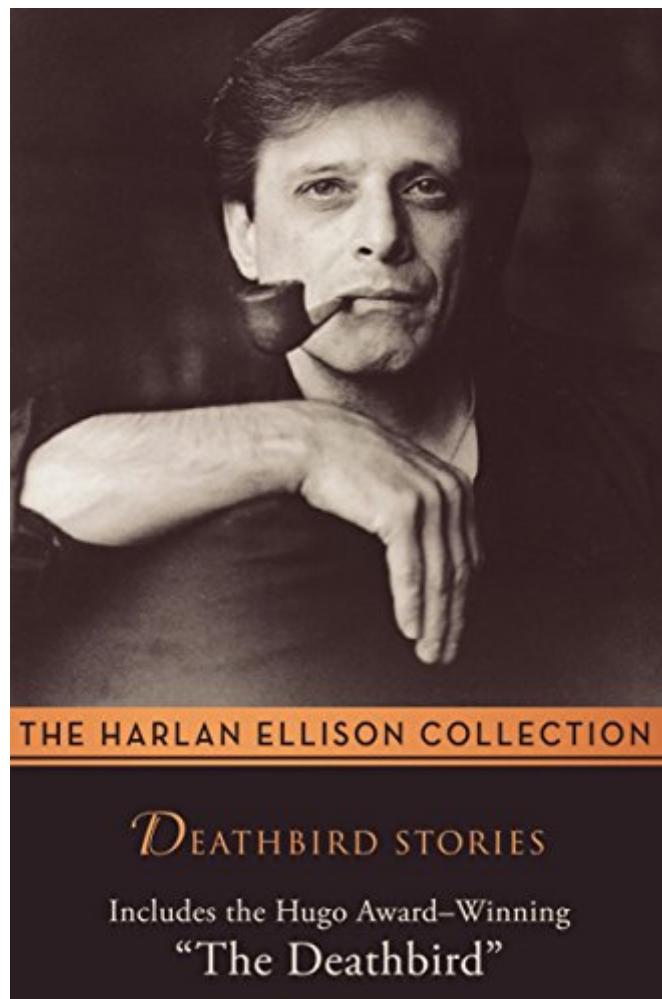


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Deathbird Stories



Synopsis

Masterpieces of myth and terror about modern gods from technology to drugs to materialism "fantasy at its most bizarre and unsettling" • (The New York Times). As Earth approaches Armageddon, a man embarks on a quest to confront God in the Hugo Award-winning novelette, "The Deathbird." • In New York City, a brutal act of violence summons a malevolent spirit and a growing congregation of desensitized worshippers in "The Whimper of Whipped Dogs," an Edgar Award winner influenced by the real-life murder of Queens resident Kitty Genovese in 1964. • In "Paingod," the deity tasked with inflicting pain and suffering on every living being in the universe questions the purpose of its cruel existence. "Deathbird Stories" collects these and sixteen more provocative tales exploring the futility of faith in a faithless world. A legendary author of speculative fiction whose best-known works include *A Boy and His Dog* and *I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream* and whose major awards and nominations number in the dozens, Harlan Ellison strips away convention and hypocrisy and lays bare the human condition in modern society as ancient gods fade and new deities rise to appease the masses "gods of technology, drugs, gambling, materialism" that are as insubstantial as the beliefs of those who venerate them. • In addition to his Nebula, Hugo, World Fantasy, Bram Stoker, Edgar, and other awards, Ellison was called "one of the great living American short story writers" by the Washington Post "and this collection makes it clear why he has earned such an extraordinary assortment of accolades. • Stories include: "Introduction: Oblations at Alien Altars" • "The Whimper of Whipped Dogs" • "Along the Scenic Route" • "On the Downhill Side" • "O Ye of Little Faith" • "Neon" • "Basilisk" • "Pretty Maggie Moneyeyes" • "Corpse" • "Shattered Like a Glass Goblin" • "Delusion for a Dragon Slayer" • "The Face of Helene Bournouw" • "Bleeding Stones" • "At the Mouse Circus" • "The Place with No Name" • "Paingod" • "Ernest and the Machine God" • "Rock God" • "Adrift Just Off the Islets of Langerhans: Latitude 38° 54' N, Longitude 77° 00' 13" W" • "The Deathbird" •

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy reading Harlan Ellison. This three star review is aimed strictly at the collection "Deathbird Stories", and not directed at the author himself, as I will continue to read Ellison in the future. "Deathbird Stories" simply didn't do it for me. It was hit and miss. Half the stories moved me, inspired me, and the other half fell flat. Take, for instance, "Shattered Like A Glass Goblin". I can only assume this story was a response to the time period in which it was written, when many American youths were lost in a haze of drugs. Ellison paints a picture of the dangers of drug dependency, and although I can respect the moral, this story was lacking something, in my opinion. I need characters who develop alongside a thickening plot, and this tale is little more than a downward spiral into the hallucinations of a drug-addled mind. Good imagery, but no real structure. "At The Mouse Circus" and "The Place With No Name" are in the same vein as far as losing me. Lots of far-fetched, otherworldly gobbledegook. "At The Mouse Circus" had great visuals, but it was rather confusing. I couldn't tell you the actual point of the story. If anyone knows, please message me! "The Place With No Name" follows a down-on-his-luck pimp who is offered an escape from a police manhunt by entering another world. From there I got lost. I can understand why so many people put Harlan Ellison on a pedestal. It is a throne he rightfully earned through diligence and honing his craft over the years. The stories that were good were extremely engaging. Among them were: "The Whimper Of Dogs", "Along The Scenic Route", "Basilisk", "Pretty Maggie Money Eyes", "The Face Of Helene Bournouw", and "Bleeding Stones".

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