

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories

richard matheson

Nightmare at 20000 Feet Horror Stories Richard Matheson: A Deep Dive Into the Sky-High Terror

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson have captivated audiences for decades, blending psychological suspense with supernatural elements that leave readers and viewers on the edge of their seats. This iconic theme, largely popularized by Richard Matheson's masterful storytelling, transcends the boundaries of typical horror narratives by placing ordinary individuals in extraordinary and terrifying situations high above the earth, where escape seems impossible. Whether you are a fan of classic horror literature, vintage television episodes, or psychological thrillers, the tales inspired by this concept are as chilling today as they were when first introduced.

The Origin of Nightmare at 20000 Feet Horror Stories Richard Matheson

Richard Matheson was a prolific writer whose influence on horror and science fiction is undeniable. Among his many contributions, one story stands out in particular for its lasting impact: "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet." Originally published as a short story in 1961, it was later adapted into an unforgettable episode of the television series *The Twilight Zone* in 1963, starring William Shatner.

The Story Behind the Story

In Matheson's original narrative, the protagonist, Bob Wilson, is a man recently recovering from a nervous breakdown. During a flight, he spots a mysterious creature tampering with the airplane's wing. As he tries to alert the flight crew and passengers, no one believes him, and he begins to question his own sanity. The story expertly explores themes of paranoia, mental health, and the thin line between reality and nightmare.

This premise taps into a universal fear: being trapped in a confined space with something dangerous lurking just out of sight. The "20,000 feet" aspect heightens the tension, emphasizing the vulnerability and helplessness of the character, as well as the impossibility of escape.

Why Richard Matheson's Take on Horror is Timeless

Richard Matheson's writing stands out because he doesn't rely solely on gore or shock

value. Instead, his horror stories often delve into the psyche of his characters, making the terror feel personal and deeply unsettling. The “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet” story is a perfect example of psychological horror that uses an everyday setting—in this case, an airplane—to create an extraordinary sense of dread.

The Art of Psychological Suspense

One of Matheson’s key strengths was his ability to blur the lines between reality and hallucination. In “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet,” the audience is never quite sure whether Bob’s experience is genuine or a manifestation of his fragile mental state. This ambiguity fuels the suspense and keeps readers and viewers guessing until the very end.

Moreover, the story taps into claustrophobia and fear of flying—two anxieties that affect many people. By combining these fears with a supernatural element, Matheson crafts a narrative that resonates on multiple levels.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The influence of nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson inspired stretches far beyond the original short story. The *Twilight Zone* episode remains one of the series’ most iconic installments and has been revisited and reinterpreted in various forms over the years.

Notable Adaptations

- **The Twilight Zone (1963):** The classic episode featuring William Shatner’s intense performance brought Matheson’s chilling story to life, cementing its place in pop culture.
- **The Twilight Zone Movie (1983):** A remake of the original episode, presenting updated special effects and a slightly different tone.
- **Modern References:** Numerous films, TV shows, and books have drawn inspiration from the core idea of an unseen terror on an airplane, from horror anthologies to thrillers that explore paranoia and isolation at high altitudes.

The Lasting Appeal

Why does this story continue to resonate with audiences? For one, the fear of flying is a pervasive anxiety worldwide. Coupled with the isolation of being thousands of feet above

ground, the potential for something to go wrong becomes a fertile ground for horror.

Additionally, Matheson's story touches on mental health issues, portraying the protagonist's struggle with his own mind, which adds emotional depth to the terror. This combination of external threat and internal conflict creates a layered narrative that appeals to fans of both horror and psychological drama.

Exploring the Themes in Nightmare at 20000 Feet Horror Stories Richard Matheson

Delving deeper into the story reveals several themes that give it enduring power and relevance.

Fear of the Unknown

At its core, Matheson's tale is about confronting the unknown. The creature on the wing is never fully explained, which makes it all the more frightening. This ambiguity allows readers' imaginations to fill in the gaps, often making the horror more intense than any explicit description could.

Isolation and Helplessness

Being 20,000 feet in the air means there is no easy escape. The protagonist's isolation is both physical and mental—he is cut off from help, and no one believes his warnings. This helplessness amplifies the terror and taps into primal fears of abandonment and vulnerability.

