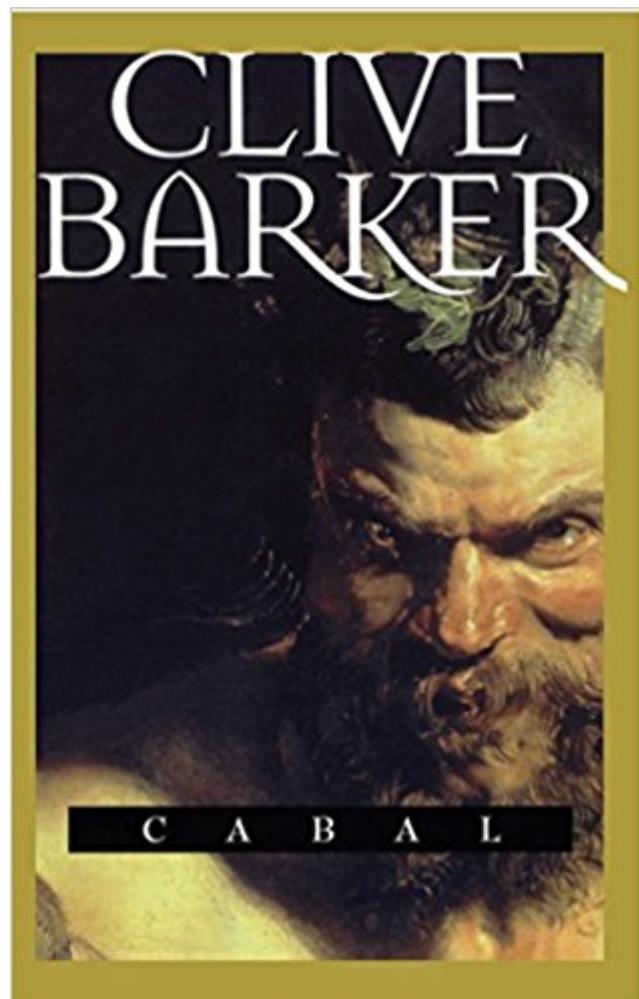


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Cabal



Synopsis

For more than two decades, Clive Barker has twisted the worlds of horrific and surrealistic fiction into a terrifying, transcendent genre all his own. With skillful prose, he entralls even as he horrifies; with uncanny insight, he disturbs as profoundly as he reveals. Evoking revulsion and admiration, anticipation and dread, Barker's works explore the darkest contradictions of the human condition: our fear of life and our dreams of death.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Comprised of a novel and four long stories, this volume is classic Barker, full of lurid, bloody imagery and action involving large-than-life characters. It's great fun and provides plenty of thrills or giggles, depending on how seriously you take it. In the novel, Cabal, Boone, a recovering psychotic, is cleverly manipulated by his psychiatrist, Decker, into believing that he has committed several savage murders. Decker, of course, is the villain, but Boone does not catch on. Considering himself unfit for human society, Boone flees, eventually to come upon Midian, a large crypt inhabited by the Nightbreed, dead souls in shape-changing bodies, neither good nor evil, who turn Boone into one of their own. Of the shorter works, the best written is "The Life of Death," about a woman who becomes enthralled by death and is transformed into a kind of Typhoid Mary. Another, "The Last Illusion," which concerns the fate of a magician's corpse, is full of intriguing moments. First serial to Penthouse; Doubleday Book Club main selection; Literary Guild featured alternate.

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edition of this title.

