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Johannes Cabal: The Fear Institute (Johannes Cabal Novels)



Synopsis

"Howard's characters, relentless imagination, twisting plotlines, and use of language make the Johannes Cabal series a real pleasure to read, and The Fear Institute is the best Cabal yet."

•Richard Kadrey, author of the Sandman Slim series

Beyond the wall of sleep lies the Dreamlands. For countless millennia, they have been explored only by those philosophers, mystics, and poets with a certain detachment from mundane reality. Well, those halcyon days are over, beatniks. Johannes Cabal is coming. Cabal, a necromancer of some little infamy, is employed by the mysterious Fear Institute to lead an expedition into the Dreamlands to hunt and destroy the dread Phobic Animus, the very source of all the world's fear. Along the way, they will encounter witches, vile abominations, and far too many zebras. And, when they finally come close to their goal, Cabal will have to face his own nightmares. But for a man who communes easily with devils and the dead, surely there is nothing left to fear. . . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As usual, the writing is great and the setting is great. Howard creates a whimsical world that is enjoyably creepy/quirky and does so with quite the advanced and varied vocabulary. The problem with these books is that you don't really care about the characters that much. Although the plot is a good one, I got bored about 1/2 of the way through because there was nothing about any of the characters that really grabbed me. There needs to be more in the way of relationships between the characters in order to kick these books up a notch.

First of all I loved this book, It adds a bit of Lovecraft-ian Horror to the series!, The low rating is solely for the binding and cover of the hard backed edition I received. This was a hardcover edition, however it was one of the smaller form factors used by book club editions and was published by St. Martins Press. The first two books in the series were the standard trade hardback format as used by Doubleday. Therefore it does not sit nicely on my shelf with it's brothers... argh! It appears to have the standard black paper covered matte board covers used by book club editions as well. The binding is flush cut glued rather than folios. And the dust jacket is a uniform magazine like glossy paper. Whereas the earlier books have a heavy matte paper that almost feels like cotton. While the full retail price would be worth it for a Doubleday printing, This printing has the low quality of the mail order book clubs you know and love that will sell you 7 books for a dollar to get you started. So, buy the ebook, the paperback or wait for a full sized Hardcover... but don't hold your breath... it was published in the UK for almost a year before it became available in the USA,

If you enjoy a protagonist with acerbic wit, a dash of dishonor, and only a dribble of conscience, you will enjoy this book. JC: The Fear Institute is just as funny and horrific as the other JC books; in fact, I enjoyed it more than JC: The Detective, which is my least favorite of the three current books in the series. It helps to have some knowledge of H.P. Lovecraft to enjoy JC: The Fear Institute, but it's not necessary. My only complaint is that we had to wait so long for a US edition due to publisher problems. This meant either ordering the hardback from the UK or re-registering your Kindle to UK to buy it (trust me, it's not worth the hassle to re-register your Kindle). Anyway, I highly recommend this book. It ended on a cliff-hanger and I can't wait for the next book in the series to come out.

I'm a huge fan of the Johannes Cabal series. I actually read this book a while ago so this review isn't coming fresh off reading the book. The dark humor is still here and its still very witty. It does get a little confusing and start running together in the middle and Jonathan's really verbose prose can be a little overwhelming.

Fantastic book. Very witty, as is classic for this author. A great walk down Lovecraft's mythos, filled with gems that will amuse and please people familiar with the content. Still an enjoyable read for people who aren't as familiar with Lovecraft. Charming and entertaining as a whole.

For me it simply wasn't as good as the earlier books (JC the Necromancer and JC the Detective). I

hope that the series improves in the next book, but perhaps the writer is running out of ideas and story lines. Its disappointing because I liked the concept and character.

I eagerly awaited this third installment in the series. Howard is creative, mischievous, and always entertaining. Cabal has changed a little since the first book, but his dry humor, Sherlockian focus and charming disdain are still there. He becomes a reluctant tour guide to the Dreamlands, for a trio of bumbling scientists, with his self-interest at the forefront (as to be expected) but the treacherous journey, laden with surprises brings out a bit of his humanity. As with the other books in the series, Howard give my vocabulary a workout, throwing in a few words that even my Kindle app failed to recognize. Good fun. I hope more follow.

Exactly the weirdest, liveliest, and most inconsequential imagination I've ever attempted to fathom, Mr. Howard. And very well written to boot, a rare combination, come to think of it both facets are singularly rare, so you have a double whammy. I have already met Horst so skip onto a subsequent impossibility. Here I go, dive straight away, but keep those eyes wide open.

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