Mental Health and Perception

The story raises important questions about how mental health issues affect perception of reality. Bob Wilson's past nervous breakdown makes others doubt his credibility, which intensifies his isolation. This theme remains highly relevant today, as society becomes more aware of the challenges faced by individuals struggling with mental illness.

Tips for Writing Horror Inspired by Nightmare at 20000 Feet Horror Stories Richard Matheson

If you're a writer or storyteller looking to capture the essence of Matheson's work or create horror stories set high above the earth, consider these insights inspired by his approach:

1. **Focus on Psychological Horror:** Build suspense through the character's internal struggles and doubts, not just external threats.
2. **Use Confined Settings:** Limited spaces like airplanes or enclosed cabins heighten tension and create a sense of claustrophobia.
3. **Maintain Ambiguity:** Leave some elements unexplained to engage the audience's imagination and increase unease.
4. **Incorporate Real Fears:** Tap into common anxieties such as fear of flying or isolation to make the story relatable.
5. **Develop Strong Characters:** Make your protagonist's psychological state central to the plot, adding depth and emotional weight.

The Legacy of Richard Matheson's High-Altitude Horror

The phrase nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson invokes more than just a single tale—it represents a genre-defining moment in horror literature and television. Matheson's ability to weave everyday fears with supernatural terror has inspired countless creators and continues to captivate new generations.

Whether you're revisiting the suspenseful flight of Bob Wilson or discovering the story for the first time, the chilling atmosphere and profound psychological insights make it a standout piece in horror history. It reminds us that sometimes, the scariest monsters are not just what's outside the window, but what's inside our own minds, especially when we're hurtling through the sky with nowhere to run.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Richard Matheson in relation to 'Nightmare at 20,000 Feet'?

Richard Matheson is the author of the original short story 'Nightmare at 20,000 Feet,' which was first published in 1961 and later adapted into episodes of The Twilight Zone.

What is the plot of Richard Matheson's 'Nightmare at 20,000 Feet'?

The story follows a man who, while flying on a plane, believes he sees a creature tampering with the aircraft's wing, but no one else can see it, leading to his increasing paranoia and fear.

How has 'Nightmare at 20,000 Feet' influenced horror stories and media?

The story has become a classic example of psychological horror, influencing numerous adaptations in film and television, including memorable episodes of *The Twilight Zone*, and inspiring themes of fear and isolation in horror narratives.

What makes 'Nightmare at 20,000 Feet' a standout horror story by Richard Matheson?

Its combination of psychological tension, claustrophobic setting, and the unreliable perception of reality creates a chilling atmosphere that explores fear of the unknown and mental instability.

Are there any notable adaptations of Richard Matheson's 'Nightmare at 20,000 Feet'?

Yes, the most famous adaptation is *The Twilight Zone* episode starring William Shatner in 1963, and a 1983 remake in the *Twilight Zone* movie, both of which helped cement the story's place in horror and sci-fi culture.

Additional Resources

Nightmare at 20000 Feet: Exploring the Horror Stories of Richard Matheson

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson have secured a lasting place in the annals of speculative fiction and suspense literature. Richard Matheson, a prolific American author renowned for his mastery of horror, fantasy, and science fiction, crafted these tales with an uncanny ability to blend psychological tension with supernatural elements. Among his most famous works, "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" stands out not only as a compelling narrative but also as a cultural touchstone, inspiring adaptations and influencing the horror genre for decades.

This article delves into the core themes, narrative techniques, and enduring appeal of Richard Matheson's horror stories, with a particular focus on the iconic "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet." By examining the story's origins, its adaptations, and the psychological underpinnings that make it resonate, we explore why this piece remains a benchmark in horror storytelling.

The Genesis of "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" and Its Literary Context

Richard Matheson wrote "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" in 1961, originally published in the magazine **Playboy**. The story captures a man's terrifying experience aboard a commercial airplane, where he believes he sees a gremlin tampering with the aircraft's wing mid-flight.

This seemingly straightforward premise conceals a deeper exploration of fear, paranoia, and the fragility of human perception.

Matheson's work emerged during a period when Cold War anxieties and rapid technological advancements shaped cultural expressions of fear. The confined space of the airplane cabin serves as a metaphor for isolation and vulnerability, amplifying the protagonist's psychological torment. This setting also allowed Matheson to tap into a then-nascent collective anxiety around air travel safety, a topic that remains relevant.

