

Russian horror

# Best of «The Most Scary Book»

**Horror short stories.** AST 2014-2022. 300 pages

M.S. Parfyonov has been dubbed the „godfather“ of Russian horror. He developed the concept of an anthology of scary stories unique in the world, in the compilation of which the readers and fans of the genre themselves take part. Thus was born the very first book, which became a huge success and marked the beginning of the entire «The Most Scary Book» series. The total circulation of the series is over 150,000 copies. Thanks to the series, authors such as Bobyleva, Parfenov, Kabir, Kozhin and Matyukhin became famous. A number of books have won literary awards. Individual works by these and other authors have been filmed, the film rights have been sold by others. Authors and publishers hold their own annual convention. «The Most Scary Book» is the face of Russian horror today.

„The literature of horror and the weird is truly international and enduring. When we look at history, the world we live in now, and speculate about the future, it is easy to ask the question: is any field of fiction more relevant? May black wings carry this anthology of horror fiction, from my peers in Russia, far and wide.“

ADAM NEVILL

„The concept of The Scariest Books is conspicuously ingenious and unique. Often it seems that the horror genre has run out of new ideas. Your anthology definitively proves we need not fear this will occur.“

THOMAS LIGOTTI

„Here, at last, is a collection of new voices, telling stories of horrors unleashed by monsters we have never encountered before. It is a long time since i felt authors inviting me to wallow in their perversities as these writers do. Who could resist? The forbidden beckons to is from terra incognita. Let us meet where the river runs red and the fish have human faces.“

CLIVE BARKER

„My best regards to my writer colleagues in Russia, and I hope everyone reads this book!“

ROBERT MCCAMMON

„The Scariest Book lives up to its name...every story will make you shudder like you have never shuddered before. Whatever you do, don't read this book before you meant to go to sleep...because you won't.“

GRAHAM MASTERON

„The Scariest Book is a wonderful example of continued excellence in horror fiction from my colleagues in Russia, the birthplace of some of the greatest authors of dark literature the world has ever known. This spine-tingler of an anthology is not to be missed!“

GREF F. GIFUNE

„A brilliantly innovative project. This is an exciting way to find wonderful new horror writers.“

SIMON CLARK

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# M.S. Parfenov et al

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**„Forever“ - Alexander Matyukhin**

Natasha and Stas were once like brimstone. And the video store in the shed next to the school was more beautiful to them than any paradise. And then Stas went away to the big city, leaving Natasha in the outback of the Russian North, along with her loneliness and unhappy family. But many years later, a letter from his youth reaches him, and now he will definitely return. After all, it is not for nothing that one says „forever“ when one loves.

**„Tsap-Tsap“ - Evgeny Shikov**

Many rumors circulate about this swamp. Some speak of devils, others of witches. A little boy who made it back from there keeps talking about the Tsap. And went insane about it. But as always, there is a daredevil who wants to know more.

**„Dribeis“ - Dmitry Kostyukevich**

A Russian polar station drifting with an iceberg. Hydrologists studying the subglacial relief. A typical day at the North Pole. Diver Sergei Ivin descends into the ice hole for a dive and, hovering over the abyss of the ocean, begins to check the set steel markers. He is surrounded by a cold majestic landscape, myriads of ice crystals, the omnipresent mud, when suddenly something grabs him from behind.

**„Beloved“ - Daria Bobyleva**

The story about the unenviable fate of the boy Sanya, who at the age of seventeen chose his fateful path. He too had believed that witches did not exist, but life proved him wrong.

**„America“ - Anatoly Umansky**

Alaska during the war of Russians against native tribes. The inhabitants of a small fort can hardly repel the attacks of the Tlingit. Yet in these harsh latitudes lives something far more terrible than the savage tribes. And this creature intends to use the enmity between the Russians and the natives for its own ends.

**„The Glacier“ - Oleg Kozhin**

In a secret glacial cave used as a food storage facility, a researcher at a semi-abandoned polar station discovers not only missing reindeer carcasses, but also the body of an aborigine. It all looks like a black market where the recipient and supplier have not come to an agreement on how to share the loot. But then things happen on the station that don't quite fit with this simple version.

**Mummer - Dmitry Tikhonov**

During a church festival with a masked procession, two village boys encounter an unusual creature. One of the boys survives, but for how much longer?

**„My Mother's Hands“ - Mikhail Pavlov**

Ilya is a cheerful, sociable guy who comes from a large family. But suddenly a nightmarish witch creature appears, chasing him. Is it real? Where does it come from? Why did it choose him?

**„Land of Cockroaches“ - Parfenov M.S.**

Kostya has always struggled with complexes due to his provincial origins. Especially now that he is taking an apartment on the outskirts of Moscow. Nevertheless, he dreams of moving to the center one day. But the dream turns into a nightmare when an army of man-eating insects attacks the tenement.

**„The Bridge“ - Parfenov M.S.**

To find out what happened to his younger sister, who disappeared twenty years ago, Pasha returns to the old bridge not far from where he spent his childhood and where his sister was last seen.

**„Snowballs“ - Parfenov M.S.**

Alyosha is sad. His friends throw snowballs in the yard. Even fat Edik. Only Alyosha's grandmother strictly forbids him to go out on the street. Maybe steal the key to the locked apartment door and run to the boys? But where did grandma hide them? Also, she should finally turn off that stupid radio on which some liars have been warning non-stop for the last few weeks: „Beware...Potentially dangerous contacts...Dangerous...Dangerous...Wait for help...“

**„The Gift of the Tsar“ - Elena Shchetinina**

The coronation of Nicholas II is a real holiday. On this occasion, don't miss the distribution of royal gifts. That's what the people think as they flock to the Khodynka field and push their way forward more and more impatiently. But instead of gifts, many find a horrible death in the field.

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