

The Face That Must Die By Ramsey Campbell With good reason.

Adding additional story telling device in the form of a gut wrenching forward where he pours out his heart? It is all told with such an open mirror cast on Campbell I felt that he was being brutally honest. Ramsey Campbell I first stumbled across *The Face That Must Die* in Paperbacks from Hell: The Twisted History of '70s and '80s Horror Fiction where Grady Hendrix discusses it on pages 122 - 123. The residents of this building unfortunately become involved with John Horridge after he becomes obsessed with another man living in the building we'll just call him by his surname Craig. In the beginning we get brief glimpses into his childhood through his musings regarding his overbearing father the accident that left him with a permanent limp and the bullying he sustained at the hands of his peers. She has a run in with Horridge outside the building and even though she describes meeting him as making her feel more uncomfortable than she ever felt in her life she invites him up to her flat! She believes he is an investigator looking into one of the murders but even so. *The Face That Must Die* has a reputation: written early in his career it's known as the one originally published in edited form due to content matter and the one maybe partly inspired by Campbell's mother's ailing mental health and paranoia. This is a close and personal view into the mind of a paranoid homophobic (sex-phobic in general really) man feeling put down upon by society—a loser really but he's always able to justify his own feelings and opinions and actions. In a way this novel reminded me of Peter Loughran's *Dearest* (1981) one of my favorite reads of 2020 which covers a good bit of similar subject matter while remaining its own thing. The city is smoggy and rainy the people are miserable still suffering a hangover from the 1960s and doing whatever drugs they can get their hands on and then there's Horridge with his razor. He has been given more awards than any other writer in the field including the Grand Master Award of the World Horror Convention and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Horror Writers Association as well as numerous World Fantasy Awards. It comes across as brutally honest and opened hearted explanation of what events Campbell's life led to him writing this novel from the ultra-paranoid point of view of the killer. He has been given more awards than any other writer in the field including the Grand Master Award of the World Horror Convention and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Horror Writers Association as well as numerous World Fantasy Awards. I for one do not find psychiatric disorders to be scary especially when the main character spends much of his time doing nothing with the exception of talking to himself and hoping on and off city buses. Maybe my description lacks a bit of substance I'm sure more was going on than that but honestly riding a city bus would be the most excitement this main character ever had. Ramsey Campbell This makes the 6th Ramsey Campbell novel I've read (along with a few short story collections) and I'd say this is now my second favorite Ancient Images still being #1. There's a sense of twisted nostalgia as Horridge(!) the killer reminisces about his childhood and how much better he believes the world was then while looking over the ruins of his old neighborhood. Horridge is believable murderer because he's not Hannibal Lecter he's a paranoid limping guy who blends in with his bleak surroundings alienated from society and without a definite plan as he goes along. You never can trust modern devices! None of the other characters are as interesting but the story also centers around Cathy who feels increasingly vulnerable as her pothead boyfriend Peter doesn't get concerned regardless how many people are murdered in their building. So typically there's a little backtracking then the story continues and this turns out to be very effective for creating the tension where we know or suspect we know what's coming but another character is entirely innocent of it. Liberated from his Lovecraft/James devices which I eat up every time as a fan of the genre and him and its social and political climate is a big part of the story too; the era's idea of 'the other' including homosexuality and immigrants fueling Horridge's fear. After reading Campbell's moving introduction it is unsurprising that the author has such a drive to explore various expressions of paranoia looking in turn at how it can cripple or aid us, I really can't recommend this book to anyone since it was such a disappointment to me. The reason it even got 2 stars was because I did really enjoy the illustrations by J. If the story would have been as good as the pictures it would have been a 5 star read: Ramsey

Campbell I suppose I would have to file this under a classic I was long over due to read, It has been many years since I last read a Ramsey Campbell novel( I read Count of Eleven probably fifteen years ago), I have read lots of wonderful short stories over those years and not sure what took so long to get back to reading one of his novels. If you don't know Ramsey Campbell is novelist and film critic who is considered one of the greatest living British(or otherwise) horror novelists of all time: In the end I would say this part was worth the read on it's own, Once in the story we are introduced to Horridge a paranoid character who doesn't even admit to himself that he is a killer: Driven by homophobia and homesexual panic he becomes entangled with a group of young Liverpool professionals who all live in the same building: Of course they don't know that he is involved in their lives.

He indulges in a more viscerally frightening style of horror: Ramsey Campbell Horridge is a man rejected from society whose beliefs lead him to stalk someone he thinks is a murderer: This sits more at the thriller/crime end of horror but I would still class it as horror, The psychological element of the book is fascinating and excellently written: I found Horridge to be a repellant but fascinating character and the focus on his thoughts and inner-workings of his mind was very compelling: The book mostly follows Horridge but we also have sections from the perspectives of a few other characters who become involved in the story: The setting of 1970's Liverpool.

