

whistle and i'll come to you mr james

Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James is a phrase that has captivated audiences for decades, primarily due to its association with eerie tales, classic horror stories, and the infamous British television adaptation. This haunting phrase evokes a sense of mystery, suspense, and supernatural intrigue, making it a compelling subject for fans of horror literature and media. In this comprehensive article, we will explore the origins of "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James," its cultural significance, adaptations in various media, and the enduring appeal of this chilling expression.

Origins of "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James"

The Literary Roots

The phrase originates from a short story titled "Oh, Whistle, and I'll Come to You, My Lad", written by M.R. James, a renowned British author celebrated for his ghost stories. First published in 1904 in his collection "Ghost Stories of an Antiquary," the story is considered one of James's most famous works and a quintessential example of early 20th-century supernatural fiction.

The title itself is a line from a traditional English folk song, which adds to its haunting charm. The story revolves around a university professor who discovers a mysterious and ancient whistle, leading to supernatural consequences. The phrase encapsulates the story's core motif — the unsettling power of a simple whistle to summon an unseen and possibly malevolent presence.

Cultural Significance

The phrase has transcended its literary origins to become a cultural touchstone. It is often used in various contexts to evoke a sense of foreboding or to reference supernatural themes. Its usage in popular culture, from television adaptations to modern horror stories, reflects its enduring power to evoke suspense.

Adaptations and Media Representations

BBC Television Adaptation

One of the most notable adaptations of M.R. James's story is the 1970 BBC television film titled "Whistle and I'll Come to You", directed by Jonathan Miller. This adaptation is celebrated for its atmospheric storytelling and chilling portrayal of horror, bringing the story to a new generation of

viewers.

Key Features of the BBC Adaptation:

- A suspenseful narrative that closely follows the original story.
- Use of atmospheric visuals and sound design to build tension.
- An iconic scene featuring the protagonist being haunted by an unseen presence after blowing the mysterious whistle.

Modern Interpretations and Inspirations

The phrase and story have inspired numerous modern horror works, including:

- Video games: Certain horror-themed games incorporate the motif of whistles or similar sounds to trigger supernatural events.
- Literature: Contemporary horror writers often reference the story or use the phrase to evoke a sense of ghostly menace.
- Films: Independent and mainstream horror films sometimes draw inspiration from the story's themes of unseen terror and the power of simple sounds.

Influence on Popular Culture

The phrase "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" has become a shorthand for supernatural suspense. It appears in:

- Horror anthologies
- Theatre productions
- Podcasts dedicated to ghost stories
- Cultural references in music and literature

The Themes and Symbolism of the Story

Supernatural Power of Simple Sounds

One of the central themes is the idea that seemingly innocuous objects or actions—like blowing a whistle—can have profound supernatural consequences. The story explores how human curiosity and the desire to uncover the unknown can lead to terrifying encounters.

The Unseen and the Unknown

M.R. James masterfully employs the fear of the unseen. The presence that haunts the protagonist is never fully revealed, allowing readers' imaginations to fill in the blanks, which heightens the suspense and horror.

Isolation and Vulnerability

The setting often emphasizes solitude, with characters isolated in remote locations, heightening their vulnerability to supernatural forces. This theme resonates with audiences who appreciate stories about the limits of human control over the unknown.

Symbolism of the Whistle

The whistle symbolizes a trigger—a simple device that awakens ancient or malevolent forces. It represents the thin boundary between the mundane and the supernatural and underscores the idea that ordinary objects can harbor extraordinary power.

Why "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" Continues to Fascinate

Timeless Horror Elements

The story's effective use of atmosphere, ambiguity, and psychological horror makes it timeless. Its themes are universal, touching on fears of the unknown, death, and the supernatural.

Relatability and Nostalgia

For many, the story evokes nostalgia for classic horror tales and the golden age of ghost stories. Its simple yet profound premise remains relevant across generations.

Rich Source for Adaptation

The story's open-ended nature allows filmmakers, writers, and artists to reinterpret it creatively, keeping it fresh and engaging for contemporary audiences.

Psychological Impact

The story's ability to unsettle readers and viewers lies in its focus on psychological horror rather than explicit gore, making it accessible yet deeply frightening.

How to Experience "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr.

