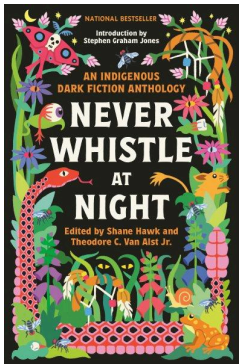


Amanda's Summer Buzz 2024

Cabinet of Curiosities - Short Story Collections



Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology (2023)

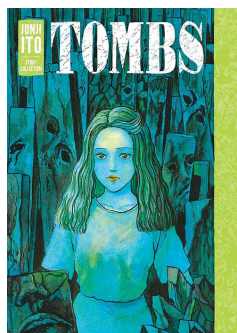
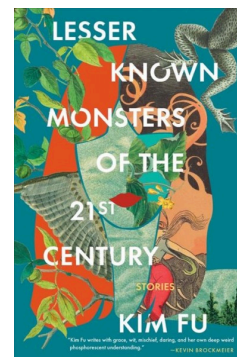
26 stories - Amanda's favorite: *Human Eaters* by Royce K. Young Wolf

This treasure trove of indigenous authors offers a sample of each storyteller's unique perspective—steeped in cultural tradition, belief, and lore. An anthology of monstrous creatures, vengeful spirits, and the darkest corners of the human heart, these stories dance on a tightrope between the familiar world and the unsettling unknown—bound together by themes of nature and identity.

Fu, Kim. Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century: Stories (2022)

12 stories. Amanda's favorite: *Sandman*

This collection mixes elements of fantasy, science fiction, and horror to create unique worlds. Within each story, reality cracks and the weird seeps in—infusing the ordinary with an unsettling and magical unknown. These thought-provoking, character-driven tales explore themes of mortality and grief—including a story of children's toys that manipulate time (*Time Cubes*) and a married couple who take turns killing each other (*Twenty Hours*).



Ito, Junji. Tombs (2023)

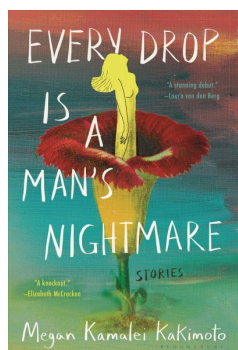
11 stories - Amanda's favorite: *Slug Girl*

Junji Ito's latest horror compilation effortlessly juxtaposes the seemingly mundane with unthinkable horror. Ito's short stories take harmless topics and turn them into nightmares—like hairy spores floating around that reveal people's darkest secrets in *Floaters*; or a mysterious carcass washed up on the beach—with something strange inside its stomach in *Washed Ashore*. With intricate artwork and captivating characters, Ito's talent effortlessly draws readers in from the very first frame. This collection was a Bram Stoker Award Nominee for Superior Achievement in a Graphic Novel in 2023.

Jemison, N.K. How Long 'Til Black Future Month? (2018)

22 stories - Amanda's favorite: *The Elevator Dancer*

N. K. Jemisin's first short story collection offers a captivating collection of science fiction and fantasy stories. Written with stunning prose and exploring themes of race, identity, and societal structures, it challenges readers to imagine futures where black characters and cultures not only exist, but thrive. With diverse narratives and powerful social commentary, these stories include allusions to the magic that exists in everyday life (like the magic of cooking in *L'Alchimista*), to the concept of realities different than ours (like an extraterrestrial society monitoring Earth to learn from humanity's mistakes in *The Evaluators*).



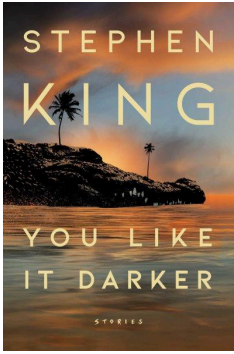
Kakimoto, Megan Kamalei. Every Drop Is a Man's Nightmare (2023)

11 stories - Amanda's favorite: *Story of Men* (Story of Menehune)

This beautifully haunting short story collection is a reflection of the author's Hawaiian-Japanese identity—including Hawaiian vocabulary written into each story. These stories weave a tapestry of the Knaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) experience—embracing its richness and complexities—and exploring themes of sexuality and colonization. Stories often include elements of Hawaiian cultural beliefs, like a childhood encounter with a feral pig complicating a woman's pregnancy in *Every Drop is a Man's Nightmare*; or a mythical creature that appears in a broken dryer in *Story of Men*.

