



## Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder, and Revenge

*David Lubar*

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Master of the macabre David Lubar turns his attention to dark and twisted tales for teens with *Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder, and Revenge*

A group of high school girls takes revenge on their sadistic gym teacher in the most fitting way possible. Two stowaways find themselves on a ship for the dead. An ancient predator stalks the wrong victim. Here are thirteen tales of death, murder, and revenge from the fertile and febrile imagination of master storyteller David Lubar—his first story collection for the teen audience.

## Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder, and Revenge Details

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Author : David Lubar

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# From Reader Review Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder, and Revenge for online ebook

## Gray Cox says

This reminded me of urban legends, they weren't really scary, but they were disturbing and somewhat chilling, overall I enjoyed it.

There was some mild swearing, but it was very minimal.

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## Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

DNF after the third story/on page 46.

The stories just aren't impressing me. Too short and without character development. The writing is simplistic, which also isn't my style. Reluctant readers who enjoy horror and short form tales might be more into this, but I suspect it will be meh at best for me, so I'm calling it quits and moving on.

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## Nara says

So....*Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder and Revenge* ....mwahahahahaha!!!

Now that we have that out the way, we can get into the actual review. It's actually kind of hard to write an actual review for this collection of short stories because the stories themselves are so short. Some were even as short as 4 or 5 pages. So, instead, I'll just leave a few brief comments for each of the stories as well as a line summary of the tales.

### Running out of Air

*From the blurb: A group of high school girls takes revenge on their sadistic gym teacher in the most fitting way possible.*

This story was really weird. It felt a bit incomplete, but then again it was a "short story" so I probably shouldn't complain.

3/5

### Split Decision

*Student wants to run away from home, gets the opinion of an apparently clairvoyant classmate as to where he should go.*

Woah, this one was awesome. Quite the twist. I kind of predicted something bad was going to happen (yeah what tipped you off for that one Nara? It couldn't have been the death, murder and revenge...), but did not expect what actually happened. The title is very clever, and has to do with what happens.

5/5

### Apparent Motives

*A son concocts an interesting scheme to get rid of his abusive father.*

This one was slightly confusing, and I had to go back to read it a second time to understand exactly what had

happened (although maybe that was because I wasn't concentrating when I read it the first time. My bad.)  
4/5

### **Feelings**

*From the blurb: An ancient predator stalks the wrong victim* (At least I think that line is for this story...it's a bit hard to tell)

Another interesting story, a bit longer than the others. Another nice twist.

4/5

### **Every Drop**

*A tale depicting the survival of the fittest, and the revenge of one of those filtered by the process.*

Yet another weird story. This one's the first one that I think actually steps into the realm of horror rather than mere creepiness.

4/5

### **Patterns of Fear**

*A boy is offered money to stay in the attic of a haunted house...*

Another horror one. DAMN THIS WAS CREEPY. AND AWESOME.

5/5

### **Free Seas**

*From the blurb: Two stowaways find themselves on a ship for the dead.*

Dayum, yet another unexpected twist. I thought it would be ghosts or something, but instead it was something completely unexpected.

4/5

### **Blood Magic**

*An ancient magic is useful to two boys who are kidnapped and held hostage.*

This one was beyond weird. Not strictly scary, but it was a bit creepy.

4/5

### **A Cart Full of Junk**

*About an old man who gives gifts.*

Yeah that's a pretty vague summary. But the story itself is quite creepy...

4/5

### **Morph**

*About an assassin and the boy who witnesses his hits.*

This one was actually less of a horror story and more of an action/heroic one. While it was good, it didn't really seem fit the theme of the anthology (apart from the fact that there were some murders in it).

4/5

### **Whoodoo**

*A boy tries to bring his parents back together using a little magic.*

Very short and very bizarre. It was only around two pages. Lacked development- it was a bit too short for my liking.

3/5

### **The Ex Box**

*A girl finds that her new boyfriend is hiding a secret...*

Quite good. A bit of a twist, but then ended a bit too abruptly.

