



The Other Side: An Anthology of Queer Paranormal Romance

Melanie Gillman (Editor), Kori Michele Handwerker (Editor), Mildred Louis (Contributor), Sfé R. Monster (Contributor), Katie O'Neill (Contributor), Amelia Onorato (Contributor), Aatmaja Pandya (Contributor), Fyodor Pavlov (Contributor), more... Bitmap Prager (Contributor), Ezra Rose (Contributor), Britt Sabo (Contributor), Bishakh K. Som (Contributor), Kou Chen (Contributor), Sarah W. Searle (Contributor), Laurel Varian (Contributor), Mary Verhoeven (Contributor), C.B. Webb (Contributor), Mari Costa (Contributor), Natasha Donovan (Contributor), Gisele Jobateh (Contributor), Margaret Kirchner (Contributor), Hannah Krieger (Contributor), F. Lee (Contributor), Kate Leth (Contributor) ...less

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Featuring 19 stories by 23 different creators, The Other Side is a celebration of queer romance and the paranormal! Inside, you'll find positive romance stories featuring a wide variety of queer and trans protagonists-as well as poltergeists, shadow monsters, guitar-playing hypnotists, lost angels, genderfluid vampires, trickster ghosts, and many more!

The Other Side: An Anthology of Queer Paranormal Romance Details

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From Reader Review *The Other Side: An Anthology of Queer Paranormal Romance* for online ebook

Tyler Hayes says

A bit hit or miss, but the hits are solid.

The good: the stories are normalizing and humanizing without ever losing sight of what they are meant to be about. There is a wide variety of voices and styles represented, from ethereal fairy-tale to peppy comedy to cold ghost story. The emotions, by and large, feel real and honest and perfectly represented.

The bad: I think they tried to cram too many stories into this anthology; many of them feel like they would benefit from being even just a few pages longer, and a lot of them feel rushed. There is a really heavy reliance on stories about ghosts, which is fine, but with just a few stories about other types of paranormal creatures it sticks out a bit. There are a couple of stories that didn't land properly, either failing to convey plot elements clearly or not quite bringing across the emotional landscape involved.

Overall, it's fun, and if you can get your hands on it you should give it a look.

Gayle Francis Moffet says

A very cute and sweet antho. I didn't fall in love with every story (with anthos, that can happen), but I had a lovely time trying it out.

Rafel says

Ahhhh, I loved this! My favourite stories were Ouija Call Center, Shadow's Bae, and Pulpit Point. So sweet and cute!

Emily says

The Other Side is a comic anthology of 19 queer paranormal romance stories. All in black and white, there's a rich diversity of art and story styles. Many of the characters are POC* and non-binary in some way, with many different queer relationships represented. (*With art, it can sometimes be difficult to tell exactly how a character might identify racially/ethnically. Unless it was specifically indicated in the text, I won't be attempting to assign race/ethnicity other than generic "POC" in my review.)

Naturally, I enjoyed some of the comics much more than others; such is the nature of the beast when it comes to anthologies. The biggest problem with some of the stories is that the comics were too short for proper plot or relationship development. However, some of the shortest pieces were totally wonderful-- it all comes down to proper pacing and knowing how to plan a short comic story, which unfortunately some of the artists seemed to lack. There also is an overabundance of ghost stories in the collection; I'd have liked to see

a wider range of the "paranormal", which encompasses so much potential. (Plus, ghost stories by nature mean that someone is dead, which in this case is often a queer person.)

My favorites of the collection were:

?Black Dog by Fyodor Pavlov

MLM. Native American (Abenaki).

In some stories, the Black Dog is an omen of death. For the hunter, the Black Dog becomes a companion.

Really loved the art style. This is an example of a short comic that makes good use of its limited space and doesn't feel too rushed or constrained.

?En-bae & Boo by Sfé R. Monster

Non-binary, Asexual. POC.

A cryptozoologist and a ghost who met online have their first IRL date at the Canadian Abnormal News Network Convention.

Super cute, I really like Monster's artwork. The cryptozoologist character had "enby" and "ace" pride badges on their backpack, which was a really cute way to verify their identity on the page. There wasn't much of a plot, but having the relationship be pre-established helped the romance not feel rushed. Love the puns in the title.

?Ouija Call Center by Mari Costa

WLW. POC (Black).

The ouija operator (who connects the calls between the living and the dead) ends up falling for one of the callers.

Such a creative idea, and the artwork was cute. I loved that the caller just wanted to tear their dead ex-boyfriend a new one, but ended up having a sweet conversation with the operator instead.

?Shadow's Bae by Bitmap Prager & Melanie Gillman

Non-binary. POC.

Shadow isn't their society's idea of a good monster-- not scary at all. Shadow bonds with Tumeric, a human who also exists outside of the prescribed norms of their society. Together, they help each other face down their bullies and find happiness.

A little bit *Monster's, Inc.*, this was an adorable tale about finding the places and people where you are free to be yourself, and standing up for the freedom of those you love.

?Third Circle Pizza by Laurel Varian & Ezra Rose

Non-binary. POC.

Moss and Saul only ever see each other at Third Circle Pizza, where Saul always seems to be working. In fact, Saul's been working there for decades without seeming to have aged. Moss soon figures out that Saul is a slave, bound to work at the restaurant forever... or until someone finds a way to free him.

