



# Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers

*Joe R. Lansdale*

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## **Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers** Joe R. Lansdale

Subterranean Press is thrilled to announce the novel-length prequel to the classic story, "Bubba Ho-Tep."

Before Bubba Ho-Tep, there was Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers. Part of a secret government organization designed to protect civilians, Elvis Presley and a handful of hardcore warriors set out to save the world from an invasion of hive-minded, shape-shifting vampire-like creatures from a dark dimension who have taken up residence in a New Orleans junkyard. Besides Elvis, among these righteous warriors is a hammer-wielding descendent of John Henry of railroad fame, a Blind Man who sees more than those with sight, Jack, a strategic wizard, and Elvis's right hand man and journal writer, Johnny, all thrown in with Raven (real name Jenny) a female recruit who is also a budding pop star, and like Elvis, high on the charisma chart. Their leader is none other than Colonel Parker, Elvis's cutthroat manager, and a warrior himself, directly in contact with President Nixon, or possibly one of his doubles. It's an unnerving peek into a secret world, and a possible delusion. It's what happened before Elvis, aka Sebastian Haff, found himself in an East Texas rest home, mounted on a walker, fighting an Egyptian mummy and worrying about a growth on his pecker. Strange monsters, wild fights, sex with a beautiful ghost, a drug-induced trip into another dimension, and all manner of mayhem ensue, along with a Mississippi riverboat ride on a giant paddle wheel, and of course, there will be 3D glasses, fried peanut butter and 'nanna sandwiches, and a few hard working zombies. Bring the kids, but plug their ears and blindfold them. This is one wild and nasty ride to the dark side, but with laughter.

## **Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers Details**

Date : Published October 31st 2017 by Subterranean Press

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Author : Joe R. Lansdale

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# From Reader Review Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers for online ebook

## Tim Schneider says

I'm a huge fan of Lansdale's writing. And he writes a LOT. But for me, probably 90% of his output is gold. Of the rest, a good 90% is silver. So it's rare that Lansdale does something that I don't love. I didn't love this prequel to Bubba Ho-Tep. Which isn't to say that I didn't like it. Because it was okay. But I didn't love it.

I'm not entirely sure why. The premise is great. Elvis leads a team that fights monsters and cosmic horrors. And in this one is a doozy...a Lovecraftian horror that is destroying people and will destroy the Earth given the chance. But for some reason it just didn't quite work for me. I can't exactly say why. But it shouldn't have taken as long as it did to read that short a work. None of the characters really jumped out at me. The plot was only so-so. The ending which allowed for Elvis to be surprised by the monsters in Bubba Ho-Tep didn't set my world on fire.

Probably worthwhile for a Lansdale completist. But not highly recommended.

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## Thomas says

So, here's an interesting thing: The "Bubba" in Bubba Ho-Tep was Elvis. I had always taken the title to be a reference to the mummy, since it was set in Texas, but since said mummy makes zero appearances in this novel, and another character calls Elvis "Bubba" at one point, I was proven wrong. It makes me wonder what else I've taken for granted all these years.

As it turns out, there was a good bit I had taken for granted. In Bubba Ho-Tep, you never get a sense that the narrator is unreliable, so you're pretty convinced the main character is, in fact, Elvis, but there's a lingering doubt that he's just some crazy dude with a strange fantasy. That carries over to JFK, too, more prominently since Elvis himself never quite believes that he's actually JFK. This novel confirms that both claims are true, which somehow lessens the impact of the original story. It takes that uncertainty and makes it fact, which removes the ambiguity that makes the novella work so well.

The other thing about the novel is that it was just too ridiculous. Yes, yes, Elvis and JFK, in an East Texas nursing home battling an Egyptian mummy, isn't exactly mainstream, but somehow it worked better than Elvis and the Colonel heading up what amounts to a Scooby Doo gang. Plus, the more the story continued, the less I could hang on to the whole Elvis connection. He sounded and felt like any other character, and when it came back to me that this was supposed to be Elvis, I almost started laughing.