The New York Times Book Review [Cabal] demonstrate[s] why the gleefully gory Mr. Barker is at the top of his genre. Endlessly inventive, he takes familiar themes a step or two farther...dazzling, captivating stuff...The Washington Post In the hands of a lesser writer this could be just another tale of nightmarish evil...[what] lifts Barker from common craftsman to the rarefied and chancy domain of artist is his profound awareness of the alienation and aloneness of man. And he brings these insights into dramatic focus through the innocence of his monsters...Elle Simultaneously repels and spellbinds the reader...Literature in the tradition of Poe, Shelley and Hawthorne.Washington Times [Clive Barker] is a mapmaker of the mind, charting the furthest reaches of the imagination....His ambition and audacity are unparalleled; we know that we are in the presence of a vision that is genuine, unique, and lasting.Publishers Weekly The most ambitious dark fantasist of our time.The Boston Herald Barker's work reads like a cross between Stephen King and...Gabriel GarcÃ¡fÃ-a MÃ¡fÃ¡rquez. He creates a world where our biggest fears appear to be our own dreams. People Barker's dark, powerful imagination -- and his skill in pacing to keep his stories surprising -- make the horror grisly and effective.Armistead Maupin [Barker writes] with the easy confidence of a tribal storyteller, and elder who has seen everything and committed most of it to scripture.Atlanta Journal-Constitution Clive Barker is back from yet another excursion into his dark and fertile imagination, bearing sinister fruits of fine horror fantasy.Locus The premier metaphysicist of contemporary fiction.

This was an amazing read/listen. I really enjoyed the audio book version. I am an extremely busy person and have little free time to sit down and read from an actual book. I was first exposed to the movie, *Nightbreed*, in the late 1990s and I did not understand the concept at all. Moreover, my level of immaturity as a teen would not have allowed for my comprehension of a multi-faceted gem such as Clive Barker's *Cabal*. I now am mature enough to fathom the depths of this nightmarish tale and I highly recommend it to all horror fans. But be forewarned: the one-dimensional approach is not present throughout the story. This is a three-dimensional story that attacks all of the emotions head on, and with no remorse for doing as such. This classic tale could be categorized as more than a horror title. There are elements that could land this title in as SCI-FI, Romance, Drama, Thriller, Action, and oh yes... HORROR.

I have been a long time fan of Clive Barker and finally sat to read this book after being a fan of the

movie for so long. The text is nearly word for word the same as the movie, but some more light is shed on Decker's motivations and Lori's love for Boone. The ending clears up what I always felt was an empty ending in the film.

Wow. Why has it taken me so long to get into this masterpiece of horror fiction? WHY? I remember growing up in the late 80s and throughout the 90s, Barker was something of an enigma. The only work I really knew of the man was through the Hellraiser films, which to were to say, taboo, in their own day. But I never ventured into reading his books or stories. What ill fortune for me to have ignored his literary works. His prose is unmatched, different, poetic even. I'm a huge fan of Stephen King for just the same reason, his style of writing. But Barker's style is something else entirely. He doesn't draw you in with internal thoughts so much. He draws you in with storytelling and his development of mythos. And getting to the point of the matter, Cabal ought to be on everyone's must read list, especially considering the books short but beautiful novella length. Cabal is romance-horror and though I've seen this kind of story before, I've never it done in such a powerful way. The idea of romantic characters and horror isn't something thought of when thinking of the macabre. Comedy and horror, sure. Laughing and screaming go hand and hand. But romance, longing, almost ritualistic in nature, beside the cunning debauchery of gore and monsters? Well...its very clever and adds to the tragedy of it all.

Amazing book clive barker is a genius!

I'll leave discussion of the novel itself to others, simply saying I enjoyed it. However, the Kindle edition has many capitalization issues that should have been caught by the most cursory editing, or even a spell/grammar check.

The quality of the book itself was excellent. The story was great, I loved the movie growing up and was thrilled to learn that it was originally a book. The only reason I took a star away is because the final 100 pages give or take are stories from the books of blood which I have already read.

Clive Barker is a classic. Cabal is a great metaphor of feeling "Other", or being an Outsider that finds a community. I enjoyed the balance between the lead male and female characters, it never felt like Lori's love for Boone make her weak or his confusion over where he belonged lessened his devotion to her.

Clive Barker is the best author in the Horror/Fantasy Genre that ever put pen to paper... bar none...It is predictable... Because.. if you like this book, then you have more than likely seen the movie...

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