James"

Reading the Original Story

The best way to experience the story's atmospheric tension is to read M.R. James's original tale. It is available in collections of ghost stories and online archives.

Watching Adaptations

Viewing adaptations like the 1970 BBC version or modern reinterpretations can enhance understanding and appreciation of the story's themes.

Participating in Interactive Media

Playing horror video games inspired by the story or attending ghost story events can provide immersive experiences.

Creating Your Own Stories

Inspired by the story, writers and storytellers can craft their own tales of supernatural whistles and unseen terrors.

Conclusion

The phrase "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" encapsulates a rich tapestry of horror, mystery, and cultural history. From its literary beginnings with M.R. James's chilling story to its adaptations across television, film, and modern media, it remains a potent symbol of supernatural suspense. Its themes of unseen forces, the power of simple sounds, and the vulnerability of humans continue to resonate with audiences worldwide. Whether as a nostalgic nod to classic ghost stories or as a source of inspiration for new horror works, this haunting phrase endures as a testament to the timeless appeal of supernatural fiction.

Key Takeaways:

- Originates from M.R. James's 1904 short story
- Explored through various media adaptations, notably the BBC film
- Embodies themes of the supernatural power of simple sounds and unseen terror
- Continues to influence horror culture and storytelling

By understanding its origins and significance, fans and newcomers alike can appreciate the enduring mystery and allure of "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James."

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the story behind 'Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James'?

'Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James' is a short story by M.R. James that revolves around a professor who encounters supernatural phenomena after discovering an ancient whistle. It explores themes of obsession and the supernatural.

Is 'Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James' based on a real legend?

While the story is a work of fiction, it draws inspiration from British folklore and ghost stories, particularly the idea of an ancient whistle summoning spirits or supernatural entities.

Has 'Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James' been adapted into other media?

Yes, the story has been adapted into various formats, including television episodes, radio dramas, and even stage plays, notably the 1970 BBC adaptation starring Michael Hordern.

What themes are prominent in 'Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James'?

The story explores themes of curiosity, the supernatural, the unknown, and the consequences of delving into forbidden or mysterious knowledge.

Why is 'Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James' considered a classic ghost story?

It's regarded as a classic due to M.R. James's masterful storytelling, atmospheric tension, and its lasting influence on ghost and horror literature since its publication in 1904.

What is the significance of the whistle in the story?

The whistle serves as a supernatural conduit, symbolizing forbidden knowledge and the dangers of meddling with forces beyond human understanding, which ultimately leads to the protagonist's eerie experiences.

Additional Resources

[Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James: An In-Depth Review of a Haunting Classic](#)

The phrase "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" resonates deeply within the realm of British ghost stories and supernatural folklore. Originally penned by the renowned author M.R. James, this

tale has become a cornerstone of atmospheric horror and psychological suspense. Its enduring popularity stems from James's masterful storytelling, creating an unsettling ambiance that lingers long after the final page or scene. This article aims to dissect the story's origins, themes, adaptations, and its impact on horror literature and television, providing a comprehensive insight into why "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" remains a haunting exemplar of supernatural fiction.

Origins and Background of the Story

Literary Roots and M.R. James's Legacy

M.R. James (1862–1936) is celebrated as one of the greatest masters of the ghost story genre. His stories often blend scholarly settings with supernatural elements, emphasizing psychological horror over gore. "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" was first published in 1904 within his collection *Ghost Stories of an Antiquary*. The tale exemplifies James's signature style—an intricate weave of atmosphere, ambiguity, and the uncanny.

James was known for his meticulous research and detailed narrative style, often setting his stories in historic locations or ancient ruins. His influence on the horror genre is profound, inspiring countless writers and filmmakers. The story's core elements—an ordinary man encountering inexplicable supernatural phenomena—are typical of James's narrative approach, which favors subtlety and suggestion over explicit horror.

Plot Summary

The story follows an academic, Professor Parkins, who embarks on a holiday in an ancient seaside town. While exploring a deserted beach, he finds a mysterious, old whistle. Curious, he blows into it, unwittingly awakening an unsettling presence. Throughout the story, Parkins experiences increasingly disturbing phenomena—strange noises, sudden appearances, and a feeling of being watched. The climax reveals a chilling threat: the whistle's supernatural power to summon the unseen entity, which seems bent on tormenting him.