Psychological Horror and the Unreliable Narrator

A significant feature of Matheson's storytelling, particularly in "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," is the use of the unreliable narrator. The protagonist, Bob Wilson, is depicted as struggling with recent mental health issues, which casts doubt on his perceptions. Readers are left questioning whether the gremlin is a real external threat or a manifestation of Wilson's psychosis.

This narrative ambiguity heightens the horror by blurring the lines between reality and imagination. Matheson's technique predates and arguably informs later psychological horror works that rely on similar unreliable perspectives, such as the films **Shutter Island** and **Black Swan**. The effectiveness of this approach lies in its capacity to engage readers' empathy and skepticism simultaneously.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The enduring popularity of "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" owes much to its adaptations, most notably in the television series **The Twilight Zone**. The 1963 episode, starring William Shatner, became iconic for visualizing the gremlin and underscoring the protagonist's isolation and desperation. This adaptation expanded the story's reach beyond literary audiences, embedding it into popular culture.

In 2019, the story was revisited in **The Twilight Zone** reboot, demonstrating its timelessness and adaptability. Each iteration brings new interpretations while preserving the original's core tension and themes. The gremlin itself has become a symbol of unseen threats and the terror of losing control, resonating with contemporary fears ranging from mechanical failure to mental illness stigma.

Comparative Analysis: Matheson's Influence on Horror and Suspense

Richard Matheson's approach to horror, exemplified by "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," contrasts with traditional monster-centric narratives. Instead of relying on explicit gore or shock, Matheson focuses on psychological dread and the terror of the unseen. This approach aligns him with other masters of suspense, such as Alfred Hitchcock and Shirley Jackson.

Moreover, Matheson's influence extends to modern horror and thriller genres. Writers and filmmakers frequently draw on his use of confined settings and unreliable narrators to create tension. The claustrophobic airplane environment in "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet" parallels settings in works like *Saw* or *Cube*, where characters face threats in enclosed spaces that exacerbate fear and helplessness.

Key Themes and Features of Matheson's Horror Stories

- **Isolation and Confinement:** Many of Matheson's stories, including "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet," emphasize the psychological impact of being trapped in a limited space, heightening the protagonist's vulnerability.
- **Psychological Ambiguity:** The blurred boundary between reality and hallucination or delusion challenges readers to question the nature of fear and sanity.
- **Everyday Settings with Supernatural Elements:** Matheson often situates horror within mundane environments, making the intrusion of the uncanny more unsettling.
- **Minimalistic Yet Evocative Descriptions:** His prose avoids excessive detail, instead evoking atmosphere through suggestion and implication.

These features contribute to the stories' lasting power, as they tap into universal human anxieties rather than relying solely on external monsters.

Pros and Cons of Matheson's Horror Style

1. Pros:

- Creates deep psychological engagement and empathy.
- Encourages readers to interpret and question the narrative.
- Maintains suspense through ambiguity and suggestive storytelling.
- Adapts well across various media formats.

2. Cons:

- Some readers may find the lack of clear resolution frustrating.

- The subtlety might be less appealing to fans of traditional horror with explicit monsters or gore.
- Reliance on psychological ambiguity can sometimes alienate audiences expecting straightforward narratives.

Why “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet” Continues to Captivate Audiences

The story’s sustained relevance lies in its universal themes of fear and the human psyche’s vulnerability under stress. Air travel, initially a novel and thrilling experience in the mid-20th century, has become a routine yet anxiety-inducing activity for many. Matheson’s narrative taps directly into this dichotomy, using the airplane as a symbol of progress fraught with hidden dangers.

Furthermore, the gremlin figure embodies the unpredictable, unseen forces that threaten our sense of security, whether mechanical, psychological, or existential. This archetype resonates across cultures and eras, making “Nightmare at 20,000 Feet” a timeless exploration of terror.

Richard Matheson’s stories, grounded in a careful balance of reality and nightmare, offer a blueprint for effective horror that prioritizes atmosphere and psychological complexity. His work remains a touchstone for writers, filmmakers, and audiences seeking horror that lingers long after the last page is turned or the screen fades to black.