4/5

### **Evil Twin**

*Our main character catches a horrifying disease that splits her into two halves.*

This was probably the best short story of the anthology. Raises such an interesting set of questions: what is good? What is evil? Either way, definitely worth a read.

5/5

Overall, I think that this was actually quite a nice collection of short stories. Just don't read it at night....

Have a look at more reviews at my blog: Looking for the Panacea

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### **Blythe says**

On the back cover of *Extremities*, there is a warning, if you will, with the headline, "THIS IS NOT A BOOK FOR CHILDREN." Honestly, had *Extremities* not briefly mentioned drug use and other triggers you're likely not to find in a children's novel, and I hadn't read that warning, I could have been fooled into thinking otherwise. Although David Lubar stresses the point that he doesn't feel *Extremities* is for a younger audience enough to put a warning on the back of the book, I feel it is best read for younger readers and young teenagers who want to make an attempt at dipping their toe into the horror genre.

I, however, obviously not a younger teenager, found much to be desired from David Lubar's first foray from children's horror anthologies (most notably his 'Weenies' anthologies). Each and every one of the stories in *Extremities* is undeniably dark in their essence, but they also each bear a just-as-undeniable essence of juvenility, whether that juvenility is achieved by the author's perhaps overly simplistic writing style, or the plot and execution of the stories themselves.

Aside from the fact that I found all but one or two of the thirteen stories in this anthology to be decent, the other twelve or eleven ranging from bad to mediocre, the execution of the stories just isn't met with the grim nature of their concepts. The stories in this anthology deal with concepts such as murder, revenge, voodoo, the paranormal, and more. And while all of those concepts may seem far too dark for a children's novel, it's the way each of those concepts are handled that I feel establishes the juvenility throughout most of *Extremities*.

I wouldn't go so far as saying David Lubar treats each of his stories in *Extremities* lightheartedly, because that's not accurate. The subject matter of the novel is heavy, and David Lubar treats it like such. Just not successfully, I felt. It's difficult for me to portray the youthfulness I feel the stories within *Extremities* bear, and I feel as if I am almost contradicting every point I am trying to make concerning the adolescent undertone of the stories, so I suppose it may be something you'd have to experience in order to fully understand.

With that having been said, it seems I am definitely in the minority regarding my thoughts on *Extremities*, and that many people found it to be chilling and well-written, so perhaps giving *Extremities* a shot to see if you agree with me with the stories may not be a lose/lose situation for you. I, on the other hand, found the character development to be extremely insufficient or nonexistent (yes, I do expect at least some character

development, even for such short stories); I found the plots and their progression to be lacking a certain something to make them particularly memorable or exciting and new, and the writing to be, again, like that of writing you would find in a novel directed towards a younger audience than this is currently being marketed towards. Once again, in my opinion, *Extremities* would be best for early teens or so who show an interest in reading horror and want to start off with something somewhat tame. Unfortunately for *Extremities*, and for myself, I am an adult who has quite an experience with horror, and am far past looking for something "somewhat tame."

1.5 stars.

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## **Brandon Scott says**

Hi Guys,

I hope you are enjoying your Summer vacation, I know I am. So far I've finished 3 books over this summer vacation, which started Friday for me. On my last post I explained that I was on an amazing book streak. Well, that's not the case anymore, and you guys will see in my next review just which book I didn't enjoy so much. Although, the book I'll be reviewing today is one that I very much enjoyed. *Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder, and Revenge* by David Lubar is a collection of short-stories that revolve around... well... death, murder, and revenge. I've never really reviewed a short-story compilation, so this is new for me. I will list the title of each story, and under it, I'll explain how I felt about it, and give each story a rating between 1 and 5 stars. Here's the synopsis of the overall collection from Goodreads:

Master of the macabre David Lubar turns his attention to dark and twisted tales for teens with *Extremities: Stories of Death, Murder, and Revenge*

A group of high school girls takes revenge on their sadistic gym teacher in the most fitting way possible. Two stowaways find themselves on a ship for the dead. An ancient predator stalks the wrong victim. Here are thirteen tales of death, murder, and revenge from the fertile and febrile imagination of master storyteller David Lubar—his first story collection for the teen audience.

