

Acknowledgements

Completing a book during the year that was 2020, even one that was about horror, was definitely an interesting experience, and one I could not have seen through without the help of many people.

I want to begin by thanking ALA Editions acquisitions editor, Jamie Santoro who doggedly pursued me to revisit the second edition and update it. I honestly did not think I had it in me to write a third book, but she knew I did. I am glad she was correct, and I made a new friend in the process.

Series editors, Joyce Saricks and Neal Wyatt are not only amazing library professionals and protectors of all things Readers' Advisory, but they are also wonderful people who I have had the pleasure of getting to know as colleagues and friends over the last 15 years. Working on this book with them felt like getting the band back together.

In the 8 years between editions of this book, I reviewed a lot of horror books for *Booklist* and *Library Journal*. I would like to give a special thanks to those who edited me during that time, paid me to write about horror, and as a result, were invaluable to this book because that work allowed me to stay in the know about the genre, its trends, and its readers: Rebecca Vnuk, Susan Maguire, Kiera Parrott, Stephanie Klose, and Neal Wyatt. Their guidance and editing also made me a better writer of annotations, something for which all of you reading this book get to reap the benefit.

I am not sure I have enough thanks to give to librarian (and up and coming horror writer himself) Corey Farrenkopf who served as a Beta reader for key parts of this book as well as being willing to be "on call" to comment on random questions or concerns I posed to him at weird times and often out of nowhere. His knowledge and help is scattered throughout this book and it is a better tool for you because of Corey's comments and advice.

There are other library workers who have helped me with the book and with various horror related events that improved the book. Their advice and assistance was wonderful, but I would also like to thank them for their friendship and support: Karen Toonen [Naperville Public Library], Lila Denning [St. Petersburg Public Library], Konrad Stump [Springfield-Greene County Public Library], Emily Vlnci [Schaumburg Public Library], and Ashley Raynor [Chicago Public Library].

The team at NovelList and their fearless leader Danielle Borasky have not only assisted me by providing high quality images and permissions for this book, but also their commitment to providing help to readers is inspiring, while their support of me, personally, and horror, in particular, is unflinching.

Being a professional reviewer can be lonely, but thankfully I have a squad of fellow horror reviewers who I can count on for friendship, camaraderie, and advice. Sadie Hartmann and

Danielle Trussoni are not only talented reviewers and supporters of horror, but also a wonderful support network.

To the Horror Writers Association, my people, all of you who are members, but especially my fellow Board members and all of our volunteers and employees, for just being you. Horror authors are among the kindest and most generous people you will ever meet. I am so proud to be a part of their community, and I am humbled that they have elected me to help lead this international organization into the future. Thank you all for your ongoing support, commitment to the genre, and inclusion of library workers in your ranks.

A special thanks to former HWA President and author, Lisa Morton, who first invited me to StokerCon, on the Queen Mary, as a special guest for my contributions to the genre. Without her invitation, I probably never would have ventured into a writers con, even though I was already a professional level member as a writer about horror. She welcomed me in and I have never left, only settled myself in even more.

Speaking of the Queen Mary, Summer Scares was born on the sun soaked decks of that ship as author Grady Hendrix, J.G. Faherty, and I had a conversation about how we could get libraries more excited about horror. That conversation birthed a national reading program. Thank you to the various sponsors over the years, our committee members, and every library who did a Summer Scares author visit, program, or book discussion. At the time of this writing we are about to announce the third year of titles.

Many of the authors listed in this book have also been generous with their time over the years, but in particular Brian Keene, Mary SanGiovanni, Daniel Kraus, Gabino Iglesias, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, and Stephen Graham Jones, have gone above and beyond in various ways and they deserve an extra level of thanks.

To the horror editors and publishers out there, especially the independent publishers, thank you for acquiring, producing, and promoting your titles, and for understanding that libraries are an important part of your business model.

To my library besties Magan Szwarek and Rebecca Vnuk for their constant support and encouragement. No matter how busy we are, we are always there for each other. To my lifelong bestie, Alyssa Miller, for so many things but specifically for allowing me to use her quirky reading preferences in my training programs.

And last but never least, to my family, my husband Eric, and our kids, Sam and Nate. This is the third book they have lived through, the third time they dealt with me disappearing for entire days into worlds filled with vampire menace, demons, and monsters. Thankfully they like horror too and didn't mind when our conversations veered into the macabre at the dinner table. But seriously, my work involves deadlines and frequent travel (well pre-2020 at least) that don't

always mesh with family life, and they support me and cheer me on, even when it is inconvenient for them personally. Thank you now and forever. I love you always.

Finally, this book is dedicated to library workers everywhere who are helping their readers each and every day, with little to no fanfare or accolades. I see you and will always be there to cheer you on.