I mean, Lansdale is Lansdale, and reading him is like reading no other author, but even that seemed to be lacking. I find that his supernatural stories don't have the same kind of brusque charm that his crime novels do, and that's much more evident when you compare this with, say, Rusty Puppy. They both have the snappy dialogue and the unique characters, but the plot for Blood-suckers isn't as strong as Rusty Puppy, and the story overall suffers for it.

Look, I'll read anything Joe Lansdale releases, without hesitation. It's been a while since I've come across a book of his that I didn't like on some level, but Blood-suckers feels like it's coming from the bottom of the

barrel. It's about on par with Lost Echoes, my least favorite Lansdale book, and I don't think it's a coincidence it's also a supernatural novel. On the bright side, I'll be getting around to Jackrabbit Smile soon, so hopefully my experience will improve.

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## **Bob Milne says**

In hindsight, as much fun as the Bubba Ho-Tep movie was, I realize I enjoyed it more for Bruce Campbell's performance than the story itself. It was fun, but not enough to drive me to seek out Joe R. Lansdale's original story.

Having said that, Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers has a lot of things going for it, and was actually quite brilliant in some respects, but it's far too uneven a read for me to recommend it. For every paragraph of blood-sucker horror, we're forced to wade through pages of cosmic weirdness, and for every snappy bit of banter, we're made to sit through one tired Elvis-ism after another.

The concept is fantastic, and I would love to read more about the government's secret monster-hunting unit, just not with Elvis at the helm - or, at least, not with this fat, pill-popping, flatulent, overstayed-his-welcome, embarrassing Elvis.

Read the first 12 pages of drunken Mr. Positive and the screaming balls of human flesh crammed into the cars of the junkyard, and you'll be hungry for more . . . but by the time you get through the next 65 pages of introductions and celebrity banter, and you'll start to get a feel for what kind of balance to expect. Personally, the novelty of the Colonel, Nixon, and all the rest wore off pretty quickly for me, so much so that I was already starting to skim by the 30% mark, which never bodes well for a book

*Originally reviewed at Beauty in Ruins*

*Disclaimer: I received a complimentary ARC of this title from the publisher in exchange for review consideration. This does not in any way affect the honesty or sincerity of my review.*

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## **Char says**

With a title like BUBBA AND THE COSMIC BLOOD-SUCKERS and an author like Joe Lansdale, how could anyone not want to read this book? Throw in the fact that this is the prequel to the awesome story BUBBA HO-TEP, and how could I refuse?

I've never seen the film of BUBBA HO-TEP, but I loved the tale with all of its warped humor and fun characters. There was less humor in this book, which I found disappointing, but there were some cool inter-dimensional monsters, as well as some freaky shadowy vampire like creatures as minions and what's not fun about that?

The characters here were a mismatched bunch and I would like to see an entire novel based on the character

of The Blind Man. (He may not be able to see, but all of his other skills as well as his psychic abilities are well honed.) I would also love to know more about Johnny, (sometime narrator of this tale) and John Henry, wielder of the giant hammer. Lastly, the horny house ghost also interested me. Unfortunately, this short novel moved so fast that I didn't get to know these characters as much as I would have liked.

BUBBA AND THE COSMIC BLOOD-SUCKERS was full of bloody horror action and a lot of fun, but I guess I was expecting a little more from the Champion Mojo Storyteller Joe Lansdale. But hey, a so-so Lansdale book is better than most good books by other authors, so if this premise sounds interesting to you, I say give it a go! You could do a lot worse.

\*Thanks to Subterranean Press for the e-ARC of this book in exchange for my honest feedback. This is it.\*

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## **Lena says**

*"...just to the left of reason, off the highway of common sense and into a rest spot for the weird..."*

One of Subterranean's most glorious book covers... but I didn't like it much.

Lansdale is a piss, shit, fart, slime, goop author. Like Pig-Pen all grown up with a word processor and a rabid need for pussy.