My first impression of this book was that it would be decent. I'm not a real fan of the cover, and you guys know how I can't help but judge a book by its cover. Although, the overall idea of it sounded really neat. I love reading short stories, especially about dark, morbid, and creepy things. This compilation didn't disappoint, either. Let's jump right into the stories!

### **"Running Out of Air"**

I really enjoyed this story, I'm not a fan of revenge stories, because I end up feeling bad for the original "bad guy". This, however, was a story that I felt could be straight from the local news. Teens always have quarrels with their gym teachers, and this coach went a little too far. I loved that it was quite realistic, and it, of course, made me feel bad for all parties. I give this story 3/5 stars.

### **"Split Decision"**

OH MY GOD, I LOVED THIS STORY! This is definitely one of my favorites from the entire collection. I thought that it was a really neat idea, and I enjoyed reading it. I loved that it was short and to the point, which didn't allow it to drag out in some parts. I also loved the idea of the story, and also the way things tied up at the end. I'm still a little unsure why he chose to run away because of his step-mom's pregnancy, but it's fine, because that part didn't need to be explained for me to understand the story. I give this story 5/5 stars.

### "Apparent Motives"

This was a good story. I didn't love it, but I didn't hate it... quite frankly, I forgot what it was about, and I just had to skim over it again. Uh-Oh. I did actually think it was a good story, though. It was a lot to take in at first, but once I finally understood exactly what was happening, Lubar through a twist ending that was heart-breaking to say the least. I give the story 3/5 stars.

### "Feelings"

This story seemed to last FOREVER for me. I don't know if it's because the three before it were so short, or because this one was just boring, but I was stuck on this one for a bit. I did like it though, I liked the first couple pages, then it got boring, then I enjoyed it again, then it got boring...again, and it did this up until the end where I was captivated and couldn't turn the page fast enough. This was the first story to feature a paranormal element, and so far I liked the "everyday life" stories better. I give this one 2/5 stars.

### "Every Drop"

This story was very interesting, I was captivated from start to finish, and I loved the idea behind it. It started off like one of the "everyday life" stories, but quickly changed, and I really enjoyed it. I thought the ending was appropriate, and it was an overall enjoyable story about revenge. I give this one 4/5 stars.

### "Patterns of Fear"

THIS STORY!!! OH MY GOD! IT WAS AMAZING! I loved everything about it, it was perfect in my eyes. I wanted to read an entire novel about this story, it was THAT good. I'm telling you guys, "Patterns of Fear" and "Split Decision" are tied for first right now. There's nothing else I can say, I don't feel like I could come anywhere close to giving it justice. I give this story, as if it wasn't obvious already, 5/5 stars.

### "Free Seas"

This story was probably my least favorite of the entire collection. It wasn't long enough to let a story develop, in my opinion. It also wasn't that great, or original, of a story. One reason I know I didn't like it as much was because it had to follow "Patterns of Fear", and this was definitely a "NO-CONTEST" situation. I give this story 1/5 stars.

### "Blood Magic"

Uh, can you say creepy? I really enjoyed this story for the first half, and then when someone started bleeding, then it was just creepy. It did have tons of action, and intrigue. I did love learning about this certain someone, but I was so weirded out about it, that I couldn't really enjoy it. I give this story 3/5 stars.

### "A Cart Full of Junk"

This story was really interesting, it sort of reminded me of "Split Decision" because of it's foreshadowing, and the outcome. I really enjoyed this story and I couldn't see anything wrong with this one either. I give this story 5/5 stars.

### "Morph"

This was another long story, but I actually thoroughly enjoyed this one. It was very original, and entertaining. I loved the characters, the plot, the creatures, and the story all together. I give this story 5/5 stars.

