

peter straub a dark matter

Peter Straub A Dark Matter: Unraveling the Shadows of Horror and Mystery

peter straub a dark matter is a phrase that resonates deeply within the realms of horror and supernatural fiction enthusiasts. Known for his masterful storytelling and intricate plots, Peter Straub has cemented his place as one of the most influential authors in modern horror literature. "A Dark Matter," while not necessarily the title of one of his works, can be seen as a thematic representation of the pervasive darkness and compelling mysteries that characterize much of Straub's writing. Exploring this theme allows readers to appreciate the depth and complexity that Peter Straub brings to his stories, blending the supernatural with psychological depth.

Who Is Peter Straub?

Before diving into the concept of "a dark matter" in relation to Peter Straub, it's helpful to understand the author himself. Peter Straub is an American novelist and poet, widely celebrated for his contributions to horror fiction. Over the decades, Straub has crafted numerous stories that combine eerie atmospheres, deeply nuanced characters, and chilling supernatural elements. His writing style is often praised for its psychological insight and literary quality, setting him apart from many of his contemporaries.

Straub's collaborations with Stephen King, most notably on "The Talisman" and its sequel "Black House," have further elevated his status in the genre. But his solo works, such as "Ghost Story," "Shadowland," and "Floating Dragon," reveal his unique ability to intertwine the real with the uncanny, exploring the dark matter lurking beneath everyday existence.

Understanding the Theme of "A Dark Matter" in Straub's Work

While "a dark matter" might evoke scientific connotations related to physics, in the context of Peter Straub's fiction, it serves as a metaphor for the unseen, often malevolent forces that influence human lives. This dark matter represents the unknown fears, hidden traumas, and supernatural entities that characters grapple with throughout his stories.

The Metaphorical Dark Matter: Unseen Forces and Hidden Fears

Straub's narratives frequently delve into the psychological landscapes of his characters, exploring how unseen forces—whether they be memories, guilt, or otherworldly presences—shape behavior and destiny. This metaphorical dark matter is not always a

tangible monster but often a haunting presence that disrupts reality and sanity.

For example, in "Ghost Story," the past sins of a group of men return as spectral hauntings, illustrating how dark matter can take the form of unresolved guilt and fear. Straub's genius lies in making this darkness feel both intimate and cosmic, bridging personal trauma with supernatural horror.

The Supernatural Dark Matter: Entities Beyond Human Comprehension

In addition to psychological darkness, Straub frequently introduces literal supernatural dark matter—ghosts, demons, and other entities that defy explanation. These creatures often embody the fears and anxieties of the characters, blurring the lines between internal and external threats.

His novel "Shadowland," for instance, features magicians and dark entities that manipulate reality, suggesting that this dark matter is not only unseen but also malleable, capable of warping perception and fate.

The Impact of Peter Straub's Dark Matter on Horror Literature

Peter Straub's approach to horror, particularly his use of dark, mysterious forces, has significantly influenced the genre. His stories emphasize atmosphere and psychological complexity over mere jump scares, creating a lasting sense of unease.

Revolutionizing Psychological Horror

Straub's dark matter isn't just about external monsters but the internal demons within each character. This focus on the mind's dark corners has helped shape psychological horror as a subgenre, where the terror arises from the interplay between reality and perception.

His influence can be seen in contemporary horror writers who prioritize character-driven narratives and ambiguous supernatural elements, encouraging readers to question what is real and what is imagined.

Blending Literary Quality with Genre Fiction

Another aspect of Straub's legacy is his ability to merge literary craftsmanship with genre storytelling. The "dark matter" in his work is often explored with poetic language, deep symbolism, and complex themes, elevating horror from mere entertainment to art.

This literary approach invites readers to engage with his work on multiple levels—enjoying the suspense and scares while contemplating profound questions about fear, memory, and existence.

Exploring Key Works That Exemplify Peter Straub's Dark Matter

For those curious about experiencing Peter Straub's dark matter firsthand, several novels stand out as essential reading.

Ghost Story: The Haunting of Past Sins

Arguably Straub's most famous novel, "Ghost Story" revolves around a group of elderly men who share ghost tales, only to find themselves haunted by a real, vengeful spirit linked to their past. The novel illustrates how dark matter can be the lingering presence of guilt and forgotten secrets, manifesting as deadly supernatural forces.

Shadowland: The Magic of Darkness

"Shadowland" is a richly atmospheric novel weaving themes of magic, coming-of-age, and cosmic horror. Here, dark matter takes shape as mystical forces and shadowy entities that challenge the boundaries of reality, pushing characters into terrifying realms.