Thematic Analysis and Literary Devices

Core Themes and Motifs

1. The Unknown and the Unseen:

At its heart, the story plays on the fear of the unseen. The supernatural entity is never fully described, allowing readers to project their own fears onto the unknown. This ambiguity heightens the story's unsettling atmosphere.

2. The Power of Suggestion:

James expertly employs suggestion, implying rather than explicitly depicting horror. The reader's imagination fills in the gaps, making the story more terrifying.

3. Human Curiosity and Its Consequences:

Professor Parkins's curiosity about the whistle leads to his downfall, echoing classic themes where human inquisitiveness results in peril.

4. The Ordinary Turned Sinister:

A simple object—a whistle—becomes a conduit of supernatural terror, emphasizing how everyday items can harbor hidden dangers.

Literary Devices and Techniques

- Atmospheric Descriptions: James's vivid, detailed settings evoke a sense of place that is both familiar and eerie, such as the desolate beach and abandoned ruins.

- Ambiguity and Uncertainty: The story maintains a level of ambiguity about the supernatural entity's origins and nature, which intensifies the suspense.

- Foreshadowing: Subtle hints—such as the strange noises and the ominous tone—foreshadow the story's climax.

- Symbolism: The whistle symbolizes forbidden knowledge and the danger of meddling with forces beyond human understanding.

Critical Reception and Literary Significance

Contemporary and Modern Critiques

Since its publication, "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" has garnered praise for its atmospheric tension and psychological depth. Literary critics have lauded James for his craftsmanship, noting how he masterfully builds suspense and dread through subtle storytelling.

Some critics argue that the story exemplifies the "less is more" approach to horror—suggesting that what is left unseen or unsaid is often more frightening than explicit descriptions. The story's influence extends beyond literature into popular culture, inspiring adaptations across various media.

Influence on Horror Literature and Media

James's work, especially this story, has had a lasting impact on the horror genre. It set a template for atmospheric ghost stories that prioritize mood, suggestion, and psychological terror. Writers like Stephen King and Shirley Jackson have acknowledged James's influence.

The story's themes and motifs—such as the haunted object and the unseen menace—have become staples in horror storytelling, inspiring countless stories, films, and television episodes.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

Television and Film Adaptations

"Whistle and I'll Come to You" has been adapted multiple times, with the most notable being the 1970 BBC television adaptation starring Robert Powell, and the 2010 BBC film featuring John Hurt. These adaptations often emphasize the story's atmospheric qualities, utilizing visual and auditory effects to evoke the supernatural menace.

The 2010 version, directed by Julian Jarrold, is particularly acclaimed for its eerie cinematography, haunting soundtrack, and restrained storytelling that faithfully captures the story's psychological horror.

Radio and Stage Variations

The story has also been adapted into radio dramas, which leverage sound design to create a sense of dread and the unseen presence. Stage adaptations, though less common, focus on minimalist production to evoke the story's atmosphere, often emphasizing the suspense and psychological aspects.

Influence on Popular Culture

The story's iconic elements—such as the mysterious whistle and the silent, unseen threat—have permeated popular culture. Parodies, references, and homages appear in various horror anthologies and media, underscoring its status as a classic.

Analytical Perspectives and Interpretations

Psychological versus Supernatural Interpretations

While the story is traditionally viewed as a supernatural tale, some critics interpret it through a psychological lens. They suggest that the story explores the human mind's response to fear and paranoia, especially in isolated or unfamiliar settings.

The ambiguity of the supernatural entity allows for multiple interpretations—could it be a real ghost, an hallucination, or a manifestation of guilt or anxiety? This open-endedness enhances the story's depth and enduring appeal.

Symbolism and Cultural Context

The story can be viewed as a reflection of Victorian and Edwardian anxieties about the unknown, the supernatural, and the limits of human knowledge. The ancient relic—the whistle—symbolizes the danger of delving into forbidden realms or unearthing secrets best left undisturbed.

Furthermore, the seaside setting and the desolate landscape evoke themes of isolation and vulnerability, resonating with contemporary fears of alienation and the uncanny.

Relevance Today

Despite its early 20th-century origins, "Whistle and I'll Come to You" remains relevant, as its themes of curiosity, the unknown, and psychological dread continue to resonate in modern horror. Its emphasis on atmosphere over spectacle aligns with contemporary trends favoring subtle, suspenseful narratives.