### "Whoodoo"

This story was very short, but very enjoyable. I loved this story, coming from a broken family, I could empathize with what the main character felt about his parents' upcoming divorce, and wanting them to fall in love again. But this story had an added twist that made this story awesome. I give this story 4/5 stars.

### "The Ex Box"

This was a generally good story. It wasn't creepy, it wasn't scary, but it was interesting. I loved reading about these characters, and even though I thought that one of the characters was a certain supernatural being, I put that thought aside thinking that that would be too mainstream/obvious. But then Lubar shocked me by doing the most obvious thing, which I really liked. I give this story 3/5 stars.

### "Evil Twin"

This story was another very original story. I want to read a novel all about this story... it is so good, and leaves you with a question. "Was she the good twin, or the evil twin? I loved the idea so much. I give this story 5/5 stars.

This compilation was amazing! I really liked it, I give it 4/5 stars overall. I not only loved the stories, I also loved the illustrations that went along with each story. I can't wait for it to release on July 23rd, so you guys can read it. It's so amazing, I NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO ABOUT THE STORIES! I can definitely see myself re-reading these stories. You guys definitely need to buy this book ASAP, and read them, and if you are like me, re-read them.

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### **Erin Reilly-Sanders says**

Given the author's note, I was actually somewhat surprised upon reading it that the short stories weren't more disturbing. Granted, it's been a little while since I finished it, but none of the stories really stick out as gruesome or troubling. The stories that I can remember seemed to sit more like fairy tales in which characters who do bad things receive possibly deserved bad endings. Perhaps that's why the book seemed to be light on the darkness it promised. The other possibility that I can think of is that teens might have lower expectation of violence? Or perhaps it is their gatekeepers that the book's qualifications are trying to appease. Unfortunately, the stories were just okay, and rather unremarkable in the end.

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### **Celia says**

2.5

I won this at a NaNoWrimo group thing. The book itself was interesting and I liked a few of the stories but tbh overall they creeped me out, lol. Didn't even really want to put it on my bookshelf.

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### **Raya says**

I'm a person who avoids horror. Not because horror scares me, but because it bores me, and if it doesn't bore me, it frustrates me to the point where I scream at the television or the book in my hands. As a child, however, *many* things frightened me—scary things. Back in the glorious 1990s, Nickelodeon aired *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* (which I most certainly was). Kids gathered around campfire, spooking each other with ghost tales, and I will never forget the story of the haunted pool. The *Tale of the Dead Man's Float* episode didn't frighten me of ghosts or even pools; it made me fear water. Shower time? Not before it the water-monster strangles me. Take a swim? I'll pass. Glass of water? He's going to suffocate me from the inside!

So what does a ridiculous '90s show have to do with *Extremities*? Just like *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*, who

will get the most enjoyment or thrills from *Extremities* depends on the reader. Looking back, *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* is as cheesy as cheesy gets. But the fact is that it still scared me and gave me an irrational fear of water. Now that I'm much older, what scares me has changed. People-eating giants makes me shiver, zombies are creepily fascinating, eerie dystopian settings horrify, and the psychological aspects to all these both terrify and excite me. Reality itself, even, can zap me dead in a second. These concepts put me in a panic—zero of which I find in *Extremities*—but none of this stopped me from reading Lubar's book.

If there is one thing Lubar wants to note, it's that "this is not a book for children." Indeed it's not, but I think who *Extremities* is most appropriate for varies. "At rare and random times, without any plan on my part," says Lubar, "a story will emerge that is too dark, too heartless, or, dare I say it, too evil, for my young readers." But that's exactly it, that's my problem. I didn't find any of the stories within *Extremities* too dark, heartless, or evil. What I did find was a lack of suspense, predictable twists, and writing that wants to be smart but falls short.

When I first spied David Lubar's *Extremities*, I felt a pull that I couldn't resist. My lack of acquaintanceship with horror drew me to Lubar's collection, as if we were a cute match but doomed to a petty break-up. While I thought I would like *Extremities*, the book serves as a reminder why I scarcely wander into this genre. David Lubar's collection dances familiar paths of similar stories that have come before it. Although this doesn't deem the book 'poor quality,' why didn't the author take new turns? Hold my hand and lead me to a place I haven't been before. Be daring and dangerous. Take risks. Whatever you do, dream beyond what's already been done.