Floating Dragon: Evil Beneath the Surface

In "Floating Dragon," the dark matter manifests as a sinister force that invades a small town, revealing the hidden darkness in ordinary lives. Straub uses this novel to explore how evil can permeate communities and individuals, often unnoticed until it's too late.

Tips for Readers Diving into Peter Straub's Dark Matter

If you're new to Peter Straub or looking to deepen your appreciation of his work, here are some helpful tips:

- **Take your time:** Straub's novels often have layered narratives that benefit from slow, thoughtful reading.

- **Pay attention to character development:** The horror is as much internal as external, so understanding characters' psyches enhances the experience.
- **Embrace ambiguity:** Not all questions are answered—this ambiguity is part of the charm and mystery.
- **Explore his poetry and short stories:** Straub's shorter works also showcase his themes of darkness and the supernatural.
- **Read alongside Stephen King:** Comparing Straub's style with King's can offer interesting insights into the evolution of modern horror.

The Enduring Appeal of Peter Straub's Dark Matter

What makes Peter Straub's approach to dark matter so compelling is his ability to tap into universal fears while crafting unique, unforgettable stories. His work invites readers to confront the shadows lurking in the human psyche and beyond, making his tales resonate long after the last page is turned.

Whether you're a longtime fan or new to his books, exploring the dark matter in Peter Straub's fiction promises a journey filled with suspense, mystery, and profound reflection on the nature of fear itself.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the plot of Peter Straub's 'A Dark Matter'?

Peter Straub's 'A Dark Matter' follows the story of a reclusive writer who becomes entangled in a supernatural mystery involving dark forces and hidden secrets from his past.

When was 'A Dark Matter' by Peter Straub published?

'A Dark Matter' was published in 2017.

What themes are explored in 'A Dark Matter' by Peter Straub?

The novel explores themes such as grief, the supernatural, the power of storytelling, and the confrontation with inner demons.

How does 'A Dark Matter' compare to Peter Straub's other works?

'A Dark Matter' continues Straub's tradition of blending horror with psychological depth, featuring complex characters and atmospheric storytelling similar to his acclaimed novels like 'Ghost Story' and 'Shadowland.'

Is 'A Dark Matter' suitable for readers new to Peter Straub's books?

Yes, 'A Dark Matter' can be a good starting point for new readers as it stands alone and showcases Straub's signature style of horror and suspense without requiring familiarity with his previous works.

Additional Resources

Peter Straub: A Dark Matter Exploration in Modern Horror Literature

peter straub a dark matter encapsulates a profound journey into the intertwined realms of psychological horror, supernatural suspense, and literary complexity. Known for his intricate storytelling and atmospheric mastery, Straub's works have consistently pushed the boundaries of the horror genre. Among these, the concept of dark matter—both as a metaphor and thematic element—serves as a compelling lens through which to examine his narrative style and thematic preoccupations.

Peter Straub, a seminal figure in contemporary horror fiction, has long been recognized for weaving dense, psychologically charged tales that delve into the unseen and the unknown. When discussing "a dark matter" in relation to Straub, it is essential to engage with both the literal and figurative implications within his oeuvre. This phrase resonates with his penchant for exploring unseen forces, hidden fears, and the intangible darkness lurking beneath everyday reality.

Peter Straub's Narrative Approach and the Metaphor of Dark Matter

In physics, dark matter refers to an invisible substance that exerts gravitational effects on visible matter, yet remains undetectable through direct observation. Straub's use of dark matter as a conceptual framework mirrors this scientific mystery, symbolizing the unseen psychological and supernatural forces that influence human behavior and experience. His narratives often revolve around characters grappling with intangible fears—memories, traumas, and supernatural presences—that exert a persistent, gravitational pull on their lives.

illustrates how these unseen forces become central to his storytelling technique. His novels frequently blend elements of reality with the surreal, challenging readers to discern

what is real and what is a product of the mind or otherworldly influence. This ambiguity is a hallmark of Straub's style, enhancing the eerie atmosphere and psychological depth.

Thematic Depth: Trauma, Memory, and the Unseen

One of the most striking aspects of Straub's dark matter motif is its connection to trauma and memory. His characters often face internal darkness as much as external threats, confronting repressed memories or unresolved guilt that manifest in haunting ways. This internal darkness operates like dark matter—unseen but exerting a powerful influence on actions and perceptions.