The story is just an Rated R version of Men in Black. I bought it because I'm a Bruce Campbell fan... and the pretty cover.

At least this provides some backstory to my future viewing of Bubba Ho-Tep (2002).

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## **Dan Schwent says**

In the early 1070's, Elvis and his team of monster hunters go up against bloodsuckers from another dimension.

While Hap and Leonard are the Joe Lansdale creations I enjoy the most, the really weird stuff like Zeppelins West are what brought me to the dance. When this came up on Netgalley, I couldn't resist.

Ever wonder what landed Elvis in that nursing home in Bubba Ho-Tep? This goes a long way in explaining things. I remember at least one other Lansdale story featuring Elvis from one of his short story collections. Anyway, Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers is one of Lansdale's stranger tales.

When Elvis wasn't performing in Vegas, he was fighting monsters and spending a lot of time in an isolation tank, drugged out and searching for some cosmic truth. The Colonel held Elvis' mother's soul captive, which explains why Elvis hooked up with the son of a bitch in the first place.

When strange things show up on an unfinished film of Elvis', the crew springs into action to fight some parasites from another dimension. It's way funnier than it sounds.

The trademark Lansdale wit is in full effect. My wife was clearly wondering what I was laughing at but learned long ago that it was better not to ask. The story was short and satisfying, like a hand job in a porno theater. Landale does a great job juggling humor and violence and Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers is no exception.

To say more would be to risk spoilage. If you're a fan of Bubba Hotep or any of Joe Lansdale's crazier tales, this one is not to be missed. Four out of five stars.

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### **Josh says**

"From now on he felt there would always be a hole in his head from which the logic fled."

Bubba and the Cosmic Blood Suckers is a prequel to the somewhat infamous Bubba Ho-Tep, a book I'm yet to read but is in my TBR pile. Focused around Elvis, his manager The Colonel, a person assistant (sort of), and a band of unlikely warriors brought together to save the world from all manner of ghosts and ghouls, Bubba and the Cosmic Blood Suckers requires the reader to suspend their hold on reality and binge on the surreal.

The 'once-human-things' which now resemble balls of human flesh, bone and gore that inhabit a junkyard are the probably the most enjoyable and horror-ific elements of the book. From the opening sequence author Joe R. Lansdale lets the reader know that these are bad, bad things set the scare the crap out of character and reader alike.

Elvis, the team leader of this band of warriors is well written and adds an interesting dynamic to the cobbled together crew. He's not a take charge leader whose proverbial doesn't stink, rather, he's self absorbed and a jerk at times.

This is the kind of book like doesn't take itself too seriously, there's loads of darkly humorous moments among the bloody carnage that takes place throughout the b-grade horror.

My rating: 3/5 stars.

review first appeared on my blog: <http://justaguywholikes2read.blogspot...>

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### **Steve says**

Definitely not Lansdale's best work.

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### **Curtis says**

Do you ever dream that the life you're dreaming is someone else's life?

Do you wonder if you're a figment of someone else's imagination and that all you do has not been done at all, that you could be a creation brought about by trapped gas, that you could be the result of poorly digested

green beans and bologna sandwiches?

Oh, mamma! Joe R. Lansdale has done it again! I fell in love with Bubba Ho-Tep when I first watched the movie. Bruce Campbell brought his best when he played the part of retired Elvis.

Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers is the prequel to Bubba Ho-Tep. Elvis Presley and a group of hardcore warriors try to save the world from an invasion of hive-minded, shape-shifting vampire-like creatures from a dark dimension. The cosmic blood-suckers make a New Orleans junkyard their home. Elvis Presley's manager, Colonel Parker, is the leader of the group.

The story is told by one of Elvis Presley's body guards named Johnny Smack, which makes the story even better. Elvis's gang of warriors also includes a hammer-wielding descendant of John Henry, a strategic wizard named Jack, Raven (Jenny) who is a budding pop star, and a Blind Man who can see more than those with sight.

