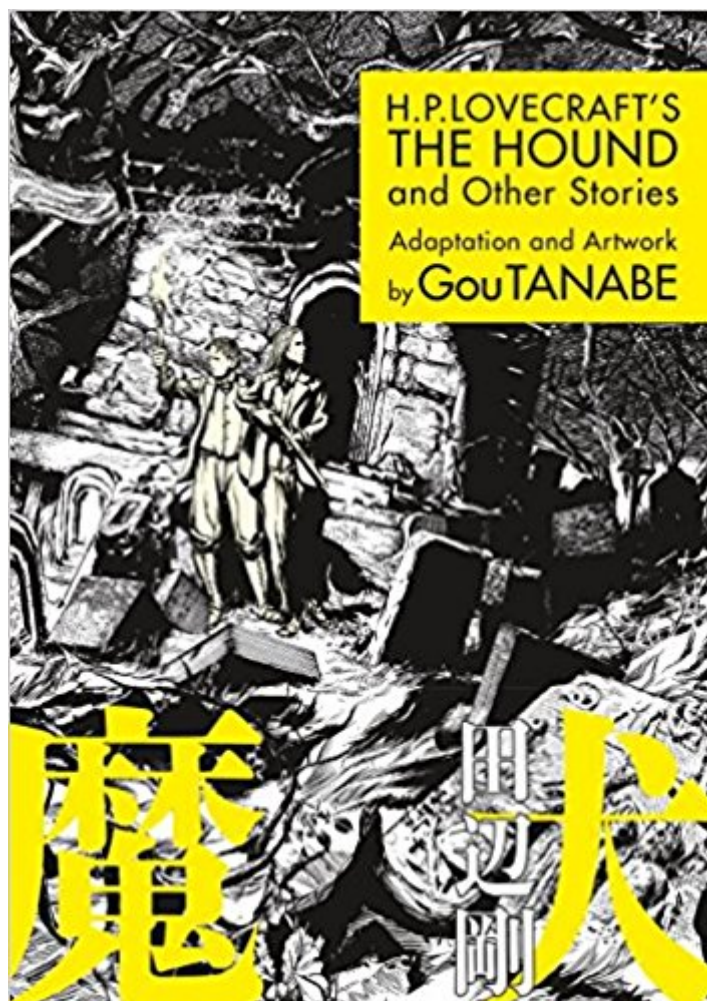


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H.P. Lovecraft's The Hound And Other Stories



Synopsis

A pair of decadent young men pursue the abhorrent thrill of grave robbing...a German submarine's crew is driven mad by the call of an underwater temple...an explorer in the Arabian desert discovers a hideous city older than mankind. This moody and evocative manga gets back to the dark foundations of the Cthulhu Mythos, adapting three of H.P. Lovecraft's original stories that first shaped the outlines of cosmic horror!

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Customer Reviews

There are, in my opinion, few graphic novel adaptations that I consider a must have. Gou Tanabe's adaptation of three of HP Lovecraft stories presented in this first volume is one of them. The stories presented here are The Temple, The Hound and The Nameless City. At a total of 170 pages (not counting ads or the author's notes) every story let's you immerse yourself in the world presented here. The gorgeous artwork is a big reason why. It's richly detailed in black, white and grays. I have only two quibbles. Like the other reviews, I agree that the book should be larger. Formatted to a traditional manga size it's simply too small to accommodate all the texture the artwork has. The other issue is that like other manga I've read, the artist goes a little generic on facial features. Aside from that, I'm looking forward to more volumes. Hopefully The Shadow Over Innsmouth will be next.

Tanabe does an amazing job bringing to life a set of stories I personally did not ever think would be adapted by anyone. Can't recommend this enough.

I haven't read much at all of Lovecraft but his work is something I would like to delve into someday. Three tales are presented here in traditional manga format. The art is exquisite and frightening, very detailed. The stories are oh so very dark and oppressive. Quite a unique presentation for an introduction to Lovecraft and which I think fans will also appreciate.