For instance, in works such as **Ghost Story** and **Shadowland**, Straub explores how past traumas act as a gravitational force, shaping the present and drawing characters into confrontation with their fears. The metaphor extends beyond supernatural horror, tapping into the psychological realism that elevates his work above genre convention.

Stylistic Features and Literary Influence

Straub's prose is notable for its lyrical quality and meticulous attention to atmosphere. The sensation of dark matter is evoked through his descriptive passages, slow-building tension, and layered characterizations. His ability to convey the intangible—whether it be fear, memory, or supernatural presence—relies heavily on mood and pacing, creating a sense of claustrophobia and inevitability.

Critics often compare Straub's work to that of Stephen King, with whom he has collaborated. While King's horror often leans into visceral and expansive storytelling, Straub's is more introspective, focusing on the psychological shadows that dark matter metaphorically represents. This distinction highlights Straub's unique contribution to the horror landscape—one that prioritizes subtlety and ambiguity.

Key Works Exemplifying the Dark Matter Theme

Several of Peter Straub's novels serve as prime examples of his dark matter concept, each demonstrating different facets of invisible menace and psychological complexity.

Ghost Story (1979)

Ghost Story is often cited as Straub's masterpiece, embodying the dark matter theme through a layered narrative involving an elderly group of men haunted by a shared secret. The novel intricately explores how past sins and unresolved memories exert a haunting influence that defies physical explanation. The supernatural elements coexist with deeply human fears, making the dark matter not just a spectral force, but a metaphor for guilt and mortality.

Shadowland (1980)

In *Shadowland*, Straub delves into the realm of magical realism and coming-of-age horror. The story's dark matter is the pervasive, almost sentient presence of a mysterious estate where reality blurs with illusion. This novel explores the thin boundary between light and darkness, knowledge and ignorance, with dark matter symbolizing the unknown forces that shape identity and destiny.

Floating Dragon (1983)

Floating Dragon expands the scope of dark matter by incorporating social commentary into the horror framework. The novel's antagonist, an entity feeding off fear and chaos, acts as a dark matter-like presence influencing an entire town. Here, Straub examines collective trauma and mass hysteria, reinforcing the idea that dark matter can be both personal and societal.

Pros and Cons of Straub's Dark Matter Narrative Style

- **Pros:**

- Rich psychological depth enhances reader engagement.
- Ambiguity creates lasting suspense and interpretive flexibility.
- Blends supernatural and real-world fears seamlessly.
- Atmospheric prose elevates the horror beyond shock value.

- **Cons:**

- Complex narrative structures may challenge casual readers.
- Subtlety might frustrate those seeking straightforward horror.
- Slow pacing can be perceived as dragging in certain sections.

Comparison with Other Horror Authors

When juxtaposed with contemporaries like Clive Barker or Anne Rice, Straub's dark matter motif stands out for its psychological sophistication and literary ambition. Barker's horror is often visceral and fantastical, while Rice's tends to romanticize the supernatural. Straub, conversely, probes the shadows of the human psyche, presenting horror as an extension of internal darkness and unresolved emotions.

Impact and Legacy of Peter Straub's Dark Matter Concept

Straub's exploration of dark matter has influenced a generation of horror writers who seek to integrate psychological nuance with supernatural elements. His work encourages a more literary approach to horror, challenging genre boundaries and inviting deeper analytical engagement. By framing unseen forces as central to human experience, Straub elevates horror into a vehicle for exploring existential questions about fear, memory, and identity.

The ongoing relevance of Straub's dark matter theme is evident in contemporary horror fiction and media, where ambiguity and psychological complexity have become increasingly valued. His narratives continue to inspire adaptations and critical studies, underscoring the enduring power of his approach.

In assessing Peter Straub's contribution through the prism of dark matter, one sees a writer deeply attuned to the invisible forces shaping human consciousness and culture. His work remains a testament to the potential of horror to illuminate the darkest corners of the mind, transforming the unknown into a compelling narrative force.

