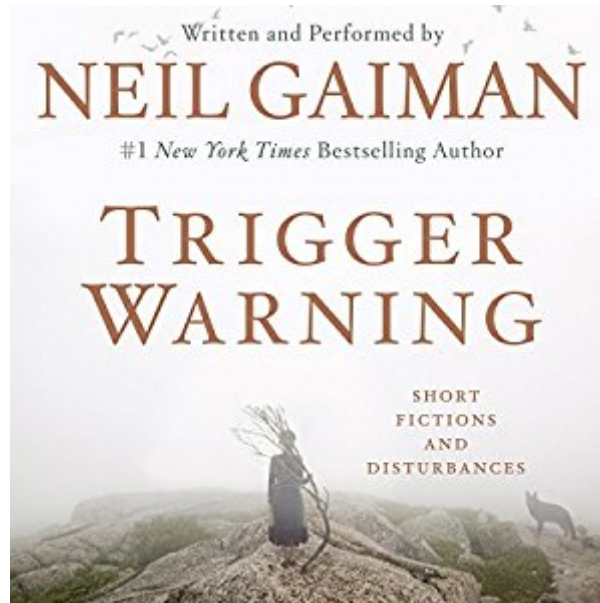


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# Trigger Warning: Short Fictions And Disturbances



## Synopsis

Neil Gaiman returns to dazzle, captivate, haunt, and entertain with this third collection of short fiction following *Smoke and Mirrors* and *Fragile Things*--which includes a never-before-published *American Gods* story, "Black Dog", written exclusively for this volume. In this new anthology, Neil Gaiman pierces the veil of reality to reveal the enigmatic, shadowy world that lies beneath. *Trigger Warning* includes previously published pieces of short fiction--stories, verse, and a very special *Doctor Who* story that was written for the fiftieth anniversary of the beloved series in 2013--as well as "Black Dog", a new tale that revisits the world of *American Gods*, exclusive to this collection. *Trigger Warning* explores the masks we all wear and the people we are beneath them to reveal our vulnerabilities and our truest selves. Here is a rich cornucopia of horror and ghost stories, science fiction and fairy tales, fabulism and poetry that explore the realm of experience and emotion. In "Adventure Story"--a thematic companion to *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*--Gaiman ponders death and the way people take their stories with them when they die. His social media experience "A Calendar of Tales" are short takes inspired by replies to fan tweets about the months of the year--stories of pirates and the March winds, an igloo made of books, and a Mother's Day card that portends disturbances in the universe. Gaiman offers his own ingenious spin on Sherlock Holmes in his award-nominated mystery tale "The Case of Death and Honey". And "Click-Clack the Rattlebag" explains the creaks and clatter we hear when we're all alone in the darkness. Full of wonder and terror, surprises and amusements, *Trigger Warning* is a treasury of delights that engage the mind, stir the heart, and shake the soul from one of the most unique and popular literary artists of our day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The mind of Neil Gaiman is a fertile place of gods, monsters, aliens, magic lingering in ordinary places and a sense that the world is a much wilder, stranger place than we think it is. And all those things come up in "Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances," Gaiman's third collection of his short stories and poems -- while these stories can be as different from each other as humanly possible (an ode to David Bowie, a few twisted fairy tales, a historical story about a Scottish dwarf with revenge on his mind), they share a sense of magic and cosmic wonderment, misting through his elegant, versatile prose. Among the tales here: \* "Black Dog," a story set a few years after "American Gods." Shadow is wandering through England on his way back to the US, when he meets a kindly couple who allow him to stay in their home. But the specter of a faerie dog brings death, mystery, and an ancient magic that could be fatal even to an American god... \* A Scottish dwarf asks a former reaver to help him find a certain cave, supposedly filled with magical gold. As the two men journey to the Misty Isle, the dwarf gradually reveals his true reason for being there. \* A haunting look at the old age of Sherlock Holmes, reflecting on the decay of the British empire and solving one final mystery. \* A timid young artist hears that his first teenage girlfriend has been in contact with some of the people he knows... and the problem is, he made her up. \* Jemima Glorfindel Petula Ramsey's questionnaire, and exactly what happened to her fake-tan-loving sister Nerys. Hint: it involves floating, glowing, claims of godhood and dark chocolate.

I just finished reading Trigger Warning by Neil Gaiman, and once again he has hit the ball out of the park. This is another fantastic collection of short stories from one of the best story-tellers around. There is no specific theme running through the stories; however, Gaiman mentions that a "trigger warning" suggests that readers should be aware that they may encounter characters or situations that may "trigger" fear or otherwise upset them. (I didn't really see this, although several of the stories are dark, bordering on downright creepy). While several of the stories were previously published, but they were all new to me. Among my favorites are: A Lunar Labyrinth (very creepy); The Case of Death and Honey (a terrific Sherlock Holmes story which also explains how he seems to live longer than he should); Nothing O'Clock (a Doctor Who story with the Eleventh Doctor: It seemed to perfectly capture Matt Smith's portrayal of the Doctor, and was a terrific read); and Kether to Malkuth (a bittersweet story that seems to be even deeper than it appears, and is hard to explain); and The Sleeper and the Spindle (a cool and unique retelling of the Snow White and

Sleeping Beauty stories). Gaiman is a master at his craft, and like pretty much everything else he writes, *Trigger Warning* is wonderful. It is immersive and sublime, hiding themes and bigger ideas in prose that is exquisite and easy to read (that should be a book blurb). One caution - The main reason I wanted to read this book was for the story *Black Dog*, which closes the collection (it is a sequel to Gaiman's terrific *American Gods*). Unfortunately, my preview copy did not contain this story, which means I'm going to have to work to track it down. I highly recommend *Trigger Warning*.

There are a few good stories in here, but most are mediocre and don't seem fully fleshed out. I was also disappointed because I thought this was an entirely new collection--it isn't. Several of the stories I had read before in other volumes. I like Neil Gaiman a lot, but I think people are fanboying so hard over his writing that the 4.5 stars this collection gets is very overinflated. My thoughts on a few of the stories: *A Lunar Labyrinth*-- short, not particularly innovative. The inversion of the hunter/hunted has been done many times before. *The Thing About Cassandra*-- I found the twist to be lackluster. *The Truth...* -- one of the longer stories in the book, and I've read it before so that was disappointing. *My Last Landlady* -- not very good or creative. *Adventure Story* -- could have been a good story if it was longer. *Orange* -- has also been published before. *A Calendar of Tales* -- this one was enjoyable, but any one of these could have been fleshed out into a complete short story and I think it would have been better. They read like a series of outlines or notations you'd make to yourself for longer stories. *The Case of Death and Honey* -- pretty good, could have been longer. *The Man Who Forgot Ray Bradbury* -- has been published before. *Jerusalem* -- no. If this story did not have Neil Gaiman's name attached, no one would care. *Click-Clack* -- okay, short, not too creepy. *Nothing O'Clock* -- cute, even if you are not a Dr. Who fan, but it's Dr. Who fanfic....

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