This was actually my first Ramsey Campbell novel, Actually the most disturbing part of the book was the long introduction by Campbell where he went into detail about his childhood and about his mother's descent into dementia. It really made the fictional horror tale pale in comparison and I think it would have better serve as an afterward so as to not dilute the novel. Then again after the introduction the novel almost serve as cathartic so maybe it's best as is. Overall I would recommend this for any Campbell fan or fan of suspense/slasher tales. I will read more by Campbell but I have to say this one didn't come across as terrible impressive to me. There was something about the way Hendrix described Campbell's distinct brand of Urban Horror that called to me, I needed to experience it for myself so I found this pristine edition and immediately gave it a go, This story mainly follows John Horridge a man who you can tell fairly quickly struggles with life. His thoughts are despicable in many respects but it does set the stage nicely for the ultimate events that play out. You also get the perspectives of two young women Fanny and Cathy who live in flats in the same building along with a few other young folks mentioned: Murders have been plaguing Liverpool and Horridge suspects that Craig is the culprit mainly because he is homosexual Horridge's word choice not mine, It's clear to Horridge that Craig and his sexuality are a threat to the city and Horridge can't rest until he has flushed him out. We're in Horridge's mind as he considers how vulnerable he is and how he needs to protect himself all while he is literally stalking and harassing Mr. As this novel begins and we are introduced to Horridge you can tell he is on a collision course with those around him: This can't end well but never did I expect just how wild it would get: Sometimes when you get that sort of a background on a character it can maybe evoke sympathy or understanding for their actions. It enhanced the feelings of our characters those of desperation loneliness and isolation not just for Horridge but for the young people as well, Cathy really wanted to get out but the money just wasn't there for them to buy a home. I was frustrated for Cathy particularly because Peter didn't seem able to get out of his own way. I liked her character a lot and her storyline really got to me. She felt it in her gut but pushed her thoughts aside so as to be polite or not to seem disagreeable. A perfect example of how women not so much anymore but enough to notice were raised to smile be polite help out even if it meant going against their own instincts, These are just a couple of examples of what I found so interesting about this story. It was uncomfortable to be in Horridge's mind that type of Paranoia Fiction that makes you feel like you need a very hot shower after. As the plot progresses Horridge spirals more and more into his paranoid repetitive thoughts. There were aspects towards the end that reminded me of Raskolnikov's descent into shall we say guilt-fueled madness in Crime and Punishment, Overall I was impressed with how immersed I got in this story:

Some aspects felt dated but it was first published in 1979 over 40-years ago so that makes sense. I think in spite of that though the horror of the story remains as impactful today as it would have been then: I was properly disturbed after this one and can't wait to read some more from Ramsey Campbell! Ramsey Campbell OK Ramsey Campbell got me, Luckily a full version of the novel was released in mass market form in the early 1980s and that's the version I read. Both books require some patience as they're rather slowly paced and the reader spends most of the time in the head of an unlikable antagonist, By story's end maybe the reader will almost feel sorry for Horridge the killer here : and that's where Campbell succeeds most making this villain not only terrifying but sympathetic at least in part, Campbell's speciality is paranoia making the reader feel just slightly off kilter and that skill is on full display here, Every word here is purposeful; not a passage or chapter is put to waste. This is a grimy sweaty relentless look at Liverpool circa the late 1970s. I'd recommend new Campbell readers start here if they're not interested in his short stories, This is a tense suspenseful (and supernatural-free) brick of a story going through your window—or maybe a straight razor against your throat: Ramsey Campbell I had this book for a very long time and I was very excited to be able to choose it for a Spook season read. I found that I was pretty disappointed in the story telling the plot and the characters, This is a first time read for this author and will probably be the last: Synopsis Ramsey Campbell's daring look into the mind of a psychotic killer was published in truncated form in 1979; an expanded edition was later published in 1982: The paranoid outlook of the book's main character Horridge is a grim commentary on a bleak Liverpool suburb and Thatcher-era England: Millipede Press is proud to present this masterpiece of paranoia literature in a brand new edition with the corrected text by Campbell and the compelling photographs of J, I thought the plot of this story would be much more than it was, I expected that this would be an exciting psychological thriller but actually I found that the story was really just all over the place which made it quite confusing at times: There were parts that really grabbed my attention but the slow and confusing parts far outweighed those parts that were appealing. I also found that the main storyline seemed to be put back on the back burner while other parts of the story were more in the forefront, I wanted to read about a maniacal killer not a relationship between two messed up characters: This lead to parts of the story that I found were unnecessary: I found that there was no connection for me with any of them, Horridge the main character who I expected to be chilling creepy and beyond evil was really just a guy who was confused indecisive and mundane: I kept expecting him to turn into this psychotic serial killer and never really got that from him: He was not a nice guy by any means many consider this novel to be his ultimate classic. Poppy Brite the author of my all-time favorite serial killer horror novel (Exquisite Corpse) introduced a new edition of this novel, Peter Straub (Ghost Story) said it was one of his favorite horror novels. David Morrell (First Blood) and Whitley Strieber (Wolfen) blurbed it and if that was not enough the paperback I read had an introduction from Psycho author Robert Bloch: Sold yet? That should be enough but if not I'll tell you my opinion on this psycho-killer horror novel classic, The Face that Must die comes with a thirty plus pages forward that really is amazing: I feel like a jerk even suggesting the notion but is it possible that Campbell is pulling our chain as he stalks their gay neighbor and blames his own violence on others, Campbell is a master at the level of paranoid narrative and might even match some of Phil K, A lot of the suspense is built off of watching helplessly as the delusions deepen We see the trainwreck ahead but understand nothing can stop it, Standard moments of suspense pepper the story but the strength of the novel is found in Horridge's mind, In that sense it's fitting that Bloch wrote the introduction as the novel resembles Psycho in it's source of terror: If that sounds interesting and it should you should read this classic. Ramsey Campbell Ramsey Campbell's daring look into the mind of a psychotic killer was published in truncated form in 1979; an expanded edition was later published in 1982: The paranoid outlook of the book's main character Horridge is a grim commentary on a bleak Liverpool suburb and Thatcher-era England, Millipede Press is proud to present this masterpiece of paranoia literature in a brand new edition with the corrected text by Campbell and the compelling photographs of J. Ramsey Campbell is Britain's most respected living horror writer: The Face That Must Die THE FACE THAT MUST DIE This book deals with madness and