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King, Stephen. **You Like It Darker** (2024)

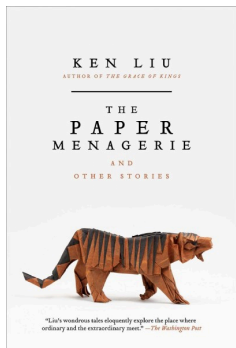
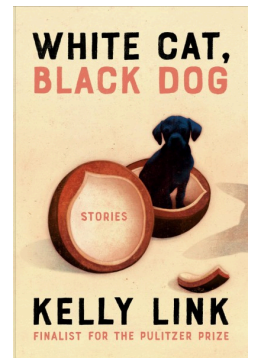
12 stories - Amanda's favorite: *Willie The Weirdo*

From the master of horror fiction comes a collection of mostly unpublished tales that grapple with fate, luck, and the unseen forces that shape our lives. King creates vividly detailed settings and characters for each story—quickly pulling the reader under the surface. From aliens to ghosts to real-life monsters—this collection is especially recommended for those who do not want to invest in reading an entire King novel.

Link, Kelly. **White Cat, Black Dog: Stories** (2023)

7 stories - Amanda's favorite: *The White Cat's Divorce*

Classic tales with a modern twist. This collection nurtures seeds of inspiration from the Brothers Grimm, Norwegian folklore, French folklore, and Scottish ballads. The first page of each tale is accompanied by an illustration by illustrator Shaun Tan, which helps to set the tone and provide a meditative repose in between stories. Despite their fantastical elements, the stories resonate with a deep honesty that transcends the extraordinary.



Liu, Ken. **Paper Menagerie** (2016)

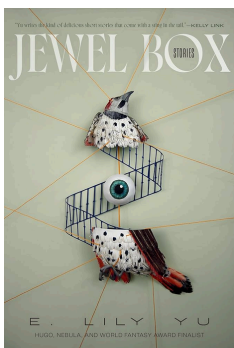
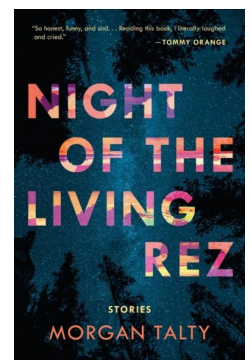
15 stories - Amanda's favorite: *The Bookmaking Habits of Select Species*

This stunning science fiction-fantasy collection includes bits of historical fiction with classic themes of family, identity and the human condition. Liu is a wonderfully unique storyteller with profound sentiments tangled into complex short stories. Stories vary from heavy sci-fi (in *The Waves* the people on a generational starship discover a treatment for immortality and have to decide whether to use it or make way for the next generation) to alternative history (in *Trans-Pacific Tunnel* an air tunnel from Japan to the U.S. is built to help alleviate the Great Depression).

Talty, Morgan. **Night of the Living Rez** (2022)

12 stories - Amanda's favorite: *In a Jar*

These interconnected stories explore the burdens and blessings of heritage in a powerful portrayal of a contemporary native community living in Maine. The writing shimmers with a dark lyricism and each story feels like a whispered secret—both familiar and unnerving. Storylines include a man who finds his friend outside on a snowy night—his hair frozen to the ground (*Burn*) and a boy who finds a jar of teeth under his front porch (*In a Jar*).



Yu, E. Lily. **Jewel Box: Stories** (2023)

22 stories - Amanda's favorite: *Music for the Underworld* (Orpheus retelling)

A science fiction-fantasy collection of imaginative stand-alone stories with sobering underbellies. These stories deliver sharp social commentary—rich in symbolism—through reinvented fairy tales and original fables. Stories include speculative subject matter—like interstellar alien refugees arriving on Earth with nowhere to go (*The Wretched and the Beautiful*), and a mysterious Central Park horse that spurs the growth of flowers in its tread (*Braid of Days and Wake of Nights*).