For each story, events flip-flop for the hero or heroine—either the character comes out the victor or victim, depending on how the story opens. Lubar's tales take expected turns and end in likely fashion, which strips away the element of shock. Once the story reveals itself, usually paired with the title, the end becomes clear before the reader gets there. Prior to starting *Extremities*, I expected stories that weren't horrifying or dark, but original ideas that held interest and surprise. These stories should have captivated me by their warped characters and by the irony of events, or at least that is what I wished for.

*Well, Raya, maybe the fright doesn't come from the conclusions. Maybe David Lubar's point has nothing to do with unprecedeted twists.* I get that. *Extremities* is not intended to make the reader scream or spend a restless night waking from nightmares. It is intended to make the reader shudder, perhaps, at the thought of what these character do, witness, and experience. At the same time, I can't deny that ingenuity would've helped improve the collection as whole. As one reader out of many, I didn't shudder. I snickered at the irony and turn of events, and only because I saw them coming. If I wasn't eyeballing the text with an 'I told you so,' I felt nearly bored. And yet... *Extremities* mildly entertained me.

For all that I've said, not everyone is doomed to have the same reaction. What *Extremities* needs most is the right audience—and that does not include me. There is something to be said for entertainment value, and for these reasons alone, David Lubar's collection is one I still recommend. If haunting stories of any kind suit your fancy, then by all means, let this book find a home at your bedside and prepare to unleash some horrors from its pages.

*Thank you to NetGalley and Macmillan-Tor/Forge for providing a free copy of Extremities in exchange for my honest review. This review and more can be found at midnight coffee monster.*

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## **Owen says**

Extremities is a short story collection “for adults only” about death, murder, and revenge. The author makes it seem like this is a fun side project he likes to work on; and also it is not for young readers because it is more mature than the books he wrote for kids about evil animated sausages?

Reviewing short story collections is weird because on one hand it is easier than reviewing novels and on the other it is more difficult. It is easier because there is a group of stories to discuss so you have plenty to pick and choose from. But, you can’t really write a long plot description because they are short and don’t go into too much depth. What I sometimes end up with is a list of two-sentence paragraphs, which I never use because that makes for a boring review.

Did I like these stories? Eh, not really. And not just “they weren’t my thing”; because I did not think they were good. He definitely should have made this a children’s horror collection because the “horror” is not scary, not creative, and not intelligent. I got bored sometimes but most of them are pretty short. I don’t know what David Lubar was going for but I did not connect with these. When I was pondering my favorite stories, I realized that I did not in fact have favorites, but instead found there were only a few that were redeeming to the collection.

Some authors write adult books with young main characters, or vice versa, and this can turn out well. Extremities featured I think only kids/teens as main characters and he did not pull off this cross-generational audience thing well, at all. I fail to see how any adult would like this book or find it to be of high quality. Like I said before, nothing was scary or even remotely original so I was not satisfied with any of these.

I didn’t take notes but here are some things included in the collection:

Falling in love with vampires. Seen it a million times

Haunted house with a reality show. Check

Mysterious guy with evil objects that cause violence and mayhem. Yes

Evil twins

Revenge against an evil teacher

Etc.

You could say this is a nice blend of supernatural and “plausible” events involving death, murder, and revenge. I wouldn’t. To be honest, I wouldn’t have chosen to publish this and it is kind of surprising that someone did pick it up.\*

\*I know that sounds really harsh and I get that. I might want to write books someday and would probably be mad if someone said that about my work. But, he has already published fairly successful books and I expect more of someone who has previously done well with this genre.

