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The Horror On The Links: The Complete Tales Of Jules De Grandin, Volume One



Synopsis

Today the names of H. P. Lovecraft, Robert E. Howard, August Derleth, and Clark Ashton Smith, all regular contributors to the pulp magazine *Weird Tales* during the first half of the twentieth century, are recognizable even to casual readers of the bizarre and fantastic. And yet despite being more popular than them all during the golden era of genre pulp fiction, there is another author whose name and work have fallen into obscurity: Seabury Quinn. Quinn's short stories were featured in well more than half of *Weird Tales*'s original publication run. His most famous character, the supernatural French detective Dr. Jules de Grandin, investigated cases involving monsters, devil worshippers, serial killers, and spirits from beyond the grave, often set in the small town of Harrisonville, New Jersey. In de Grandin there are familiar shades of both Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes and Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot, and alongside his assistant, Dr. Samuel Trowbridge, de Grandin's knack for solving mysteries and his outbursts of peculiar French-isms (*grand Dieu!*) captivated readers for nearly three decades. Collected for the first time in trade editions, *The Complete Tales of Jules de Grandin*, edited by George Vanderburgh, presents all ninety-three published works featuring the supernatural detective. Presented in chronological order over five volumes, this is the definitive collection of an iconic pulp hero. The first volume, *The Horror on the Links*, includes all of the Jules de Grandin stories from "The Horror on the Links" (1925) to "The Chapel of Mystic Horror" (1928), as well as an introduction by Robert Weinberg.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A collection of wonderfully fun mashups. Seabury Quinn’s stories are bloody and action-packed, with the sort of shameless, disreputable charm that characterizes the best of the pulps. Even if there’s little that’s truly original in his work, his clever assortment of monsters and occult menaces make for tremendously entertaining stories. His admirers have every reason to be thrilled with these comprehensive new collections, and the writer will find new fans among those who enjoy truly weird horror.”
— Barnes & Noble Sci-Fi & Fantasy Blog

“A fun, spooky trip back to the golden age of weird . . . De Grandin, his little blond mustache twitching like the whiskers of an excited cat, is an exuberant, delightful creation.”
— Publishers Weekly

“Many of these stories have been unavailable for years. I applaud Night Shade Books for bringing these wonderful stories back into print. I can’t wait for Volume Two! GRADE: A”
— GeorgeKelley.org

Seabury Quinn was a pulp magazine author, whose popular stories of the occult detective Jules de Grandin were published in *Weird Tales* between 1925 and 1951. Quinn penned ninety-two short stories and one full-length novel featuring the occult Hercule Poirot, which were enormously popular with readers. Quinn died in 1969.

Very good stories. If your a fan of quirky brilliant detectives such as Hercule Poirot from the Agatha Christie classics and love stories with monsters and supernatural plots and overtones; I think you will thoroughly enjoy these.

Had never heard of this author before but found his stories quite readable. I think they are better read 1-3 at a time as I did rather than all at once.

Previously only available in an expensive deluxe three volume set (and an incomplete paperback series), the Jules de Grandin series will be in five volumes from Night Shade Books. This volume reprints all the stories that were in *Weird Tales* from 1926 to 1928, starting with the first story, "The Horror on the Links." This is a handsome volume, well done. The tales of the supernatural Sherlock Holmes, as he was called, are pretty good, and ran right up until almost the end of the magazine, in the early 1950s. De Grandin fought everything from vampires, ghosts and demons to mummies and

killer cults. One odd credit on the copyright page is the claim that stories are by permission of Weird Tales Limited, but they are in fact public domain. The copyright was never renewed on most issues of Weird Tales, which folded in 1954. It also says "The Horror on the Links" is copyright Quinn's estate. That may mean it's the revised version from "The Phantom Fighter" collection of 1966, in which Quinn modernized the stories collected. Quinn died in 1969. A worth addition to any library of pulp fiction.