This strange trip could merely be an illusion, though. This is what happened before Elvis took on an Egyptian mummy at an East Texas rest home.

This book is great! If you've ever been to New Orleans, you remember the sights and smells. You remember the Mississippi riverboats. You don't simply read this book, you experience it.

Joe R. Lansdale does a great job with the characters and building the dread. The author grabs you from the first scene and doesn't let go until the last page. The story is filled with wild fights, strange monsters, sex, and ghosts. The pink Cadillac even makes an appearance.

You can get a copy here.

I highly recommend this book to fans of horror!

5/5 cosmic blood-suckers!

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**Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says**

YES! I got approved!

**Before Bubba Ho-Tep, there was Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers.**

*Part of a secret government organization designed to protect civilians, Elvis Presley and a handful of hardcore warriors set out to save the world from an invasion of hive-minded, shape-shifting vampire-like creatures from a dark dimension who have taken up residence in a New Orleans junkyard.*

*Besides Elvis, among these righteous warriors is a hammer-wielding descendent of John Henry of railroad fame, a Blind Man who sees more than those with sight, Jack, a strategic wizard, and Elvis's right hand man and journal writer, Johnny, all thrown in with Raven (real name Jenny) a female recruit who is also a budding pop star, and like Elvis, high on the charisma chart.*

*Their leader is none other than Colonel Parker, Elvis's cutthroat manager, and a warrior himself, directly in contact with President Nixon, or possibly one of his doubles.*

*It's an unnerving peek into a secret world, and a possible delusion. It's what happened before Elvis, aka Sebastian Haff, found himself in an East Texas rest home, mounted on a walker, fighting an Egyptian mummy and worrying about a growth on his pecker.*

*Strange monsters, wild fights, sex with a beautiful ghost, a drug-induced trip into another dimension, and all manner of mayhem ensue, along with a Mississippi riverboat ride on a giant paddle wheel, and of course, there will be 3D glasses, fried peanut butter and 'nanna sandwiches, and a few hard working zombies.*

*Bring the kids, but plug their ears and blindfold them. This is one wild and nasty ride to the dark side, but with laughter.*

This looks...awesome! Love the cover! I hope I get approved at Netgalley! \*fingers crossed\*

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## **Karl says**

My expectations were perhaps too elevated in the desire to read and enjoy "Bubba and the Cosmic Blood-Suckers" by Joe R. Lansdale. A number of years ago, perhaps almost 20 years now, when Mr. Lansdale published the original novella "Bubba Ho-Tep" and then the wonderful film of the book appeared all was well with my reading/viewing world.

Now we are given a prequel. As the book opens, for some reason Elvis is vacillating between being unhappy and glum with his lot in life and career. Not only is he performing, singing and starring in low budget movies, Elvis has also gotten involved through Colonel Parker, and a "team" of some others, with the task of hunting down and destroying horrible monsters. In this novella the monsters consist of a cross between other dimensional Cthulhu type creatures and vampires who roll their victims into a ball and suck their insides out.

Yah, there is some funny stuff here and Mr. Lansdale's writing is competent, but, there was no real inspiration or joy. We are not really allowed to know any of the other supplementary characters as there was little if any real character development. The novella concerned itself with the "team" in a huge battle to save the world from the monsters. One of the team members even wields a giant (Thor like) hammer. Much of the fun and comradery the first book contained just was not to be found here for me. Perhaps I'm saturating myself too much with Mr. Lansdale.

This hardcover is copy 146 of 1500 produced and is signed by Joe R. Lansdale. There were also 26 lettered copies produced.

Dustjacket by Timothy Truman

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## **Gianfranco Mancini says**



**Vote: ???1/2**

I just loved both Lansdale's Bubba Ho-Tep novella and the awesome movie based on it with Bruce "Chin" Campbell, so my expectations for this prequel were just too high, but this tale was just not as good as the original one.

