as dust or fog can become pervasive, uncomfortable and even terrifying in Campbell's fictional universe. It's a shame that this volume is currently out of print. I recommend that you get a used copy while you can.

Highly recommended for lovers of ghost stories and weird fiction in general.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant Evocation of the Frightful Through a Glass Darkly

By R. Schultz

Ramsey Campbell seems as if he hasn't sequestered himself in a room, writing all day. Rather, the keen metaphors he conjures here suggest that he's the kind of writer who has garnered a wide experience of everyday life. It seems as if he walks around in an ordinary neighborhood, observing ordinary details, then comes home and does ordinary chores. He compares the whirling clothes in a laundry machine to "dervishes." His windows "drooled" in the rain. He observes how a girl's parents were waiting "on the lit stage of the porch." The porch itself reminds him of a refrigerator as the light flicks on and off with the coming and going of the home's inhabitants. Doors snap shut "like disapproving lips." The shadow of the church spire "made the village square into a sun dial – 11:00 at Millie's Woolens."

However, Campbell brings to this familiarity with the common bricks and mortar of life – a sense of the sinister that inhabits the homely. "The dark fireplaces looked ominous, prosceniums awaiting a cue." "A roofless house stood like a rotten tooth." "Gray clouds crawled grub-like across the sky." The mass of clouds "had closed overhead like a coffin lid." A person smiles "with a grin that looked pale as a crack in clay." The faces of sheep resemble "munching skulls.' As night falls, the lamps around the pond in the park "would have begun to dangle luminous tails in the water." "But the silence wasn't soothing. It was unnatural, the product of too many coincidences. It was the silence of a forest when a predator is near."

The stories in this book make great reading primarily because of these twists of detail that Campbell insinuates into his common world. The plots of the stories themselves though tend to be a little too murky and unresolved. Most of the horrors that threaten the stories' characters are vaguely defined - crouching, encroaching, spreading. A crack on the ceiling will propagate like the threads of a spider's web. A blotch on the wall will grow bigger. Something in a jar will become engorged and animate. Obscurity in horror stories is generally good. It's only the half-seen that's frightening. But in these stories, the menace tends to remain sometimes just a touch too oblique.

Nevertheless, if you're looking for good writing, eerie atmospherics, and an awakened sense of the sinister in everyday life – Campbell is here and everywhere the author for you.

There are many collections of Campbell's stories. The 21 stories included here are:

Mackintosh Willy, Napier Court, Down There, Heading Home, The Proxy, The Depths, Out of Copyright, The Invocation, The Little Voice, Drawing In, The Pattern, The Show Goes On, The Puppets, Calling Card, Above the World, Baby, In the Bag, Conversion, The Chimney, Call First, The Companion.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

I've got the Mackintosh Willies

By Jon

Dark Companions starts strong and ends strong. The first and last stories in the collection (i.e. Mackintosh Willy and The Companion) are each alone worth the five dollars this collection costs. But there's more, including a charming introduction and afterward; Campbell is one of a few authors who can talk about himself at length and not seem self-involved. And if you haven't read Campbell before this is as good of an introduction as perhaps you can get.

In short: if you like psychological and supernatural horror stories written with beautiful prose then you should buy it. If you don't believe me, try the sample and read the first story; I promise you'll be hooked.

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