

The Bram Stoker Awards



The Horror Writer's Association presents the Bram Stoker Awards for Superior Achievement, named in honor of Bram Stoker, author of the seminal horror work, *Dracula*. To ameliorate the competitive nature of awards, the Stokers are given "for superior achievement," not for "best of the year," and the rules are deliberately designed to make ties fairly common. The first awards were presented immediately following the incorporation of the HWA in 1988 (for works published in 1987), and they have been presented every year since, in the Spring. For more information, visit: www.horror.org/stokers. Here are the novels which have been selected in Superior Achievement:

2010 *A Dark Matter* by Peter Straub

The charismatic Spenser Mallon is a campus guru in the 1960s, attracting the devotion and demanding sexual favors of his acolytes. After a secret ritual in a local meadow, the only thing that remains is a gruesomely dismembered body and the shattered souls of all who were present. Years later, one man attempts to understand what happened to his wife and friends by writing a book about this horrible night, and through this process they begin to examine the unspeakable events that haunted every one of them through their lives.

2009 *Audrey's Door* * by Sarah Langan

The Upper West Side's elegant Breviary claims a regal history. But despite 14B's astonishingly low rental price, the recent tragedy within its walls has frightened away all potential tenants . . . except for Audrey Lucas. No stranger to tragedy at thirty-two, a survivor of a fatherless childhood and a mother's hopeless dementia, Audrey is determined to make her own way in a city that often strangles the weak. But is it something otherworldly or Audrey's own increasing instability that's to blame for her dark visions, and for the voice that demands that she build a door? A door it would be true madness to open.

2008 *Duma Key* by Stephen King

In many ways, Edgar Freemantle had no choice but to start a new life. After a major accident had ripped off his arm and grotesquely stretched his sanity, the self-made millionaire had stabbed his wife and squandered his marriage. After relinquishing most of his wealth to his ex and his two daughters, he moves to Duma Key, a seemingly idyllic stretch on the Florida coast. There, with a paintbrush and an empty life canvas, he hopes to make a new beginning. But in Stephen King novels, opening any door can be perilous. A major psychological thriller from the master of scream.

2007 *The Missing* by Sarah Langan

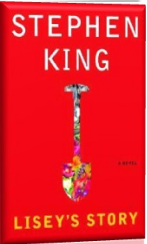
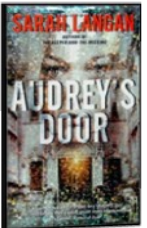
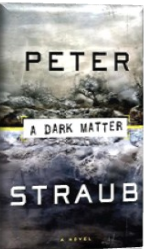
The remote town of Corpus Christi, Maine, will be changed forever in a heartbeat. The nightmare is awakened when third-grade schoolteacher Lois Larkin takes the children on a field trip to Bedford. There in the abandoned woods, a boy unearths an ancient horror; a contagious plague that transforms its victims into something violent, hungry ... and inhuman.

2006 *Lisey's Story* by Stephen King

Lisey's husband, Pulitzer Prize winning author Scott Landon, has been dead for two years at the book's start, but his presence is felt on every page. Lisey hears him so often in her head that when her catatonic sister, Amanda, begins speaking to her with Scott's voice, she finds it not so much unbelievable as inevitable. Soon she's following a trail of clues that lead her to Scott's horrifying childhood and the eerie world called Boo'ya Moon, all while trying to help Amanda and avoid a murderous stalker.

2005 *Tie: Creepers* by David Morrell

On a cold October night, five people gather in a run-down motel on the Jersey shore and begin preparations to break into the Paragon Hotel. Built in the glory days of Asbury Park by a reclusive millionaire, the magnificent structure is now boarded up and marked for demolition. The five people are "creepers," the slang term for urban explorers, but danger, terror, and death await the creepers in a place ravaged by time and redolent of evil.



and **Dread In the Beast by Charlee Jacob ***

Taken from the mythologies and histories of humankind, this novel follows the trail of the Mother Spirit of the worst that the world is capable of producing. From the catacombs of ancient Rome to modern America, deities and saints and the reincarnations of beasts battle over sublime and profane, and over the very reasons for existence for us all.

2004 In the Night Room by Peter Straub

Willy Patrick finds her life intersecting with that of a stranger, Timothy Underhill, when she experiences an eerie event involving the death of her daughter and Timothy communicates with dead people he had known in his youth.

2003 Lost Boy, Lost Girl by Peter Straub

The suicide of a woman and the disappearance of her teenage son, Mark, draws the boy's uncle, Timothy Underhill, back to his hometown of Millhaven, where his investigation uncovers a neighborhood haunted by a serial killer.

2002 The Night Class by Tom Piccirilli *

When he returns to college after winter break, Cal Prentiss is stunned to discover that someone was brutally murdered in his dorm room while he was gone, and as he sets out to find the truth about the horrible crime, he comes face to face with a dark evil.

2001 American Gods by Neil Gaiman

Days before his release from prison, Shadow learns that his wife has been killed in an accident. On the plane ride back home for the funeral, he meets the enigmatic Mr. Wednesday, who offers Shadow a job. Shadow accepts, but soon discovers that Mr. Wednesday is far more dangerous than he could ever have imagined and Shadow is now caught in up a war for the soul of America.

2000 The Traveling Vampire Show by Richard Layman

On a hot summer day in 1963, teenagers Dwight, Rusty, and Slim (a.k.a. Frances), travel to Janks Field to go to the adults-only, one-night-only Traveling Vampire Show starring "Valeria, the only known vampire in captivity," never expecting what happens.

1999 Mr. X by Peter Straub

1998 Bag of Bones by Stephen King

1997 Children of the Dusk * by J. Berliner & G. Guthridge

1996 The Green Mile by Stephen King

1995 Zombie by Joyce Carol Oates

1994 Dead In the Water * by Nancy Holder

1993 The Throat by Peter Straub

1992 Blood of the Lamb * by Thomas F. Monteleone

1991 Boys Life by Robert R. McCammon

1990 Mine * by Robert R. McCammon

1989 Carrion Comfort * by Dan Simmons

1988 Silence of the Lambs by Thomas Harris

**1987 Tie: Misery by Stephen King
and Swan Song by Robert McCammon**

