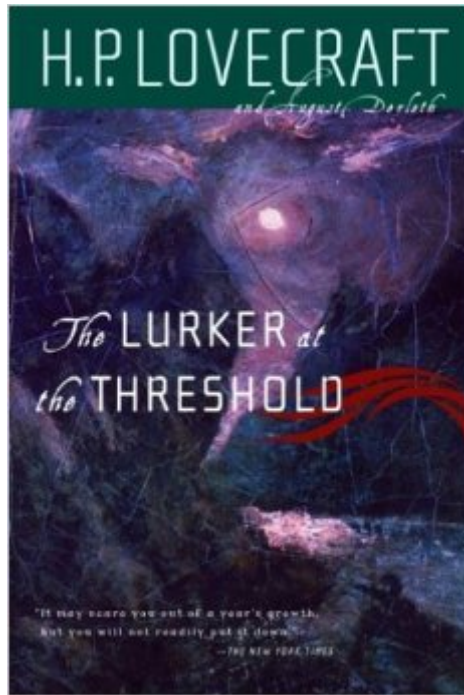


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The Lurker At The Threshold



Synopsis

He is not to open the door which leads to the strange time and place, nor to invite Him Who lurks at the threshold ..." went the warning in the old family manuscript that Ambrose Dewart discovered when he returned to his ancestral home in the deep woods of rural Massachusetts. Dewart's investigations into his family's sinister past eventually lead to the unspeakable revelations of The Great Old Ones who wait on the boundaries of space and time for someone to summon them to earth. Acclaimed cult horror writer H. P. Lovecraft's notes and outlines for this tale of uncanny terror were completed by August Derleth, his friend and future publisher. Of the many Lovecraft-Derleth "posthumous collaborations," *The Lurker at the Threshold* remains the most popular, having sold 50,000 copies in its previous edition alone.

Book Information

Paperback: 196 pages

Publisher: Carroll & Graf (June 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786711884

ISBN-13: 978-0786711888

Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 5.6 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #317,892 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror > United States](#)

Customer Reviews

Do you like slow-paced Gothic horror? If so, you're going to like "The Lurker at the Threshold," a leisurely paced novel concerning British gentleman Ambrose Dewart's descent into madness upon returning to the Massachusetts estate his family all but abandoned in the 19th Century. This isn't the best example of such a book, but it does have its pleasures and would have made a nice black-and-white thriller with Vincent Price back in the day. As such, I can recommend this if you like the style and aren't looking for endless arrays of grisly phantoms popping their skulls into your face every 20 pages or so. I've read it and enjoyed almost every minute of it. However, this novel most certainly is not a true collaboration between authors H.P. Lovecraft and August Derleth. That's where the trouble starts. Anyone truly familiar with Lovecraft's writing style is going to instantly realize that the byzantine sentence construction, the eldritch wizardry of the imagery, and the often

archiac and cerebral language we associate with Lovecraft just aren't there. (Derleth, to his credit, writes dialogue better than Lovecraft did and adds some human touches usually lacking in Lovecraft's characters.) Derleth seems to have used just a few paragraphs by Lovecraft as the springboard for an entire novel, padding it out with some paraphrased language from other Lovecraft stories such as "Charles Dexter Ward." This doesn't make the novel bad, just misleading. And a lot of unsuspecting people read this book and developed an opinion of Lovecraft that has nothing to do with the author's actual work. Why on earth can't the publisher include a foreword letting us know the truth behind the collaboration? I doubt it would hurt sales, and it would help to mend some broken fences.

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