Just imagine something like a messy mix under drugs of Elvis and his J-Team monster hunters (Jenny, Johnny, John Henry and Jack... WTF???), a sort of 70s The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Vol. 1, interdimensional lovecraftian shapeshifting vampires that can be spotted wearing sunglasses like in John Carpenter's *They Live*, an horny ghost-house that reminded me a lot The House of Mystery in DC *Justice League Dark* animated movie, zombies and much more.

Maybe too much more for a short length novel like this.

The (view spoiler)the awesome pulp cover raised final vote for good.

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### **David says**

In this prequel to Bubba Ho-Tep, Elvis Presley and Colonel Parker lead a team of monster hunters to fight an eldritch vampire from beyond space who has set up shop in a New Orleans junkyard. I thought the book was a great ride and delivered on the promise of its premise.

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### **Janet Robel says**

Highly imaginative world in which I couldn't tear myself away from the pages. Love it from the beginning! I went in with an open mind and found it to be a refreshing change from the normalcy. Okay, I know what you're thinking, "Elvis Presley, in a sci-fi novel? Really?" Really! This author is brilliant and had me laughing-out-loud at the fantastical of it all, not to mention the crude humor. This starts off in the first person perspective and then changes throughout the book.

The monsters in here are not like any you've encountered before. Their portrayal is something you wouldn't want to come across in your worst nightmare. Given the state of things, it's up to Elvis, along with a few others you may recognize, to rid the world of these creatures. This is crazy and action-filled. Wanna know how it ends? You'll just have to read it for yourself. Hope you love it!

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### **Kemper says**

*I received an advance copy of this from NetGalley for review.*

Elvis and horror go together like a peanut butter-n-banana sandwich. Which is to say that it catches your attention, but it might not be something you'd want to make a regular part of your diet.

This is a prequel story to Lansdale's *Bubba Ho-Tep* in which we learned that the rumors about Elvis faking his death were true, and that he was living out his final days in a shitty nursing home where he gets into a scrap with a mummy. Here we've got The King and one his minions, a bodyguard/hanger-on named Johnny Smack, who secretly fight evil supernatural beings under the command of Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker. The Colonel pulls Elvis away from his Las Vegas shows to go on a mission to New Orleans where

interdimensional vampires have been turning people into living basketballs while draining away their essence. Several other monster fighters are brought in to help vanquish them, and they all soon fight themselves in a terrifying fight for their lives.

It's a real mixed bag here with Lansdale doing some genuinely creepy horror of a kind I haven't read from him in a while, and the idea that Elvis led this double life as a fighter against the evil is kinda enjoyable. My favorite part involved Elvis and his crew trying to hold off the bad guys by going Alamo in a house protected by magic and a horny ghost, and there's another good bit that involves taking a pink Cadillac into another dimension which is wonky fun. However, a lot of time is spent trying to explain how the guy who became a fat jump-suited pill-addicted joke about this time was actually a tormented bad ass. If you're going to do a book like this then I get that Lansdale has to pump Elvis up into more than a handsome guy with a great voice and sex appeal who eventually became a victim of his own success into something more substantial, but it just didn't work for me.

I also really liked both the original story and movie adaptation of *Bubba Ho-Tep* which played more into the idea of a 'realistic' older and faded Elvis who doesn't know anything about monsters looking back at his life with regret and making one last stand to reclaim some of his old glory and dignity. This undercuts that idea with the revised history although Lansdale makes a mighty attempt of stitching it together into a retconned timeline.

This also has one of my pet peeves of an author putting a bunch of similar looking names together with Elvis' team consisting of Johnny, John Henry, Jack, and Jenny so apparently this book was sponsored by the letter 'J'. It's extra aggravating when you're reading a poorly formatted advanced e-version that has turned much of the text into word salad and makes it even more confusing.

As a Lansdale fan who got it for free I enjoyed it well enough, but it looks like this is going to be originally released as another one of his collector's edition hardback, and the current price on Amazon is \$40 for 200 pages. That's way too much money both the quantity and quality of story you'd get for the price.

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