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peter straub a dark matter: The Gothic Worlds of Peter Straub John C. Tibbetts, 2016-08-16
Horror novelist Peter Straub creates highly personalized fiction with an allusiveness and ambiguity that deny the genre's explicit nature. For him, the Gothic style is to be created and recreated in a changing world--Faustian pacts, buried secrets, haunted places, ghosts, vampires and succubi take on strange new shapes and effects. Stephen King describes Straub's style as a synthesis of horror and beauty. Drawing on interviews with Straub and featuring an exclusive interview with King, this study explores the work of the author who has been called a writer of rare wit and intelligence in a field beset with cynical potboilers (Douglas E. Winter, Washington Post, October 14, 1984).

peter straub a dark matter: A Dark Matter Peter Straub, 2010-02-09 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “One of the most adroit masters of the supernatural thriller” (San Francisco Chronicle) delivers a chilling novel about a man seeking the truth about what happened on a horrifying night on a Midwestern campus in the 1960s. • Terrifying.... Impossible to put down. —Stephen King On a college campus, a charismatic guru and his young acolytes perform a secret ritual in a local meadow. What happens is a mystery—all that remains is a gruesomely dismembered body and the shattered souls of all who were present. Forty years later, one man seeks to learn about that horrifying night, and to do so he'll have to force those involved to examine the unspeakable events that have haunted them ever since.

peter straub a dark matter: The Complete Short Fiction of Peter Straub, Volume Two Peter Straub, 2021-12-20 Peter Straub has created a body of short stories and novellas establishes him as one of the best literary voices in the genres of horror and dark suspense. His list of accomplishments and awards is staggering: In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Horror Writers Association, Life Achievement World Fantasy Award, Grand Master Award from World Horror, Living Legend Award from the International Horror Guild, he has won the Bram Stoker Award nine times, the World Fantasy Award three times, and one British Fantasy Award. He remains a living legend. Volume two features Peter's novellas. Included in this collection: Blue Rose The Buffalo Hunter Mrs. God Bunny Is Good Bread Mr. Clubb and Mr. Cuff Pork Pie Hat A Special Place: the Heart of a Dark Matter The Process (is a Process All Its Own)

peter straub a dark matter: *21st-Century Gothic* Danel Olson, 2010-12-29 Selected by a poll of more than 180 Gothic specialists (creative writers, professors, critics, and Gothic Studies program developers at universities), the fifty-three original works discussed in *21st-Century Gothic* represent the most impressive Gothic novels written around the world between 2000-2010. The essays in this volume discuss the merits of these novels, highlighting the influences and key components that make them worthy of inclusion. Many of the pioneer voices of Gothic Studies, as well as other key critics of the field, have all contributed new essays to this volume, including David Punter, Jerrold Hogle, Karen F. Stein, Marie Mulvey-Roberts, Mary Ellen Snodgrass, Tony Magistrale, Don D'Amassa, Mavis Haut, Walter Rankin, James Doig, Laurence A. Rickels, Douglass H. Thomson, Sue Zlosnik, Carol Margaret Davison, Ruth Bienstock Anolik, Glennis Byron, Judith Wilt, Bernice Murphy, Darrell Schweitzer, and June Pulliam. The guide includes a preface by one of the world's leading authorities on the weird and fantastic, S. T. Joshi. Sharing their knowledge of how traditional Gothic elements and tensions surface in a changed way within a contemporary novel, the contributors enhance the reader's dark enjoyment, emotional involvement, and appreciation of these works. These essays show not only how each of these novels are Gothic but also how they advance or change Gothicism, making the works both irresistible for readers and establishing their place in the Gothic canon.

peter straub a dark matter: *The Mammoth Book of Best New SF 25* Gardner Dozois, 2012-09-06 In this the twenty-fifth edition of his celebrated annual Mammoth Book of Best New SF (its 29th as The Year's Best SF in the United States), award-winning editor Gardner Dozois presents most outstanding pieces of short science fiction from 2011, along with his typically informative notes on each author. Many are the work of award-winning writers, but there are also some surprising newcomers. The collection is prefaced, as ever, by Dozois's Summation of 2011 in SF, a review of the year's highlights in publishing and film - including non-fiction, media and awards - obituaries and an insightful look at emerging trends. Includes stories from bestselling writers: Damien Broderick, Paul McAuley, Ian R. MacLeod, Catherynne M. Valente, Robert Reed, Alastair Reynolds, Michael Swanwick, Yoon Ha Lee and many more. Praise for previous editions: Quantity as well as quality . . . every piece is a treasure. The Times. For more than a quarter century, Gardner Dozois's Mammoth Book of Best New SF has defined the field. It is the most important anthology, not only annually, but overall. Charles N. Brown, publisher of Locus Magazine. New authors rub shoulders with old hands, and strong work from relative novices Hannu Rajaniemi and Lavie Tidhar suggest that SF's future is as bright as ever. Financial Times.