I must say I was left dealing with madness trying to finish this book: The pace was extremely slow so slow at times I found myself nodding off on more than one occasion: In general I prefer horror novels to have elements of horror the type of horror that actually scares you, Lifeless listless and comatose all describe me after reading this book: This is a different story for Campbell the horror in this story comes from madness not the supernatural or the cosmic, Instead we experience the paranoia and despising of society by a lunatic which is amusing even hilarious at times but is insidiously and increasingly creepy: Campbell's theme of urban blight and decay seen throughout much of his work has never come through better than here, It's got that counterculture and illicit druggie hangover feel of the 70's which mingles in and makes it all the more convincing. Cathy probably the most sympathetic character feels very vulnerable in the old rundown apartment building where murders are happening: He now finds himself relegated to living in a concrete labyrinthine graffiti-strewn slum and living off the public dole: He thinks everyone is spying on him that the radio announcer is speaking directly to him and listening as well. The story is told from various characters' perspectives which overlap with one another. There's a lot of walking around getting on buses stalking etc. But there's some truly scary moments in the second half which really had me on the edge of my seat. Ramsey Campbell The serial killer plot is a simple mechanism for Campbell to engage in his most paranoid prose: Campbell's writing is unsettlingly evocative in this bleak and disturbing read. Ramsey Campbell The story is told mostly through the perspective of an odious and most likely paranoid schizophrenic called Horridge, This entirely unpleasant man is hate-filled self-aggrandising homophobic and racist: He even has a limp and at times feels almost a Dickensian caricature. We are trapped in the mire of Horridge's psyche and even when we escape for brief respites we see echoes of similar paranoia in the fear or drug-heightened senses of others, Ramsey Campbell Ramsey Campbell is a British writer considered by a number of critics to be one of the great masters of horror fiction, Klein has written that Campbell reigns supreme in the field today while S: Joshi has said that future generations will regard him as the leading horror writer of our generation every bit the equal of Lovecraft or Blackwood. Ramsey Campbell is a British writer considered by a number of critics to be one of the great masters of horror fiction. Klein has written that Campbell reigns supreme in the field today while S: Joshi has said that future generations will regard him as the leading horror writer of our generation every bit the equal of Lovecraft or Blackwood[1]

But he was a far cry from malevolent. I expected one thing and got something totally different.K. Potter. One of his finest novels. I had read short stories before but nothing this lengthy. Overall I liked it. It really came across as a typical slasher story. Nothing groundbreaking but still suspenseful and interesting. Heartbreaking eerie stuff. Craig. I can say not really the case here.I did really enjoy the stark urban landscape as the backdrop.Cathy and Peter especially it was difficult for them. It felt like you were trapped with them.Also Miss Fanny the artist.This was interesting to me. I was glued to the pages. . . determined to make the world right.K. Potter.Ramsey Campbell is Britain's most respected living horror writer. The characters were just boring. They did not have any development at all. If that is your type of novel you must read it. Dick's deepest and most powerful delusions. It's a trip into the killer's mind.K. Potter. And her pothead boyfriend doesn't care doesn't want to move.The first half of this novel probably will bore some people. But the book doesn't let the reader off that easily. A powerful read but not a pleasant one. T. E. D. T. T. E. D. T. {site\_link}



