

On the Verge of Madness Reviews

All of us are haunted by something--our pasts, fear of our futures, even the memory of a departed loved one. The questions remain: Do we let these demons that haunt us destroy us? Do we let them make us obsess? Do we surrender to them? Do we let them to take us to the brink? Do we fight them or do we stay on the knife's edge? And how long can you stay On the Verge of Madness...?

George Wilhite is an author with which Spinetinglers is well acquainted. His stories have been published on our site several times and have received some rave reviews from our members. So, of course we were delighted to review his first compilation of short stories.

All of the stories have the same resounding theme: each main protagonist is, in some way, obsessed or haunted by someone or something. In short, all of the characters are On the Verge of Madness.

The first two stories, Victor Chaldean and the Portal and Murmurers, are terrifically tantalising teasers as to what this author has to offer. Both stories are fractured tales of another world beyond our own, where the souls of the dead have tales to tell and vengeance to seek. The reader can clearly see the influence of Poe and Lovecraft, and this horror author has obviously read the classics. I can't wait for the continuation of both of these stories in his next book.

The rest of Wilhite's tales stand on their own, and apart from the On the Verge of Madness theme, they have few similarities. This, of course, is a very good thing, because when trying to stick to a common theme, a lot of authors can fall into a trap and tell you ten or so versions of the same story. The result is a reading experience that can be quite boring for the audience. On the contrary, Wilhite's stories are original, dark and devilishly distinctive.

Apart from great gothic literature, the author also gives you an insight into his process. He tells you in some detail what inspired him to write such a first-rate anthology. This may offer some burgeoning authors tips and inspiration to spark their imagination.

George Wilhite's On the Verge of Madness is a commendable selection of short stories. Our only criticism, if you can call it that, is that some of the stories are too short. There is definitely room to expand on these wonderfully crafted tales.

Spinetinglers wants to see more from this author!

5.0 out of 5 stars Runner Up in Spinetinglers Book of the Year 2008, March 26, 2009
By Spinetinglers Publishing" (Belfast, UK)

"I wake up in a world of utter silence..."

The tale of Victor Chaldean leaves one longing for more. With the feel of a Poe set in modern times this tale is thought provoking and grips one's imagination. We can only hunger for more adventures as Victor continues his tale of a personal perplexing journey just this side of madness.

4.0 out of 5 stars, more please from Victor Chaldean! February 24, 2009
By Alan Wilhite (Sonoma County CA USA)

I think George's book is well written and entertaining, very good stories.
I love the cover and wish him much success.

5.0 out of 5 stars On the Verge of Madness, February 18, 2009
By Goldie Pitre (Knoxville, TN)

Each story grabs you and doesn't let go until you're released, slack-jawed at the finish.
Along the lines of Poe and H.P. Lovecraft - A really good read!

5.0 out of 5 stars Thrilling Stories of the Macabre! February 17, 2009
By Piz

George Wilhite has done a wonderful job with On The Verge of Madness. My favorite story is The Chronicles of Raven, hopefully the start of a series of horror/adventure stories. Great theme, composition & story structure. Couldn't put it down.

If you like Lovecraftesque stories with a unique twist, this book is highly recommended.
Looking forward to the next one!

5.0 out of 5 stars Great collection of horror! February 14, 2009
By Kent (Northern California)