peter straub a dark matter: Edinburgh Companion to Gothic and the Arts Punter David Punter, 2019-08-05 Provides new definitions of the Gothic in a variety of artistic contexts Explores a range of Gothic from architecture through literature to music and the technological arts Provides an opportunity to hear new thinking from established scholars as well as showcasing work by new scholars Highlights new definitions of the Gothic from a wide variety of perspectives The Gothic in all its artistic forms and ramifications is traced from the medieval to the twenty-first century. From architecture, painting and sculpture through music, ballet, opera and dance to installation art and the graphic novel, each of the 33 chapters reflects on and weighs in on the ways in which the Gothic is taken up in the art forms and modes under examination. An Introduction discusses Gothic as a changing cultural form across the centuries with deep psychological roots. This is followed by sections on: architectural arts; the visual arts; music and the performance arts; the literary arts; and media and cultural arts.

peter straub a dark matter: Rabid Heart Jeremy Wagner, 2018-10-03 How far would you go for love when all you love is DEAD? Six months after the Necro Rabies pandemic has turned the world into hordes of rabid undead known as Cujos, 21 year-old Rhonda Driscoll discovers her zombified fiancé, Brad, in her old hometown. Fearing that her Marine Colonel father will kill undead Brad, Rhonda flees, taking a road-trip with Brad in tow in hopes of starting a new life in a frightening and uncertain world complicated by numerous perils, pure horror, joy, heartbreak, and unconditional love. Advance Praise for Rabid Heart "Zombies and the end of days don't stand a chance against true love. Jeremy Wagner's RABID HEART is good, clean apocalyptic fun." — Alma Katsu, author of THE HUNGER Just when you think you've heard every love story, along comes RABID HEART. My man Jeremy Wagner proves once again he's as much of a wild man with words as he is with his guitar. This book is sick and sweet, and I say that with respect! -- Peter Blauner, Ny Times bestselling author of THE INTRUDER and SUNRISE HIGHWAY

peter straub a dark matter: The Little Book of HP Lovecraft Orange Hippo!, 2022-09-29 Howard Phillips Lovecraft had a short life, and he died of cancer in 1936 at the age of 46. But in that relatively short time he had a significant, varied and outstanding output, and although he was not a well-known writer during the time he lived, he has since been hailed as one of the great supernatural fiction writers. Although a huge influence on many writers since his death, and now someone with significant book sales every year, Lovecraft never managed to make a living from writing during his lifetime. Lovecraft spent much time battling various physical and mental issues, but he was able to form bonds and relationships with key people in his life, some of which influenced his thinking and his work. These included his mother, grandfather, aunt, wife and famous figures from the time including Harry Houdini and Robert E Howard; comments from many are included. Lovecraft's sensitivity comes through in his writing, and this book also contains numerous quotes from his famous fictional works. Samples from his poems, letters and other writings serve to paint a full portrait of this master of his chosen genre, horror, but who also contributed significantly to science fiction and fantasy; he truly possessed outstanding talent, as celebrated inside. SAMPLE QUOTE: 'The most merciful thing in the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents.' - Francis Wayland Thurston sets the scene for indescribable horror in The Call of Cthulhu, HP Lovecraft, 1926. SAMPLE FACT: HP Lovecraft's work was the inspiration behind Arkham Asylum (Batman), Black Sabbath's album Behind the Wall of Sleep and The Book of the Dead from the Evil Dead movies.

peter straub a dark matter: A Tribute Anthology to Deadworld and Comic Publisher Gary Reed Lori Perkins, 2017-10-31 Welcome to Deadworld! In this tribute anthology to Deadworld, and its publisher Gary Reed, we've collected stories that take place in the Deadworld universe. Deadworld is a graphic novel series that started in 1986 (and continues till this day) that follows survivors in a post-apocalyptic world brought on by zombie attacks led by the King Zombie, an intelligent zombie. The Deadworld universe has so much more to offer than just humans slaughtering zombies. A Tribute to Deadworld features stories and articles by Kevin VanHook, Thomas Monteleone, Jason Henderson, Andrew Robertson, Jennifer Williams, Ken Haigh, Sarah

Stegall, Jamie K. Schmidt, George Ivanoff and Jeremy Wagner.

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peter straub a dark matter: *Looker* Laura Sims, 2021-03-30 In this taut and thrilling debut, an unraveling woman, unhappily childless and recently separated, becomes fixated on her neighbor--the beautiful, famous actress. The unnamed narrator can't help noticing with wry irony that, though she and the actress live just a few doors apart, they are separated by a chasm of professional success and personal fulfillment. When an interaction with the actress at the annual block party takes a disastrous turn, what began as an innocent preoccupation spirals quickly, and lethally, into a frightening and irretrievable madness.