For a better book of short stories called Extremities, check out Kathe Koja's

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## **Mary says**

I am not the target audience for these stories in so many ways: I’m an adult who’s read extensively; I don’t generally like short stories; I don’t generally like horror; and I don’t like reading about unlikeable characters. That said, as a school librarian it’s my job to read things other people might like; I \*do\* like David Lubar and

love a few of his novels; and I was curious about these stories. Also, I was drawn by the cover illustration (good move on David Lubar's part to make it his facebook profile picture). And because of his comments that this book is for older readers, I wanted to see if it would have a place in a middle school collection.

The book includes monster stories, revenge fantasies, a haunted house, and lessons about attempting to predict/alter the future. The stories vary in length and narration. It's safe to say that readers will like some more than others depending on personal reading preferences. Among my favorites, I enjoyed rooting for the street person of "A Cart Full of Junk," and the friendly interactions between Andy and John in "Morph" gave me a positive connection with these characters. For the most part, I liked the stories in the second half of the book more than those at the beginning - perhaps because the characters are more relatable and the writing itself is more fluid and seems more polished. I love the illustrations that I hadn't expected to find. The stories all have a very strong David Lubar voice (I could hear him reading them to me) and many have his signature wordplay style.

Lubar says these stories are not for children, but there's nothing in this collection that wouldn't be appropriate for well-adjusted 7th or 8th graders. Readers who enjoy Poe may enjoy guessing at and anticipating the surprises in these stories, though, while twisted, these are not as dark and atmospheric as Poe's. The surprises are not subtle, making the stories suitable for struggling or reluctant readers. The whole time I was reading, a tagline from the Weenies books kept forcing its way into my mind. "Warped and creepy tales" definitely applies here, and teens who grew up with the Weenies stories will probably like these too.

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### **Brandi Johnson says**

It's a fun quick read that's perfect for Halloween.

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### **Rachel's Book Reviews says**

Full review soon. I'm not really a short story person. Or a horror story person, but this was pretty good

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### **Paul Hankins says**

I don't have to have to post an honest review. I like David Lubar. I consider him a friend of the business as much as a reader might consider the author of a book a "friend." Okay, we tweet to each other. We comment upon each other's status updates at Facebook. I guess we are "friends in the branches."

So, I don't have to post an honest review.

I can post an earnest review.

David Lubar has been a favorite at Hankins Ranch from the first day Noah brought home one of those "Weenie" books (you know the ones you wish you knew what they were about at the book fair but you haven't picked up yet for the weenies on the cover--go ahead and get one; you're going to love them). From the start, I was happy to see Noah go a little past R. L. Stine's parade of fans to find other authors of the craft of short story. Jonathan Rand is another if you are familiar with the American Chillers series that many

readers find satisfying. I was happy to have Noah find--on his own--David Lubar, an author I have book talked and celebrated since SLEEPING FRESHMAN NEVER LIE in my first year of teaching--before I really knew enough to share about young adult literature. Lubar was there--in my initial shares--with young adult readers in Room 210.

Let's agree with David right from the start in his introduction to the stories that this is not a book for the "weenie" crowd where they are now, but with the success of the "weenie" books, we could say that EXTREMITIES gives them a place to go when they ARE ready for these short stories. This is the one gift of fostering reading and celebrating books is recognizing the difference between not yet and now. And then recognizing the power of now and next. Readers who discover Lubar early on their reading lives are going to be happy that EXTREMITIES will be there waiting.

I got my copy of EXTREMITIES in the mail last night.

I finished the book in just a little under two hours, devouring the stories as much as characters were being devoured by other-worldly creatures. I was taken back by David's gift of story telling to my teenage years when reading Stephen King and Richard Bachman stories made up the bulk of my independent reading--in and out of school.

Then I remembered how I liked to read those books. Sometimes I would skip around in the book. Read a medium-length story or go in for the full development of a longer story which would require a little more time and effort (I would not have known the term "stamina" in regard to reading as a fifteen and sixteen year old and I will not attempt to impress you here that I did). All of this to say, in reading EXTREMITIES, I was able to see how a teen might read this collection of stories today and I think this is why we should celebrate collections and affirm anthologies for their place in the reading workshop. While I read last night, I chose when I might want a behind-the-door surprise (a three to four page story) or when I was ready to walk-about-the-house (a least two of David's stories in the book go twenty-two pages allowing for development of the mood which delivers on the classic ending to these kinds of stories that leave a reader looking into corners around their reading chair).

