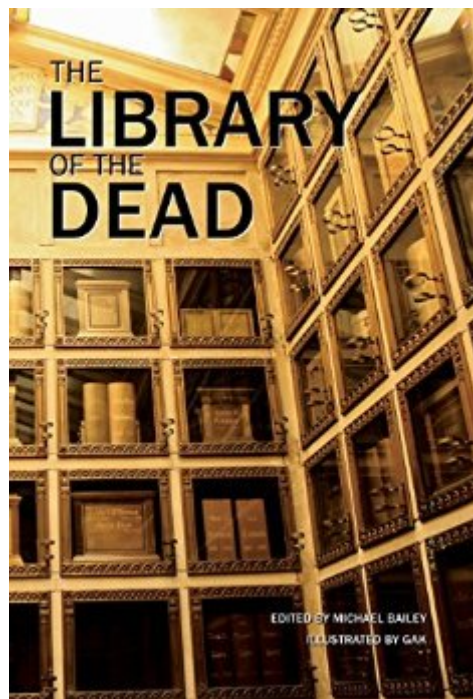


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The Library Of The Dead



Synopsis

Winner of the Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in an Anthology. The Library of the Dead is an anthology of literary fiction inspired by Chapel of the Chimes, a crematory and columbarium founded in 1909 in Oakland, California, and one of the area's most beautiful historic buildings. Thousands are entombed in golden books (urns) shelved from floor to ceiling in a glowing labyrinth of nearly countless rooms. The stories within The Library of the Dead represent a few of those golden books, and when opened, reveal the stories of those inside.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Every anthology I have read edited by Bailey has some of the most gorgeously written stories in it. And I get seriously spoiled by the quality of written language in them. It's difficult for me to find something to read next. Since I have finished THE LIBRARY OF THE DEAD, I haven't been able to find something to pick up that grabs my attention in the same way. THE LIBRARY OF THE DEAD is another themed anthology published by Written Backwards, only this time the theme surrounds a mausoleum in California where fascinating people with fascinating stories are interred when they die. Each story represents a person whose ashes are entombed within the crypt. My favorite stories were (in no particular order):

- The Last Things to Go by Mary Sangiovanni & Brian Keene: A woman forgets events in her life as her keepsakes mysteriously vanish. Halfway

through this one, I caught an idea of how it was going to end, but the execution of the story kept me riveted to my seat. Kealan Patrick Burke's "Not There": A man stops seeing his own reflection in the mirror. Not only do I consider Kealan a friend, but I loved this story. And the final image will stick in your head for days afterwards. "Getting Closer" by J.F. Gonzales: A young woman is afraid that she's being stalked by a serial killer. This is a story that could have been handed down for generations as an urban legend. As a huge fan of such stories, it pushed all the right buttons for me and made me keep the lights on. Michael McBride's "Tears of the Dragon" surprised me and reminded me that sometimes things aren't always as they seem.

I read a lot of short fiction. Like, dozens of dozens. To date, I've edited two magazines and two anthologies. Writers are hungry. And compulsive. So lots of submissions. That means, when I'm not actually editing, I flit between books and magazines; read a story here, check a bio there, peruse an introduction. That sort of thing. In my To Be Read pile are no less than eight collections (Harlan Ellison, Dennis Etchison, etc) and anthologies (Truth or Dare, edited by Max Booth III, for example), all at varying amounts of completion. This isn't anything against those people or books, but when I metaphorically clock out of editing for the day, I tend to want novels. Enough sucker-punches "as good and hard as they may be; gimme a brawl so I can appreciate those sucker-punches again. Hmmm. That was a little violent. Whatever. (Yes, those books will get read and books that are sent to me to review get read from beginning to end without jumping. Anyway.) However, when Michael Bailey was looking around for a beta-reader for the (then) upcoming Library of the Dead, I jumped at it without a thought. Why? Why give myself extra-work (beta-reading is work, anyway "if you're good at it)? Because Michael Bailey has consistently had the goods and I like seeing what he's put together, whether I'm in the book or not. Over the past few years, Bailey and his Written Backwards house has made a name with anthologies. It's actually been interesting to watch. The dude started out small, hitting the radar "small-y, at the time "with Chiral Mad and each thing afterward snowballed from there, growing bigger and bigger.

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