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Richard Matheson, 2007-04-01 Personally selected by Richard Matheson, the bestselling author of I Am Legend and What Dreams May Come, the stories in Nightmare at 20,000 feet more than demonstrate why Matheson's regarded as one of our most influential horror writers. Featuring the story Duel, a nail-biting tale of man versus machines that inspired Steven Spielberg's first film. Remember that monster on the wing of the airplane? William Shatner saw it on The Twilight Zone, John Lithgow saw it in the movie-even Bart Simpson saw it. Nightmare at 20,000 Feet is just one of many classic horror stories by Richard Matheson that have insinuated themselves into our collective imagination. Here are more than twenty of Matheson's most memorable tales of fear and paranoia,

including: *Prey*, in which a terrified woman is stalked by a malevolent Tiki doll, as chillingly captured in yet another legendary TV moment; *Blood Son*, a disturbing portrait of a strange little boy who dreams of being a vampire; *Dress of White Silk*, a seductively sinister tale of evil and innocence. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

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nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: *Richard Matheson's Nightmare at 20,000 Feet* Richard Matheson, 2011-01-15 the definitive edition of Richard Matheson's acclaimed short story that was filmed twice for *The Twilight Zone*. The book will include: * Matheson's short story * Matheson's script for *The Original Twilight Zone* * The Matheson/George Miller script for *The Twilight Zone Movie* * Storyboards from *The Twilight Zone Movie*

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nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: The Many Lives of The Twilight Zone Ron Rieck, Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr., 2022-10-12 More than sixty years after the *The Twilight Zone* debuted on television, the show remains a cultural phenomenon, including a feature film, three television reboots, a comic book series, a magazine and a theatrical production. This collection of new essays offers a roadmap through a dimension not only of sight and sound, but of mind. Scholars, writers, artists and contributors to the 1980s series investigate the many incarnations of Rod Serling's influential vision through close readings of episodes, explorations of major themes and first-person accounts of working on the show.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: Reading Richard Matheson Cheyenne Mathews, Janet V. Haedicke, 2014-05-07 Richard Matheson (1926–2013) was a prolific author and screenwriter whose career helped shape the horror and fantasy genres in literature, film, and television for over sixty years. Matheson authored more than ninety short stories and dozens of novels, many of which—including *I Am Legend*, *A Stir of Echoes*, *What Dreams May Come*, *The Shrinking Man*, *Hell House*, and *Bid Time Return*—have been adapted into feature films. Despite his extensive body of work and influence, however, Matheson has remained largely outside the scope of academic scrutiny. The essays in *Reading Richard Matheson: A Critical Survey* provide the first critical overview of Matheson's texts, covering seven of Matheson's novels, a sampling of short stories, and several adaptations for both film and television. The essays are arranged thematically and address the sociopolitical anxieties reflected in Matheson's oeuvre; consider his precursors and successors; and situate him within narrative traditions of mythology, cinema, genre, and memory studies. By providing an overview of his career, *Reading Richard Matheson* illustrates how a commercial writer can contribute to academic discourses of literature and film. Though the essays use a variety of theoretical frameworks, the crossover nature of the collection reflects the broad range of Matheson's output. As such, this volume will appeal to fans of Matheson's work in general as well as scholars of literature, film studies, cultural studies, genre studies, media studies, memory studies, and popular culture.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: Richard Matheson on Screen

Matthew R. Bradley, 2010-10-04 Though innumerable biographies have been written about novelists, playwrights, and poets, screenwriters are rarely granted this distinction, even ones as prolific and successful as Richard Matheson. Beginning with *The Incredible Shrinking Man* in 1957, Matheson has occupied a unique position in writing for television and cinema for more than fifty years. This biography documents his rise to prominence, his literary influences, and the role he played in the horror and science fiction renaissance. The narrative examines each of Matheson's works in chronological order with an index indicating where each can be found, from his early work in the 1950's through *I Am Legend* in 2007.

