

Ravenwood Quarterly Issue 2 By Travis Neisler This is copy #1 of 100 Ravenwood Quarterly Issue 2 This is the Halloween issue! Featuring: Donald Armfield DJ Tyrer Philip Fracassi Calvin Demmer Scott Thomas Brian O'Connell Brandon Barrows Tom Breen John Paul Fitch S. Opperman Ashley Dioses Russell Smeaton Interviews with: Richard Gavin Sam McCanna Joseph Bouthiette Jr Though not as good as Issue 1.



Ravenwood Quarterly Issue 2 Excellent Halloween themed second issue of Ravenwood Quarterly. Standouts include the King in Yellow variation A Fall of Leaves by DJ Tyrer the heartbreaking Eleven-One by Philip Fracassi the very clever Turn Off the Porch Light by Tom Breen with it's a brilliant twist elegant period piece Lady of the Hill by Scott Thomas an awesome mini-comic written by Brandon Barrows with art by Stephen Sistelli called Episode 666 the dark gothic prose-poem hybrid The Reaping by Brian O'Connell which features sinister diabolical overtones the creepy-candy sex-and-body horror story The Street by Russell Smeaton two stories by SL Edwards; the darkly clever Cthulhu Candidate and a smart unreliable-narrator is she / isn't she a werewolf story Skins and then there is the melancholy history of The Preachers Tale by John Linwood Grant. Add to this mix some excellent poetry by Ashley Dioses KA Opperman Christopher Ropes and Donald Armfield a selection of brief-but-insightful interviews and all and all Ravenwood is shaping up to be a serious contender in the horror / weird zine world. Ravenwood Quarterly Issue 2 It took me awhile to finish this but hey everyday is Halloween right? This collection did not surpass it's first but the artwork from Sam Heimer and a comic written by Brandon Barrows and art by Stephen Sistelli makes it a collectible at best: *Tom Breen - Turn on the Porch Light* John Linwood Grant - Preachers Tale* K, I also dig how my poem A Harvest Season opened up the curtains to Ravenwood's second issue: It's A Terrible Thing, Once more high-quality standards are maintained and in most ways I would say this issue is superior to the first. The stories throughout the collection follow a Halloween theme some having clever twist and some of sorrow others leave things hanging in the dark however worth owning. Ravenwood Quarterly Issue 2 [Disclosure: I am the author of two pieces in Ravenwood Quarterly Issue #2. Because of this I will not comment on my pieces Skins and The Cthulhu Candidate: I will leave the discussion of these pieces to readers and my fellow contributors.] Donald Armfield begins with a poem that captures the horror of fall and death: DJ Tyrer takes you to a village that we all know with a girl we all love, Because after all if we didn't know the village or for that matter love the girl we wouldn't be there at all. Philip Fracassi gives us a story about the most horrible day of year: the day AFTER Halloween. Hangover the encroaching supernatural and loved scorned with a climax that will leave you with a wry somewhat evil smile: It has all the workings of a classic Robert Bloch tale with horror and humor being two sides of the same coin, Insanity and a perverse idea meld into a truly horrifying scenario. Scott Thomas: Takes us to Catherine's Hill telling us a traditional ghost story that makes all the right chills. This was a huge surprise and really captures the sort of Elvira-vibe that is lacking on television with the advent of cable: No one hosts horror movie marathons anymore it seems but Brandon's piece captures all of the Elvira-vibe and then some. With this poem Brian demonstrates that he knows EXACTLY what horror is. Thick with atmosphere and dread The Reaping stands out against its company, His tale Coronation enters into

dialog with the King in Yellow but John makes it his own, And if earlier pieces were punches to the gut Coronation is like getting sucker punched with a chair. But not only that he infuses it with enough supernatural imagery to invoke such poets as Clark Ashton Smith: The man writes weird poetry that will withstand the test of time: As all good horror (and more that matter good POETRY) does it doesn't hold any punches. With an impending collection from Hippocampus coming out I'm beginning to think that maybe this is someone who has carved their own niche in Weird Verse: What I do know is this is very good poetry and it'd be foolish to pass up, Then gentleman and high wasp-priest John Linwood Grant gives us a story about an immortal Englishman in Wyoming, John shows us that there are things more brutal than horror, Then he closes out the tale leaving us oddly hopeful but more uncertain than ever: Then there are a smattering of interviews with talented writers and artists: I'll take the time here to say that Sam Heimer's covers are ASTOUNDING: In this section we get a haunting piece of flash-fiction from Christopher Ropes. Without getting too into it essentially Christopher Ropes takes his writing knife and goes straight for the jugular. I am really looking forward to his novella coming out from Electric Pentacle: All of this along with covers from Sam Heimer and Mutartis Boswell make for a quality publication well worth the price of admission. Travis Neisler showcases his talents as an editor with this one[1]

For the next reader to turn the page.A. Opperman - The Benighted PathThose are my three stand outs. The overall collection is worth the read.L. Edwards K.A. This is copy 38 of 100 copies printed. It is a tonal punch to the face.Tom Breen-Writes a story I REALLY enjoyed.Calvin Demmer sets the scene at a graveyard.Then of all surprises we get a comic by Brandon Barrows. Like Tom Breen horror and humor are workign together here.Then.Brian O'Connell writes The Reaping. And if you don't know don't worry: he'll show you.Speaking of knows what horror is John Paul Fitch. It is truly awesome.Then KA Opperman gives us two poems. He also has one at the very end. There is nothing more that needs saying. He's got this describing Halloween thing down. I won't say anything more on the matter.Russell Smeaton provides The Street. I love The Street. I don't want to spoil The Street. It's just so well executed. You have no idea. Unless you read it then you have an idea.Ashley Dioses rounds out the poets in the volume. I'm having a bit of trouble describing Ashley's poetry. It's brutal in showcasing Ashley's talents were are astounding. For any publisher. War for instance. To say it was well done is a grievous understatement. These subjects include Richard Gavin Joseph Bouthiette Jr. Sam McCanna and Sam Heimer.Then KA Opperman gives us one last poem for the road. Ravenwood Quarterly Issue 2.