Conclusion: Why "Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" Endures

"Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" exemplifies the art of atmospheric storytelling. Its masterful use of ambiguity, setting, and psychological tension creates a haunting experience that transcends time. Whether viewed as a supernatural tale or a metaphor for human fears, the story exemplifies M.R. James's legacy as a pioneer of ghostly fiction.

Its influence spans generations, inspiring adaptations across media and shaping the horror genre's approach to mood and suspense. As a quintessential example of the ghost story, it reminds us that sometimes, what we do not see or understand is the most terrifying of all. The enduring power of

"Whistle and I'll Come to You, Mr. James" lies in its ability to evoke the primal fears of the unknown, making it a timeless piece that continues to haunt and captivate audiences worldwide.

Whistle And I Ll Come To You Mr James

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: Oh, Whistle, and I'll Come to You, My Lad (Fantasy and Horror Classics) M. R. James, 2013-04-25 M. R. James was a prolific and hugely successful author, now credited with having redefined the ghost story for the 20th century by abandoning many of the formal Gothic clichés of his predecessors and using more realistic contemporary settings. Originally published in 1904, 'Oh, Whistle, and I'll Come to you, My Lad' ranks amongst his best and most underrated tales. Many of the earliest ghost stories and tales of hauntings, particularly those dating back to the 1900s and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. We are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality, modern editions, using the original text and artwork.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: God & the Gothic Alison Milbank, 2018-10-18 *God and the Gothic: Romance and Reality in the English Literary Tradition* provides a complete reimagining of the Gothic literary canon to examine its engagement with theological ideas, tracing its origins to the apocalyptic critique of the Reformation female martyrs, and to the Dissolution of the monasteries, now seen as usurping authorities. A double gesture of repudiation and regret is evident in the consequent search for political, aesthetic, and religious mediation, which characterizes the aftermath of the Glorious Revolution and Whig Providential discourse. Part one interprets eighteenth-century Gothic novels in terms of this Whig debate about the true heir, culminating in Ann Radcliffe's melancholic theology which uses distance and loss to enable a new mediation. Part two traces the origins of the doppelgänger in Calvinist anthropology and establishes that its employment by a range of Scottish writers offers a productive mode of subjectivity, necessary in a culture equally concerned with historical continuity. In part three, Irish Gothic is shown to be seeking ways to mediate between Catholic and Protestant identities through models of sacrifice and ecumenism, while in part four nineteenth-century Gothic is read as increasingly theological, responding to materialism by a project of re-enchantment. Ghost story writers assert the metaphysical priority of the supernatural to establish the material world. Arthur Machen and other Order of the Golden Dawn members explore the double and other Gothic tropes as modes of mystical ascent, while raising the physical to the spiritual through magical control, and the M. R. James circle restore the sacramental and psychical efficacy of objects.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: My Favorite Fantasy Story Martin H. Greenberg, 2000-08-01 *WHO DO TODAY'S TOP FANTASY WRITERS READ - AND WHY?* This was the question posed to some of the most influential authors in the field today. This book is their answer. Here are seventeen of the most memorable stories in the genre, each one personally selected by a well-known writer, and each prefaced by that writer's explanation of his or her choice.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *The English Heretic Collection* Andy Sharp, 2020-10-13 From its inaugural Black Plaque in honour of Witchfinder General director Michael Reeves, this unique collection follows a veridical trajectory to the frontiers of belief. Reeves' film becomes a conspiratorial cauldron drawing in a host of tragic players in the end game of the Sixties. The Cornwall of Du Maurier's *The Birds* is ploughed to reveal the hidden psychic codes of our Blitz spirit. In a powerfully relevant occult rendering of a bruised Island, the myth of Churchill is dissected and re-animalised. New maps of hell are drawn by colliding the forensic vision of JG Ballard and Lovecraftian magic. Actors, witches and psychopaths maraud across a nightmare terrain of murderous henges and abandoned military bases; conflating creative research into a surreal documentary, history as hallucination. Geography becomes an alchemical alembic, a vale of