Great artwork, and a fun, imaginative story. Could have used some more backstory about Saul and his captors, but otherwise has good plot development.

?Till Death by Gisele Jobateh

Non-binary. POC.

A pack of ghosts help their living loved ones fight against the gentrification of their neighborhood.

Very sweet tale, and I loved the moral at the end: "Just because you're not long for this world doesn't mean you should stop caring about those still in it."

?Tierra Verde by Margaret Kirchner

WLW. POC, Latinx.

Winona is hired to deal with the lonely spirit who has been compelling townsfolk to drown in the river. Lovely art, great creepy atmosphere. I liked that I couldn't tell where the plot was heading, it felt very original.

Honorable Mentions:

?Dive by Natasha Donovan

WLW. Native American.

An old woman tells the story of the time fire was stolen from the village, and how she journeyed with an otherworldly being to steal the fire back.

I liked the art style, although the people's proportions were odd, and the flow of the speech bubbles was sometimes hard to follow. The story was a little bit sparse, but I really liked the ending.

?EMMA-FZR 400RRSP by Mary Verhoeven

WLW.

When Frankie buys a bike to fix up, she doesn't expect the previous owner to be haunting it. Though hostile at first, Emma and Frankie soon bond over their shared love for the bike.

?Pulpit Point by Amelia Onorato

MLM. POC.

The ghost of a drowned sailor haunts the new lighthouse keeper

?Bare Bones by Britt Sabo

MLM. Possibly transgender?

A fixer-upper house seems to be rebelling against the owners attempts to fix it up, until a close brush with death helps them both re-examine their enmity.

?Yes No Maybe by Kate Leth & Katie O'Neill

WLW. POC.

A tenant uses a Ouija board to contact the benevolent spirit who's been cleaning her apartment.

The Rest:

?Halo by F. Lee & Rainy

MLM.

A reverend encounters the spirit of a man who committed suicide because of unrequited love.

?Beneath My Breath Above My Gaze by Kou Chen

MLM? POC?

A man hikes a mountain throughout his life, partially due to a nature spirit that protected him from a hornet when he was a child.

?Rabbit Stew by CB Webb

WLW.

An elderly women prepares a meal (with some invisible help) to celebrate her anniversary with her departed

lover.

?Fifty Years by Sarah Winifred Searle & Hannah Krieger

MLM. POC.

A vampire abducts a thief to interrogate him for gift ideas for his anniversary with his ghost lover.

?Appliance by Kori Michele Handwerker

MLM. POC.

Indy tries to find out why Tony is haunting his new-used microwave.

?Airspace by Aatmaja Pandya

WLW. POC.

Lark uses her telepathic abilities to teach Shirin to play guitar. Unfortunately, more than just guitar skills are revealed when the two share a headspace.

?Threnody by Bishakh K. Som

WLW. Indian.

An old woman who feels lonely and out-of-touch with the modern world tries to find solace by devoting herself to worshipping the divine Mother. A younger worshipper seems determined to interrupt her peace, however.

Jaime Dear says

This is one of my favorite anthologies, I love almost all of the stories and it and feels soft and tender.

Nell says

3.75

Kronda says

The art in this anthology is beautiful, and the paranormal romance involves a lot of queer ghosts etc. Many sweet smiles for me in this anthology, but pretty much every encounter ends with a kiss. On the plus side, death is not presented as tragedy in this series.

Ted says

Solid read and generally consistent quality across the variety of narratives- some great variations on ghost stories with an LGBTQ focus. My main issue was that while the work was strong, like many comics anthologies, some of the pacing might have benefited from an extra page or two here and there. The feeling one is left with is occasionally of something too large trying to be fitted onto a shelf. The printing was also a little dark for some of the pages with the edition I had, which detracted from some incredible illustration.

Sara says

I was really looking forward to reading this book, but was sadly let down. "The paranormal" is a vast subject----but most of the comics / stories in this book are about ghosts, some of the stories main ideas/arcs being nearly identical. I thought there'd be a but more originality. The art is stellar though, and there are a few stories that do stand out from the nearly identical crowd.

Katherine says

Relationships and love that crosses all boundaries and is truly breathtaking to behold.

Andrea Lindquist says

This anthology is so tender...it's so healing to read positive stories about queer people in love.

Laura says

Like most anthologies, it's a bit of a mixed bag. Some great entries and lots of beautiful art, but several stories had pacing issues or felt narratively unfocused.

Bogi Takács says

I missed the Kickstarter so I'm reading the book just now thanks to my library (!!!).

Just some unsorted thoughts, I might write a lengthier review in a few days when I am feeling more up to it (with story titles and all) - is there any interest?

*

I really liked some of the stories, but others missed the mark for me. It bothered me quite a bit that so many were ghost stories, specifically. Does it reallllly count as positive queer representation if one of the couple is already dead? It honestly made me sad sometimes even when it was supposed to be cheerful.

I would have liked to see more monster stories... and more vampires, even. Overall just more variety beyond "ghost boy/girl/personfriend". I liked how one story subverted the ghost boyfriend template though (view spoiler).

There was some really WTF appropriative and/or colonialist stuff on occasion. One piece specifically seemed inspired by Twilight. X[

Jasper Mancebo says

I got this book a couple years ago, and it is the best anthology I have read to this day. I've read it 3 or 4 times. Between art and writing styles, I think there is something for everyone in here.

Jessie B. says

Am excellent collection of queer supernatural romance.