Do you enjoy fast paced and entertaining stories? Do you love Occult Detectives? Do the names Karl Kojak, Dana Scully, Fox Mulder and Carnaki bring a smile to your face? THEN BUY THIS BOOK! Harrisonville New Jersey has to have been the most haunted/cursed spot on the planet during the first half of the 20th Century. Luckily DeGrandin and Trowbridge faced down the forces of evil time after time. Werewolves, Zombies, Ghosts, Ghouls, Demons, Were-Ape, Monsters manmade and monsters supernatural, were no match for these two brave men. This is 100% pure pulp goodness and is guaranteed to provide you with hours of reading pleasure. Then these stories are for you. The adventure of Jules De Grandin and his faithful companion Dr. Trowbridge are some of the most highly entertaining stories to have ever graced the pages of Weird Tales Magazine. Night Shade Books has done us a great service of bringing these wonderful stories back into print in affordable mass market hardback edition!

When you think of Weird Tales magazine - assuming that you do - the "big three" contributors are HP Lovecraft, Robert E Howard, and Clark Ashton Smith. Yet, in its day, as opposed to with the wisdom of hindsight, Seabury Quinn sold more stories, got more covers, and probably more fan praise, than all of the big three put together. And yet this is the first (volume 1 of 5) widely available complete collection of Seabury Quinn's "Jules de Grandin" stories ever. It's a collection of short stories, from 1925 to 1928, not a novel per se. Each story is not even necessarily congruent with earlier stories: for instance there is one (in White Lady) occasion where a shoutout to an earlier story (Missing Ships) would have been not only appropriate but also added to the horror of the second story, and yet it remained unmentioned. To be honest, hindsight is not entirely wrong: I don't think Quinn's work is quite as good as any of the big three: on the other hand, he kept writing for years after the others had ceased (for various reasons, mostly death) and perhaps over time his inspiration ran a little dry. The cover story issue is also partially explained by Quinn having a liking for naked ladies in print, and/or being whipped, which scenes then had a

tendency to be illustrated for a cover. HPL never went in for such things, Smith's stuff was often too exotic, while Howard did get his share of covers, just not as many. So anyway, perhaps I'm not doing a great job of convincing you to buy the book. To that end, well, if you like occult detectives, this is one of the early ones (after Carnacki, before Thunstone, well before X-files) and its pretty much the X-files of its day, with our French hero Jules de Grandin (and his staunch American offsider) up against everything from mad scientists to cannibals to ghosts. Sometimes the crime (ie, murder) is perfectly ordinary, albeit appearing supernatural, and sometimes it really is a thing that goes bump in the night. Nobody seems too perturbed by this, and nor should we be. De Grandin himself is a cross between the deductive methods of Holmes, and the continental idiosyncrasies of Poirot, and as noted, with a dash of Mulder. This is old-style pulp fiction, sometimes supernatural, sometimes horrifying, always fun, if perhaps somewhat formulaic. If you like that sort of thing its certainly a welcome addition to your library. You can find out the contents, and read an introduction in the Look Inside preview above, so I need not do that here. If you like this, Mr Quinn's Roads - Santa as a pulp hero - is also worth tracking down.

The main characters of Dr. Jules de Grandin (a blend of Sherlock Holmes with French outbursts reminiscent of Hercule Poirot) and his assistant, Dr. Samuel Trowbridge (much like Sherlock's sidekick, Dr. Watson), were thoroughly enjoyable. What I loved most about this collection are the diverse mysteries that the two doctors must solve, and deal with various horrors and the supernatural, including vampires, ghosts, devil worshipers, monsters, werewolves, evil entities and much more. One story dealt with cannibalism on an island, though most of the stories are set in the town of Harrisonville, New Jersey, where I suspect most of the town folk were terrified. I would be, were it not for this ingenious detective pair. Quinn has a way of describing scenes that immediately draw the reader into each story, experiencing the events along with de Grandin and Dr. Trowbridge. I suspect that's what made his stories so popular. Read just one story and you'll be hooked. This wonderful anthology kept me turning pages long into the night, shaking in dread yet unable to reach out to turn off the night light. I can't wait to read the remaining releases. I received a free advanced reader's copy of this book from the publisher and was under no obligation to grant it a favorable review. My full review can be found at MyShelf.com.

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