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nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: #31Days: A Collection of Horror Essays, Vol. 1 Robert J Gannon, 2020-12-22 Imagine immersing yourself in a world of unimaginable horrors for a month. Now imagine doing it every year for 16 years. Horror critic Robert J Gannon does it ever year. The #31Days challenge is to watch and review a different horror property--film, TV series, book, game, play, etc.--every day for the month of October. In this newly revised and expanded collection of essays, Robert J Gannon celebrates the horror genre with a focus on film and television. #31Days features 65 essays and reviews covering everything from Don Coscarelli's *Phantasm* series to the anthology horror show *Masters of Horror*. This non-fiction collection follows the spirit of *Sketching Details*, Robert's long-running entertainment media criticism website. Horror deserves the same level of respect and analysis as any other genre. Robert J Gannon has built a career out of analyzing and sharing a passion for genre fiction--horror, sci-fi, and fantasy--and he's ready to show the world in his debut non-fiction collection.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: *Dead That Walk* Chairman of Chime the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research Leverhulme Research Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies Stephen Jones, 2010-09 Of all the monstrous threats to humanity' zombies are the most horrific. That's because they are not uncommon or alien - they're human. (Or more correctly' were human.) Anywhere that there are humans' there are zombies' and they can never be completely annihilated because by breeding more humans we breed more zombies. In *The Ultimate Book of Zombies*' these decomposing monsters are demolished' decapitated' and destroyed. The gore flows as humans and zombies dispatch each other in blood - curdling battles fought in big - city alleys' high school playgrounds' and even suburban living rooms. In addition' the living dead are fully deconstructed in these wide - ranging and fascinating stories. More than just brain - eating assaults and acid - bath retaliations' the tales in this book explore all elements of zombie existence and their interaction with the humans they live among.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: *SCP Series Two Field Manual* SCP Foundation, Various Authors, SCP Foundation anomalies SCP-1000 through to SCP-1999, including containment procedures, experiment logs and interview transcripts. An encyclopedia of the unnatural. The Foundation Operating clandestine and worldwide, the Foundation operates beyond jurisdiction, empowered and entrusted by every major national government with the task of containing anomalous objects, entities, and phenomena. These anomalies pose a significant threat to global security by threatening either physical or psychological harm. The Foundation operates to maintain normalcy, so that the worldwide civilian population can live and go on with their daily lives without fear, mistrust, or doubt in their personal beliefs, and to maintain human independence from extraterrestrial, extradimensional, and other extranormal influence. Our mission is three-fold: Secure The Foundation secures anomalies with the goal of preventing them from falling into the hands of civilian or rival agencies, through extensive observation and surveillance and by acting to intercept such anomalies at the earliest opportunity. Contain The Foundation contains anomalies with the goal of preventing their influence or effects from spreading, by either relocating, concealing, or dismantling such anomalies or by suppressing or preventing public dissemination of knowledge thereof. Protect The Foundation protects humanity from the effects of such anomalies as

well as the anomalies themselves until such time that they are either fully understood or new theories of science can be devised based on their properties and behavior. -----

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nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: Terror Television John Kenneth Muir, 2013-02-25 Although horror shows on television are popular in the 1990s thanks to the success of Chris Carter's *The X-Files*, such has not always been the case. Creators Rod Serling, Dan Curtis, William Castle, Quinn Martin, John Newland, George Romero, Stephen King, David Lynch, Wes Craven, Sam Raimi, Aaron Spelling and others have toiled to bring the horror genre to American living rooms for years. This large-scale reference book documents an entire genre, from the dawn of modern horror television with the watershed Serling anthology, *Night Gallery* (1970), a show lensed in color and featuring more graphic makeup and violence than ever before seen on the tube, through more than 30 programs, including those of the 1998-1999 season. Complete histories, critical reception, episode guides, cast, crew and guest star information, as well as series reviews are included, along with footnotes, a lengthy bibliography and an in-depth index. From Kolchak: *The Night Stalker* to *Millennium*, from *The Evil Touch* to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Twin Peaks*, *Terror Television* is a detailed reference guide to three decades of frightening television programs, both memorable and obscure.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: Ultra-Actors: William Shatner Bunny Ultramod, 2011-05-20 We all know and love William Shatner now, but there was a time in the 60s, when his career was just getting started, and in the 70s, when he was experiencing a post-*Star Trek* slump, that he appeared in a series of surprising -- and often quite demented -- series of low-budget films and television films. *Ultra-Actors: William Shatner* takes a look at 21 of these films, almost everything he made from his first lead performance until *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* revitalized his career. Here's your chance to find out about such little-seen oddities as: *Incubus*: A horror film shot entirely in the invented language of Esperanto, and a cursed production that found many of its cast members dead in the few years after it was made. *Impulse*: In which Shatner plays a psychotic con man in Florida who ineptly stalks a little girl. *Kingdom of the Spiders*: It's William Shatner against tens of thousands of superintelligent tarantulas whose primary mode of attack seems to be to fall out of grates onto people. *The Devil's Rain*: Shatner is kidnapped by Satanists and has his eyes plucked out by them, and takes revenge by making them melt for what feels like the last half of the movie.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: 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.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: *Horror Films FAQ* John Kenneth Muir, 2013-08-01 *Horror Films FAQ* explores a century of ghoulish and grand horror cinema, gazing at the different characters, situations, settings, and themes featured in the horror film, from final girls, monstrous bogeymen, giant monsters and vampires to the recent torture porn and found footage formats. The book remembers the J-Horror remake trend of the 2000s, and examines the oft-repeated slasher format popularized by John Carpenter's *Halloween* (1978) and *Friday the 13th* (1980). After an introduction positioning the horror film as an important and moral voice in the national dialogue, the book explores the history of horror decade by decade, remembering the women's liberation horrors of the 1970s, the rubber reality films of the late 1980s, the serial killers of the 1990s, and the xenophobic terrors of the 9/11 age. *Horror Films FAQ* also asks what it means when animals attack in such films as *The Birds* (1963) or *Jaws* (1975), and considers the moral underpinnings of rape-and-revenge movies, such as *I Spit on Your Grave* (1978) and *Irreversible* (2002). The book features numerous photographs from the author's extensive personal archive, and also catalogs the genre's most prominent directors.