soul-making distilled by the lysergic psychobiology of Stanislaw Grof, the alcoholic lyricism of Malcolm Lowry, and the convulsive travelogues of the Marquis de Sade. If history is revealed as paranoid ritual, how do we escape its time traps to wild new imaginative geographies? The English Heretic collection is a darkly comical, urgently lyrical, mental escape hatch from the hells of our own making.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: The Big Book of Ghost Stories Otto Penzler, 2012-12-04 Over a thousand pages of haunted—and haunting—ghost tales: the most complete collection of uncanny, spooky, creepy tales ever published! Edited and with an introduction by Otto Penzler. Including stories by Joyce Carol Oates, Rudyard Kipling, Isaac Asimov, James MacCreigh, and many more! Featuring eerie vintage ghost illustrations. The ghost story is perhaps the oldest of all the supernatural literary genres and has captured the imagination of almost every writer to put pen to the page. Here, Edgar Award-winning editor Otto Penzler has followed his keen sense of the supernatural to collect the most chilling and uncanny tales in the canon. These spectral stories span more than a hundred years, from modern-day horrors by Joyce Carol Oates, Chet Williamson and Andrew Klavan, to pulp yarns from August Derleth, Grege La Spina, and M. L. Humphreys, to the atmospheric Victorian tales of Rudyard Kipling, Edith Wharton, and H. P. Lovecraft, not to mention modern works by the likes of Donald E. Westlake and Isaac Asimov that are already classics. Some of these stories have haunted the canon for a century, while others are making their first ghoulish appearance in book form. Whether you prefer possessive poltergeists, awful apparitions, or friendly phantoms, these stories are guaranteed to thrill you, tingle the spine, or tickle the funny bone, and keep you turning the pages with fearful delight. Including such classics as “The Monkey’s Paw” and “The Open Window” and eerie vintage illustrations, and also featuring haunted mansions, midnight frights, lovers from beyond the grave, rapping, tapping, wailing shades, and ghosts, ghouls, and specters galore! Also featuring haunted mansions, midnight frights, lovers from beyond the grave, rapping, tapping, wailing shades, and ghosts, ghouls, and specters galore!

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: H.P. Lovecraft's Magazine of Horror #4 Marvin Kaye, 2009-01-01 The fourth issue of H.P. Lovecraft's Magazine of Horror presents a stellar lineup of fiction and non-fiction. Includes a conversation with best-selling author Laurell K. Hamilton, as well as fiction by such luminaries as Darrell Schweitzer (Sometimes You Have to Shout About It), Ken Rand (Crickets, Everywhere), Jay Lake (Ever), Erin Donahoe (The Old Ones Reborn), Yoiya Finley (The Taxidermist's Collection), Esther Friesner (The Really Big Sleep), Morgan Llywelyn (The View from Here), Leah Bobet (Scars), Nick Knight (Thinking of You), and Ron Goulart (The Problem of the Missing Werewolf).

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: Oak and Ash and Thorn Peter Fiennes, 2017-09-07 A Guardian Best Nature Book of the Year The magic and mystery of the woods are embedded in culture, from ancient folklore to modern literature. They offer us refuge: a place to play, a place to think. They are the generous providers of timber and energy. They let us dream of other ways of living. Yet we now face a future where taking a walk in the woods is consigned to the tales we tell our children. Immersing himself in the beauty of woodland Britain, Peter Fiennes explores our long relationship with the woods and the sad and violent story of how so many have been lost. Just as we need them, our woods need us too. But who, if anyone, is looking out for them?

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: Ghosts Jim Pipe, 2013-01-01 Readers will learn about the supernatural world of ghosts—deciding if the noise in the dead of night is the house settling, or something more. They will discover the realm that ghosts may haunt and learn about the people who search for ghosts for a living. A “twilight quiz” will then ask readers if they are ready to search for ghosts themselves, or if they should worry about those noises they’re hearing as they drift to sleep.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: Staging the Ghost Story Kelly Jones, 2025-06-29 Staging the Ghost Story is the first book to offer a critical appraisal of the centuries-long relationship between the ghost story and the English stage. The book balances a critical consideration of the ghost story in performance, its history, its cultural politics, and its generic conventions, with practical insight regarding the valency of live representations of the supernatural,

