
A NEWSLETTER FROM AUTHOR JB CAINE

THE BUSY QUILL

www.jbcaine.com



 @authorjbcaine

 @authorjbcaine

DABBLING IN DARKNESS

THE OCCULT IN HORROR STORIES

There are so many subgenres of horror literature, and if I'm being honest, there are some that I adore and could watch over and over, there are some that I really don't care for, and there are some that legit scare the tar out of me. And one of the ones that really chills me to the core is Occult Horror.

The way I'd define that is a tale in which the story involves dabbling in the blackest of black magic, demonic possession, and dark ritual. These often walk the line with haunting/ghost stories, but for me occult horror is a darker shade of black.

I think the reason that I find these stories so terrifying is that they usually deal with primal and supernatural evil, the kind that can't even really be defended against unless God intercedes on a character's behalf.

In the scariest of these, humans don't understand the rules or the forces with which they're battling, thus leaving them entirely defenseless. That vulnerability is a visceral fear that is basic to human existence, reaching all the way back to the unidentifiable dangers our ancestors sensed in the darkness. Occult horror writers can (and do) tap those nerves and remind us to be afraid of the dark.

MY FIVE

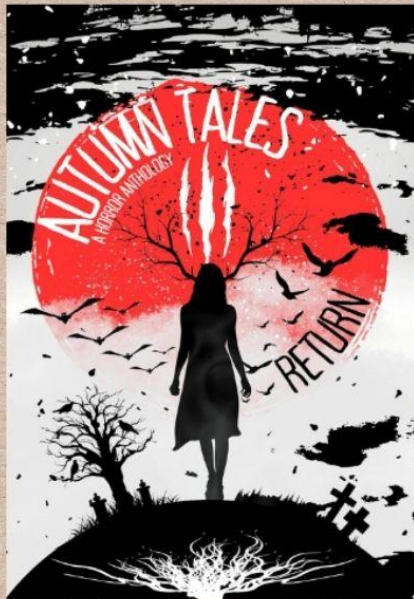
THIS MONTH: OCCULT HORROR FILMS

1. THE EXORCIST
2. THE WITCH
3. EVIL DEAD
4. ROSEMARY'S BABY
5. MIDSOMMER

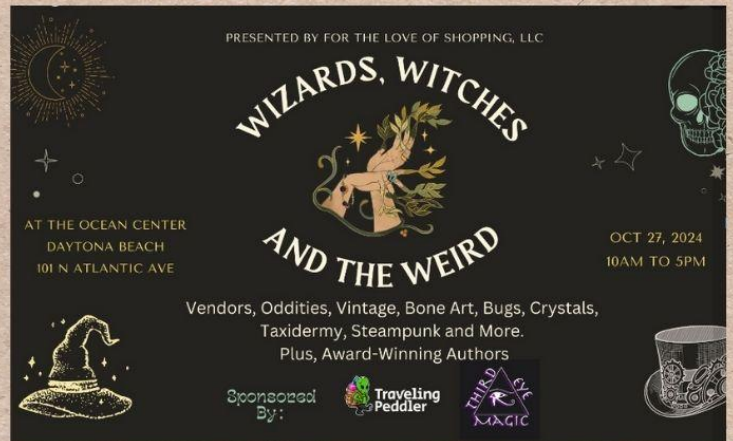
WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH:

AUTUMN TALES 3 IS NOW AVAILABLE!

GET YOURS NOW!
<https://a.co/d/fYHo105>



COME SEE ME IN DAYTONA BEACH!



I'll be here
October 27! ↗

FEATURED AUTHOR: THOMAS MICHAEL THOMAS



JBC: DROP US A TEASER FOR "THE EVIL WITHIN THE HOUSE!"

TMT: Overwhelmed with grief, two troubled thirteen-year-olds, partake in a séance and wish to speak to their deceased friend, and it goes horribly wrong. Jake and Clarence dive into a dark world of supernatural encounters and otherworldly threats and uncover the source of recent, bizarre occurrences that have been plaguing their small religious town.

JBC: WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DO YOU DO WHEN WRITING OCCULT HORROR?

TMT: My research is decades of watching 70s and 80s horror. From chanting holding figures holding sacrificial knives to cursed items and haunted houses with mysterious labyrinths underneath. My literary gurus are Kurt Vonnegut and Cormac McCarthy. As for a horror writer, in terms of influence, it would be Dennis Wheatley.

JBC: WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE DARKNESS IN HUMAN NATURE THAT FASCINATES READERS?

TMT: Horror and the Paranormal are fun ways for people to detach from the mundane. Devouring a book or watching a film that conjures a good scare is fun. Some fans/readers love the anticipation of what could possibly happen next. With occult horror or cosmic horror, it transcends the normal tropes (i.e. a killer or stalker story.) With the occult, magic realism can be applied. Rules of physics and the laws of science can be broken. A character in a story can chant and draw a circle on the ground to appear somewhere else. I find subjects like this can open endless opportunities for characters to get into, but most importantly, those characters, regardless of how deep their fantasy goes, they need to be relatable.