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peter straub a dark matter: phantastisch! Ausgabe 84 (4/2021) Klaus Bollhöfener, 2021-10-31 Die PHANTASTISCH! ist eine Zeitschrift für Science Fiction, Fantasy und Horror - randvoll mit Interviews, Artikeln, Rezensionen und vielem mehr auf rund 68 Seiten. Sie erscheint alle 3 Monate neu in gedruckter Form (6,50 EUR) und als PDF-Ausgabe (3,99 EUR). Die Ausgabe 84 bietet unter anderem einen Bericht über die Comic-Reihe »Gespenster-Geschichten«, den Comiczeichner Chris Scheuer, über den Schriftsteller Robert Brenner, Interviews mit Claudia Traidl-Hoffmann & Katja Trippel über ihr Sachbuch »Überhitzt« sowie mit den Autoren Max Barry und Frank Böhmert, viele Rezensionen, News und Geschichten von Christian Endres, Roland Grohs und Volker Dornemann.

peter straub a dark matter: Mr. X Peter Straub, 2025-02-04 BRAM STOKER AWARD WINNER • The acclaimed thriller of supernatural horror from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of Ghost Story, Koko, and The Talisman. "Ghastly, hide-your-eyes horror; when Peter Straub turns on all jets, no one in the scream factory can equal him."—Stephen King BRITISH FANTASY AWARD NOMINEE FOR BEST NOVEL Every year on his birthday, Ned Dunstan has a paralyzing seizure in which he is forced to witness scenes of ruthless slaughter perpetrated by a mysterious figure in black whom he calls Mr. X. Now, with his birthday fast approaching, Ned has been drawn back to his hometown of Edgerton, Illinois, by a premonition that his mother is dying. On her deathbed, she imparts to him the name of his long-absent father and warns him that he is in grave danger. Despite her foreboding, he embarks on a search through Edgerton's past for the truth behind his own identity and that of his entirely fantastic family. But when Ned becomes the lead suspect in three violent deaths, he begins to realize that he is not the only one who has come home. .

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peter straub a dark matter: *Shriek: An Afterword* Jeff VanderMeer, 2022-01-11 From the author of *Borne* and *Annihilation* comes the paperback reissue of his cult classic *Shriek: An Afterword*. An epic yet personal look at several decades of life, love, and death in the imaginary city of Ambergris—previously chronicled in Jeff VanderMeer's acclaimed *City of Saints and Madmen*—*Shriek: An Afterword* relates the scandalous, heartbreaking, and horrifying secret history of two squabbling siblings and their confidantes, protectors, and enemies. Narrated with flamboyant intensity and under increasingly urgent conditions by the ex-society figure Janice Shriek, this afterword presents a vivid gallery of characters and events, emphasizing the adventures of Janice's brother Duncan, a historian obsessed with a doomed love affair and a secret that may kill or transform him; a war between rival publishing houses that will change Ambergris forever; and the gray caps, a marginalized people armed with advanced fungal technologies, who have been waiting underground for their chance to mold the future of the city. After reading this introduction to the *Family Shriek*—part academic treatise, part tell-all biography—you'll never look at history in quite the same way.

peter straub a dark matter: *Tales of Falling and Flying* Ben Loory, 2017-09-05 "Mesmerizing and magical. . . . A stunning book." —NPR.org "Short stories so imaginative — and yet so perplexingly familiar — they could have formed in a dream. . . . Taut, meticulously balanced and written in Loory's direct, witty prose, his own stories take a page from Aesop: high-flying tales nonetheless boiled down to the essentials." —The Los Angeles Times "Ben Loory's stories are little gifts, strange and moving and wonderfully human. I devoured this book in one sitting." —Ransom Riggs, author of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* A dazzling new collection of stories from the critically acclaimed author of *Stories for Nighttime* and *Some for The Day* Ben Loory returns with a second collection of timeless tales, inviting us to enter his worlds of whimsical

fantasy, deep empathy, and playful humor, in the signature voice that drew readers to his highly praised first collection. In stories that eschew literary realism, Loory's characters demonstrate richly imagined and surprising perspectives, whether they be dragons or swordsmen, star-crossed lovers or long-lost twins, restaurateurs dreaming of Paris or cephalopods fixated on space travel. In propulsive language that brilliantly showcases Loory's vast imagination, *Tales of Falling and Flying* expands our understanding of how fiction can work and is sure to cement his reputation as one of the most innovative short-story writers working today.

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