the challenges of embodiment, and the power of storytelling. Throughout, it draws upon accompanying interviews with prominent directors, playwrights, performers and stage designers in the industry, including Mark Gatiss, Robin Herford, Michael Holt, Danny Robins, Robert Lloyd Parry, Rebecca Vaughan, Tajinder Singh Hayer, Glen Neath, Adam Z. Robinson, Richard Sutton, Paul Voodini, and Jonathan Goodwin. With a focus upon the seminal elements of theatrical performance: time, space, bodies, devices, and audience, the book invites the elusive shadows of the ghost story to take centre stage.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Nine Lessons* Nicola Upson, 2017-10-10 Mystery author Josephine Tey once again becomes embroiled in a real-life investigation in this “terrific . . . elegant” historical British mystery set in 1930s England (San Francisco Book Review) Called to the peaceful wooded churchyard of St-John’s-at-Hampstead, Detective Chief Inspector Archie Penrose faces one of the most audacious and unusual murders of his career. The body of the church’s organist is found in an opened grave, together with a photograph of a manor house and a cryptic note. The image leads Archie to Cambridge, where the crisp autumn air has brought with it bustling life to the ancient university and town. Mystery author Josephine Tey and Archie’s lover Bridget Foley have each recently settled in Cambridge, though both women are not equally happy to see him. One has concealed an important secret from Archie which now threatens to come to light. Meanwhile, the change of seasons has also brought with it a series of vicious attacks against women in town, spreading fear and suspicion through the community. Soon, another body is revealed, and in the shadow of King’s College Chapel, Archie uncovers a connection twenty-five years old which haunted both victims—as well as some of their living companions. As Archie and Josephine each grapple with savage malefactors intent on making their victims pay, they must race to stop another attack in this beautifully written, intricately plotted mystery.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Gothic television* Helen Wheatley, 2017-06-01 Gothic television is the first full length study of the Gothic released on British and US television. An historical account, the book combines detailed archival research with analyses of key programmes, from *Mystery and Imagination* and *Dark Shadows*, to *The Woman in White* and *Twin Peaks*, and uncovers an aspect of television drama history which has, until now, remained critically unexplored. While some have seen television as too literal or homely a medium to successfully present Gothic fictions, Gothic television argues that the genre, in its many guises, is, and has always been, well-suited to television as a domestic medium, given the genre’s obsessions with haunted houses and troubled families. This book will be of interest to lecturers and students across a number of disciplines including television studies, Gothic studies, and adaptation studies, as well as to the general reader with an interest in the Gothic, and in the history of television drama.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Literary Bric-à-Brac and the Victorians* Jen Harrison, 2016-05-06 What are we to make of the Victorians’ fascination with collecting? What effect did their encounters with the curious, exotic and downright odd have on Victorian writers and their works? The essays in this collection take up these questions by examining the phenomenon of bric-à-brac in Victorian literature. The contributors to *Literary Bric-à-Brac and the Victorians: From Commodities to Oddities* explore sites of unusual concurrence (including museums, the home, art galleries, private collections) and the way in which bric-à-brac brought the alien into everyday settings, the past into the present and the wild into the domestic. Focusing on the representation of material culture in Victorian literature, the essays in this volume seek out miscellaneous and incongruous objects that take readers beyond the commonplace paradigms associated with commodity culture. Individual chapters analyse the work of writers as different as Edward Lear and John Henry Newman, Robert Browning and George Eliot, Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll. In so doing they shed light on a dizzying array of topics and objects that include class and capitalism, the occult and the sacraments, Darwinism and dandyism, umbrellas, textiles, the Philosopher’s Stone and even the household nail.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Horror Literature through History* Matt Cardin, 2017-09-21 This two-volume set offers comprehensive coverage of horror literature that spans its