This is just the way I see a reader doing in Room 407 this fall when we have an opportunity to share this book with our readers. To have experiences with short stories is of inestimable value for our "dormant readers" (Miller 2013) who will move about the text freely, finding as much satisfaction with any of the stories chosen in the individualized reading experience.

And the stories they might select from. . .no spoilers here. . .but consider for that reader (I know you have one or two in mind already):

A tale of student revenge upon a malicious physical education teacher.

A careful-what-you-wish-for tale that will have readers really thinking about word problems associated with trains.

A longer story that will have readers of my generation wondering why Morris Albert is in our head while reading the story that ends with the sort of climax we often associate with the insect world (creepy, David, on both counts here. . .whoa, whoa, whoa, feel-ings. . .).

A story that invites readers to question, could I do it? And for how much would I do it?

A story that might invite readers to look beyond the quirky behaviors of a new boyfriend or girlfriend to see into the true heart of the person

A horrifically-satisfying anchor story that gives a nod back to the class INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS.

The stories in EXTREMITIES are anchored by a blank page and a title page for the new story, complimented by illustrations by Jim Kay (yes, that A MONSTER CALLS Jim Kay). Sometimes forecasting the story and sometimes serving as a reminder that you--the reader--are on a dark journey through the collection, the illustrations are in that familiar Jim Kay style and these are going to look striking within the cover art that I have seen for the July release of David's new collection.

As I was reading the book, I kept thinking about CREEPSHOW, that classic 80's horror film based upon Stephen King's stories. I wanted each story's ending to morph into a grossly-horrible comic panel with a word or thought bubble coming out of the main character's mouth. Maybe some commentary from the author as we move through the stories.

But this is David's fault.

With his gift for story telling, he awakened by young adult self who used to get turned on by the things that might be found in the dark.

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### **Faye, la Patata says**

*Disclaimer: An ARC was provided in exchange for an honest review. This did not influence my thoughts in any way.*

I love reading horror. Ever since I was a wee kid, I've been watching Japanese horror films like *The Grudge*, *The Ring*, and *One Miss Call*. Asian films of this genre scare the shit out of me, and I relish the feeling! This love was strengthened even more when I read R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps* books, encountering monsters, paranormal creatures, and creepy circumstances that have never once crossed my imagination. So there's really no wonder why I quickly pushed the REQUEST button when I saw EXTREMITIES. Stories of Death, Murder and Revenge? *Dude, count me in!*

So, I just finished this. Verdict? Enjoyable. I'm a bit torn between 3.5 and 4, so let's leave it at that. Even though the stories are very, very short — some of them only 3 pages long — they pack a lot of punch. I really appreciate that not all of them end in a gore-y and tragic manner, in which the hero finds himself a victim of his own curiosity, as quite a good number of them have a happy and satisfying end after a gruesome adventure with the unknown. I'd definitely read more from the author. His straightforward way of narrating is pretty neat and effective in setting up a looming atmosphere.

This book reminds me of the manga called *Screaming Lessons* . They're episodic, too, and each chapter tells of a creepy story, but most of the time, the hero/heroine ends up not having the last laugh.

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### **Karen says**

I would have to say this is actually a 3.5 rating. This collection of short stories were creepy and ghastly. I should know by now, that I am not the lover of short stories...I miss the character development of a novel, but I always want to give it a try! I had two favorites: "A Cart Full of Junk" and "Patterns of Fear." I can totally see myself reading these two with my students--they were gory and are both great stories for teaching theme! I loved the artwork and the stories were short enough that I can see my junior high school students loving them. This is one book I would definitely recommend to my reluctant readers. The stories are perfect for them!

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