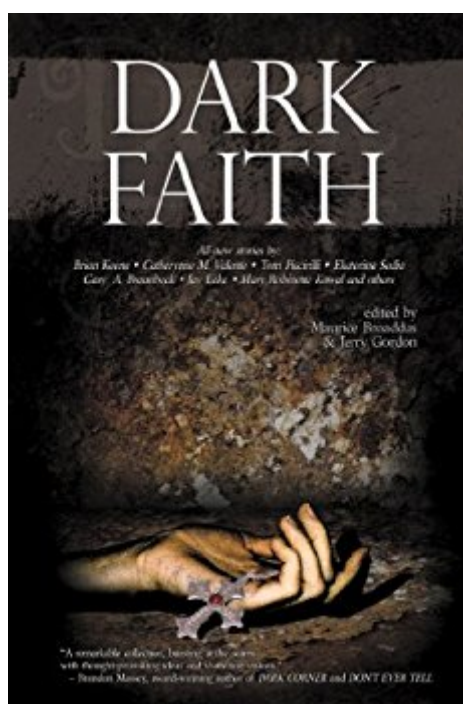


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Dark Faith



Synopsis

2010 Stoker Award Nominee for Superior Achievement in an Anthology 2010 Black Quill Award Nominee "Ghosts of New York" Nebula Award Nominee "The Days of Flaming Motorcycles" WSFA Nominee The destructiveness of passion, both earthly and supernatural, makes cities bleed and souls burn across worlds, through endless time. Experience the spiritual side of the zombie apocalypse in "The Days of Flaming Motorcycles" and transcend both hell and nirvana in "Zen and the Art of Gordon Dratch's Damnation." Look into "The Mad Eyes of the Heron King" to find the beautiful brutality written in the moment of epiphany or "Go and Tell it On the Mountain," where Jesus Christ awaits your last plea to enter heaven if there is a heaven to enter when all is said and done. Horror's top authors and promising newcomers whisper tales that creep through the mists at night to rattle your soul. Step beyond salvation and damnation with thirty stories and poems that reveal the darkness beneath belief. Place your faith in that darkness; it's always there, just beyond the light.

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Customer Reviews

The argument that 'genre-fiction is merely escapism' can be firmly put to rest with the debut of *Dark Faith*. It is real, present, in your face and not letting the reader go anywhere. Thirty-one stories of love and loss, faith, questions, anger, tests. This is horror as it should be: subtle one moment, punching the lights out the next. Brutal and delicate both. It is dark, certainly. *Dark Faith* is not an easy read. It requires thought, processing and consideration. The stories do not preach, nor attempt to convert. Faith is examined from many angles and perceptions. It is a star-studded table of contents. Co-edited by Maurice Broaddus and Jerry Gordon, the authors include Tom Piccirilli, Catherynne Valente, Jay Lake, Wrath James Wright, Brian Keene and Linda Addison, to name just a few. With such a varied group of styles and a fairly tight subject, the possibility of staleness is a reasonable suspicion. However, there is not a sign of staleness in this book. Instead, each author brings a unique voice and outlook to the book. A cohesive whole is formed, yet all the little parts are quite capable of being seen individually. It is not only Christian faith which is explored. The actions of faith are as varied as the believers. The highlights were hard to pick out. However, a few of the darkest gems stuck with me well after reading. Douglas Warrick's *Gordon Drach and the Art of Zen* has a slow, quiet intensity. The character had depth and history, telling a past story without wandering into info dump. And the portrayal of God was unique and memorable. The first story, *Ghosts of New York*, tips the reader right off of the cliff. 9/11 and a ghost girl cursed to live the

moment of her death over and over again.

I received this book free of charge in exchange for an honest review under the Apex Publishing â Minion Review ProgramâTM. Great anthology with some excellent tales playing with (and challenging) some of the negative elements of faith, religion, and the afterlife. Some straight up horror stories, some broader fantasy/urban-fantasy, but all are strong and enjoyable. The âDarkâTM element was consistent throughout, but I did get the feeling a few of the later ones were a little thin on the âFaithâTM theme. Overall I felt this was a really well put together anthology, in a way that is more than just the quality of the stories. I got a sense of respect for the topic from this book, there was an 'even-handedness' that meant I didn't feel religion as a concept was being attacked (a danger for such a collection). But equally importantly, it also didn't take an easy route of avoiding any real life religions. Aspects of faith are examined honestly, sometimes brutally, through the fiction included here, in a way that is not flippant nor dismissive. Thematically it encompasses a broad range within the âFaithâTM umbrella. These stories cover a disappointing meeting with Jesus after rapture, detail a number of types of horrifying afterlives, show us exactly what it would be like to live directly under the oppressive and brutally omniscient presence of an unforgiving god on Earth, and so on. Multiple religions are referenced, both real and imaginary, and there is enough variety to ensure that most readers should be satisfied. Hits All of the stories are great, but some really stuck in my mind.

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