deep history, dominant themes, significant works, and major authors, such as Stephen King, Edgar Allan Poe, and Anne Rice, as well as lesser-known horror writers. Many of today's horror story fans—who appreciate horror through movies, television, video games, graphic novels, and other forms—probably don't realize that horror literature is not only one of the most popular types of literature but one of the oldest. People have always been mesmerized by stories that speak to their deepest fears. *Horror Literature through History* shows 21st-century horror fans the literary sources of their favorite entertainment and the rich intrinsic value of horror literature in its own right. Through profiles of major authors, critical analyses of important works, and overview essays focused on horror during particular periods as well as on related issues such as religion, apocalypticism, social criticism, and gender, readers will discover the fascinating early roots and evolution of horror writings as well as the reciprocal influence of horror literature and horror cinema. This unique two-volume reference set provides wide coverage that is current and compelling to modern readers—who are of course also eager consumers of entertainment. In the first section, overview essays on horror during different historical periods situate works of horror literature within the social, cultural, historical, and intellectual currents of their respective eras, creating a seamless narrative of the genre's evolution from ancient times to the present. The second section demonstrates how otherwise unrelated works of horror have influenced each other, how horror subgenres have evolved, and how a broad range of topics within horror—such as ghosts, vampires, religion, and gender roles—have been handled across time. The set also provides alphabetically arranged reference entries on authors, works, and specialized topics that enable readers to zero in on information and concepts presented in the other sections.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *The Blood on Satan's Claw* David Evans-Powell, 2021-02-28 Widely regarded as one of the foundational 'Unholy Trinity' of folk horror film, *The Blood on Satan's Claw* (1971) has been comparatively over-shadowed, if not maligned, when compared to *Witchfinder General* (1968) and *The Wicker Man* (1973). While those horror bedfellows are now accepted as classics of British cinema, Piers Haggard's film remains undervalued, ironically so, given that it was Haggard who coined the term 'folk horror' in relation to his film. In this *Devil's Advocate*, David Evans-Powell explores the place of the film in the wider context of the folk horror sub-genre; its use of a seventeenth-century setting (which it shares with contemporaries such as *Witchfinder General* and *Cry of the Banshee*) in contrast to the generic nineteenth-century locales of *Hammer*; the influences of contemporary counter-culture and youth movement on the film; the importance of localism and landscape; and the film as an expression of a wider contemporary crisis in English identity (which can also be perceived in *Witchfinder General*, and in contemporary TV serials such as *Penda's Fen*).

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Encyclopedia of British Writers, 1800 to the Present* George Stade, Karen Karbiener, 2010-05-12 Contains alphabetically arranged entries that provide biographical and critical information on major and lesser-known nineteenth- and twentieth-century British writers, and includes articles on key schools of literature, and genres.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Genre and performance: film and television* Christine Cornea, 2021-06-15 Looking at contemporary film and television, this book explores how popular genres frame our understanding of on-screen performance. Previous studies of screen performance have tended to fix upon star actors, directors, or programme makers, or they have concentrated upon particular training and acting styles. Moving outside of these confines, this book provides a truly interdisciplinary account of performance in film and television and examines a much neglected area in our understanding of how popular genres and performance intersect on screen. Each chapter concentrates upon a particular genre or draws upon generic case studies in examining the significance of screen performance. Individual chapters examine contemporary film noir, horror, the biopic, drama-documentary, the western, science fiction, comedy performance in 'spoof news' programmes and the television 'sit com' and popular Bollywood films.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Funhouse* David Kerekes, 2002 A gothic, blood curdling edition of the world's greatest journal of sex, religion and death. Incisive and cutting edge

essays from the world of underground film, fanaticism, crime, sex, art, trash and sleaze. Contents include; A visit to the reclusive director of 70s seminal obscure horror movie Last house on Dead End Street, interview with Tom Robbins whose book 'Another Roadside Attraction' Elvis was reputed to be reading when he died, and Laurence O'Toole, author of 'Pornucopia' on set with gonzo pornmaker Buttman. Illustrated with 20 black and white illustrations.

whistle and i ll come to you mr james: *Folk Horror* Adam Scovell, 2017-10-24 Interest in the ancient, the occult, and the wyrd is on the rise. The furrows of Robin Hardy (The Wicker Man), Piers Haggard (Blood on Satan's Claw), and Michael Reeves (Witchfinder General) have arisen again, most notably in the films of Ben Wheatley (Kill List), as has the Spirit of Dark of Lonely Water, Juganets, cursed Saxon crowns, spaceships hidden under ancient barrows, owls and flowers, time-warping stone circles, wicker men, the goat of Mendes, and malicious stone tapes. Folk Horror: Hours Dreadful And Things Strange charts the summoning of these esoteric arts within the latter half of the twentieth century and beyond, using theories of psychogeography, hauntology, and topography to delve into the genre's output in film, television, and multimedia as its sacred demon of ungovernableness rises yet again in the twenty-first century.

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