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nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: *Journeys into Terror* Cynthia J. Miller, A. Bowdoin Van Riper, 2023-05-23 Since ancient times, explorers and adventurers have captured popular imagination with their frightening narratives of travels gone wrong. Usually, these stories heavily feature the exotic or unknown, and can transform any journey into a nightmare. Stories of such horrific happenings have a long and rich history that stretches from folktales to contemporary media narratives. This work presents eighteen essays that explore the ways in which these texts reflect and shape our fear and fascination surrounding travel, posing new questions about the geographies of evil and how our notions of terrible places and their inhabitants change over time. The volume's five thematic sections offer new insights into how power, privilege, uncanny landscapes, misbegotten quests, hellish commutes and deadly vacations can turn our travels into terror.

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nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: *H. P. Lovecraft's Magazine of Horror #2* Marvin Kaye, 2005-02-01 The second issue of H.P. Lovecraft's *Magazine of Horror* is dedicated to classic fantasy writer Richard Matheson, presenting an original story, interview, and critical overview of his movies. An additional 11 stories fill out the issue, including work by such luminaries as Tanith Lee, Ray Russell, Chris Bunch, a classic reprint from E. Hoffman Price, and much more. Plus all the usual features by editor Marvin Kaye, book reviewer Craig Shaw Gardner, and film critic Greg Lamberson. Plus poetry by H.P. Lovecraft, Lynn Jamneck, and Mike Allen. Rounding out the issue is a fine selection of artwork by Steve Hickman (cover), Allen Koszowski,

Alex McVey, Britt Spencer, George H. Scithers, Mike Dublisch, and David Grilla.

nightmare at 20000 feet horror stories richard matheson: Richard Matheson's Monsters

June M. Pulliam, Anthony J. Fonseca, 2016-02-02 Richard Matheson was one of the leading writers of science fiction, fantasy, and horror in the twentieth century. Matheson's most famous early works, the novels *I Am Legend* (1954) and *The Shrinking Man* (1956), both depict traditionally masculine figures thrust into extraordinary situations. Other thought-provoking novels, including *Hell House* (1971), *Bid Time Return* (1975), and *What Dreams May Come* (1978)—as well as short stories and screenplays—convey the ambiguous status of masculinity: how men should behave vis-à-vis women and what role they should occupy in the family dynamic and in society at large. In *Richard Matheson's Monsters: Gender in the Stories, Scripts, Novels and Twilight Zone Episodes*, June M. Pulliam and Anthony J. Fonseca examine how this groundbreaking author's writings shed light on society's ever-shifting attitudes on masculinity and domesticity. In this first full-length critical study of Matheson's entire literary output, the authors discuss how *I Am Legend*, *The Shrinking Man*, and other works question traditional male roles. The authors examine how Matheson's scripts for *The Twilight Zone* represented changing expectations in male behavior with the onset of the sexual and feminist revolutions, industrialization and globalization, and other issues. In a society where gender roles are questioned every day, Matheson's work is more relevant than ever. *Richard Matheson's Monsters* will be of interest to scholars of literature, film, and television, as well those interested in gender and masculinity studies.

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