1. The Temple (1920) - The art is quite good but I can't stop thinking how great it would be for Junji Ito to do a Lovecraftian book. Anyway, as usual, this Lovecraft tale leaves me baffled. A German submarine deals with superstition, mutiny and the lost Atlantis. Eventually, he is alone at the bottom of the sea. The tale (and art) are very oppressive and the feeling that something dreadful is going to happen lingers throughout but by the end, I'm not sure if it did or not. I know what happened but don't get the point. (3/5)

2. The Hound (1922) - Now this is more like it! Two rich men bored with the frivolities of life turn towards the darkside. It's been a while since they went on a trek for treasures when one man finds out about a thief dead 500 years ago who was buried with an amulet which has something to do with corpses. Upon return to London, they are haunted by visions and beasts until they see their own undoing. The only problem is that the art did not flow. It was like scene to scene to scene without a narrative flow. (4/5)

3. The Nameless City (1921) - I feel like I've read this story before. It's the best one by far and the one most understandable. It is here with the third tale that I can see the connection between the stories, of the Mythos that Lovecraft is famous for and which I don't fully understand yet. The Necronomicon and its author, an 8th century Arab are mentioned in this and "The Hound" shedding some light on that aspect for me. The main similarity is between this and "The Temple, though. In that one, a man finds an abandoned lost city under the ocean and the story ends as he is about to enter the temple. In this one, a man finds an abandoned lost city in the Arabian desert and his horrific journey begins as he enters the temple. Quite an intense story with the foreboding becoming heavier and heavier as the story progresses. (5/5)

First, some housekeeping. There are some other comic book adaptations of each of these stories. Some of them are quite good.

Versions of the Hound:

- Jack Jackson (writing as Jaxon) 1972 - the oldest version here, but perhaps more a collector's item
- Stuart Gordon and Tula Lotay 2011
- Chad Fifer and Bryan Baugh 2012

The Temple:

- Roy Thomas 1994
- Calum Iain MacIver 2000 - this is so rare I have never seen a copy
- Chris Lackey and Adrian Salmo 2012

The Nameless City:

- Esteban Maroto and Roy Thomas 2000
- Tim Sparvero 2008
- Hernán Rodríguez 2008
- Pat Mills and Attila Futaki 2012

Guo Tanabe is a highly respected manga artist in Japan. Like many Japanese authors he is a big fan of HPL. He has adapted multiple stories into manga-like versions for Japanese readers. This is the first time any of

these adaptations have been re-translated and presented for an English speaking audience. They are read in the Japanese style, front to back, the left to right, top to bottom. Anyone into manga will be quite comfortable with it. For what you get, the price is a bargain. These are gorgeous renditions, each story given plenty of panel space to breathe and develop. This is very unlike many other comics where you get 4-8 pages maybe for stories this short. Often there are no words in the panel, with tension developing via facial expressions or action. My only wish is that this was an oversized book so the art was even more prominent. Tanabe-san stands proudly with the other best comic book versions of these HPL tales. You owe it to yourself to pick up this wonderful book. If it sells well, Dark Horse will produce more such versions of his HPL work. I can't wait!

As a big fan of HPL I've been eagerly awaiting this. I am not sure what I was expecting as far as the art, but it exceeded whatever those expectations are as when I first opened it I made an audible 'oh!' in surprise at how detailed and well rendered everything is. Tanabe's grasp of lighting in a scene makes everything extremely moody and shows tension in a successful way since many panels have no text and depend strongly on the visuals. The text itself is a great translation, reads really fluidly and had I not known this was a Japanese manga translated to English I would have presumed the original language was English itself. Great job to the translator Davisson, I hope he stays on for future books. My only disappointment was how short the book was. It was smaller overall in both book dimensions and pagecount, but for the price it works. Truthfully I wish it was ten times the current size. In the back of the book Dark Horse makes note that they hope to produce more translations of these HPL stories and I am right there with them hoping that is the case.

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