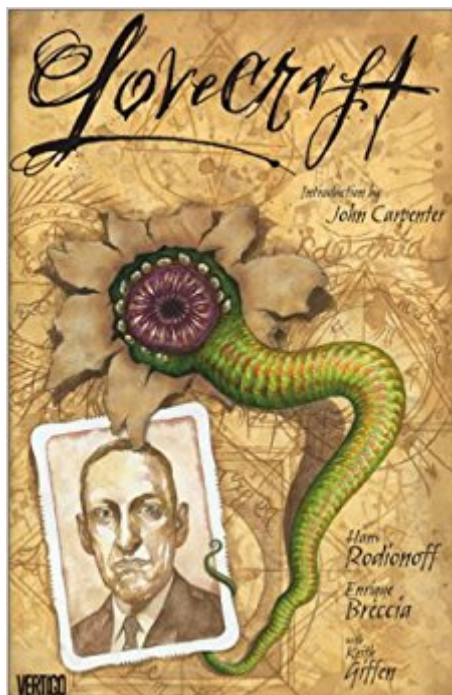


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# Lovecraft



## Synopsis

A fascinating but disturbing study of one of America's greatest horror writers, the intense LOVECRAFT examines the bizarre life of author and recluse, Howard Phillips Lovecraft. Since his early childhood in the late 1800's Lovecraft was haunted with dark visions of demons and death. Trapped in a world of macabre creatures and grotesque thoughts, the writer found escape only by weaving his living nightmares into fictional blood curling horror stories. An uncensored tour into a troubled mind, this beautifully painted hardcover edition traces the toils of a man considered both mentally ill and genius as he stumbles across the fine line between reality and insanity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Inspired by a Rodionoff screenplay that assumes the "reality" of the alien monsters invented by H.P. Lovecraft (1890-1937), Argentine artist Breccia and DC writer Giffen (Lobo) take a surreal, psychosexual look at the American horror master's life story. The book focuses on the graphics, notably lurid, dialogue-free sequences depicting Cthulhu and his tentacled kin assaulting helpless humans, starting with HPL's father, Winfield, shown in bed with a woman not his wife in a Chicago hotel. Like the actual philandering father, who contracted syphilis, this Winfield dies in an insane asylum in Lovecraft's native Providence, R.I., though not before passing on the family copy of Abdul Alhazred's Necronomicon to his young son. The story's remainder concerns Lovecraft's repetitive attempts, in childhood and adulthood, to ward off a series of repellent creatures (perhaps the evil offspring of the dreaded magical tome, or just the product of his sick imagination). Those familiar

with the five volumes of Lovecraft's Selected Letters or S.T. Joshi's 1996 biography may be dismayed to find only caricature. In typical Hollywood fashion, the authors make Lovecraft's one-time wife Sonia Greene a generic heroine (prettier and slimmer than the original), whom he meets in a hospital where he's recovering from an assault by an unclothed Wilbur Whateley. The child Lovecraft has the pronounced lantern jaw that he developed only in maturity. Still, Cthulhu Mythos fans who aren't pedantic nitpickers will enjoy the way the book blends bits of biographical detail with Lovecraft's frightening fictional concepts to create a grotesque and disturbing visual experience. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Why would anyone want the monsters of H. P. Lovecraft's horror stories actually to have harried their creator? For the sake of a good story, of course, but also because having the Old Ones--Cthulhu and the rest, the sight of which can reduce General Patton, John Wayne, and Muhammad Ali into blobs of gibbering terror--bedevil Lovecraft accounts for his hellish early life. His father had a mental breakdown and died in an asylum before H. P. reached school age. His possessive but distant mother, before her own breakdown and asylum death, forbade Lovecraft's wife, Sonia, to enter the family house. In the upshot, Sonia moved to Cleveland and never saw him again. Rodionoff posits that the key to Lovecraft's misery was a book of the Old Ones' lore. Failing to control him through it, they ruined his every happiness. Thanks to Keith Giffen, who recast Rodionoff's screenplay as a graphic novel that Argentine artist Enrique Breccia makes a spectacle of melting colors and sharp-featured figures, Lovecraft's misfortunes are our creepy pleasures. Ray Olson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Intriguing version of a well known author that imagines his stories came from his actual experience-what he might have seen and how it affected him. Lovecraft would approve of this I think since most if not all of his stories are written in the first person and as if they are actual accounts. The art also helps the move the story along.

Amazing

A great fictional tale of H. P. Lovecraft's life. The art really set the mood thru out the book.

I Love the story. as a fan of HP Lovecraft, I appreciate the creativeness with this piece of work.

GReat

The fictionalized account of writer H.P. Lovecraft's life. Where he becomes guardian of The Necronomicon & battles various monstrosities. Which i believe, is not entirely fictional @ all!

I recently scored a less expensive used copy of this 2004 publication from Vertigo (list was \$24.95 but I got a used hardcover for < \$8, in excellent condition except for those annoyingly sticky price stickers on the back). I guess Lovecraft was originally a screenplay by Rodionoff who perhaps had his dreams of Oscar glory dashed and decided to turn it into a graphic novel instead. Although I usually can't abide stories where HPL is the protagonist or his fiction is presented as the truth, I suspended that bias for this book. The author takes pieces of HPL's life such as his father's illness, his wearing girl's clothing, the Kalem club, his meeting Sonia Green etc and weaves them into the story. Young Howard actually has a copy of the Necronomicon and the monsters are all real, trying to use him as a means of opening the gate. Encounters with these terrible creatures caused all the major events of his life and also inspired all of his choices in writing. Mostly I enjoyed this effort; don't expect it to rise above the level of a comic book. It is not a masterpiece for the ages, but it is a very well done graphic novel. I liked the art for the most part but the pictures of HPL, particularly as a child, never seemed to rise above the level of a caricature. The monsters and nicely horrific and worth seeing; the creators did not shy away from sex and gore (although it is all very tasteful). In the pantheon of Cthulhu mythos comics I give Lovecraft by Rodionoff a favorable rating. For adaptations of HPL's stories I rate the series Haunt of Horror the highest. Worlds of HP Lovecraft is OK and the Graphic Classics Lovecraft issue was pretty weak. For original comic book stories, I liked Fall of Cthulhu better, at least until the last year or so worth of issues, where that story sort of petered out. I tend to enjoy one or two stories in each issue of Cthulhu Tales, although some of that series is pretty weak. Yuggoth Creatures from Avatar Press was quite good, as was Arkham Woods, a very readable manga. Only the End of the World Again has a great story by Neil Gaiman but weak art. The Miskatonic Project is a click lower. Necronomicon and Nyarlathotep from Boom Studios aren't as successful. For me, the very best Cthulhu mythos associated comic was Alan Moore's The Courtyard. I particularly like the color edition.

For any dedicated devotee of HPL there is nothing new here except for a few clever twists in his life. Things like HPL's cat being called "Necro Man" instead of "Nigger Man" are cheesily "correct" and irritating. Any objections to Mark Twains writings too ? Save your money for "The Art of HPL's

Cthulhu Mythos" due out in Oct 06 !

I loved this book. The art and story are great. It blends some of the facts of Lovecraft's life in with his fiction in a clever way. If the demons and beasties this guy imagined haunted his dreams, he probably never got a good night of sleep!! I recommend this book to anyone with an interest in H.P. Lovecraft. To me, it serves as a perfect introduction to the man and his created myths. John Carpenter's foreward is added icing on the cake.

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