

D.P. Watt

Newsletter *Spring 2020*



Dear Friends,

It has been a few months since I sent out a newsletter. I had hoped that sending it in Spring would see us all bright and fresh with the promise of a new season. Instead, we find ourselves in this terrible situation, battling an invisible enemy. Initially I thought it would be frivolous to send this now, but we all need to keep in touch, and keep each other strong, so I decided to go ahead. If anyone wants to drop me an email, just for a chat, then please do so. Keep yourselves safe! Do remember too that if you no longer wish to receive these newsletters then just let me know and I'll remove you from the list.

Although I'm sure your TBR piles are already groaning, given the current situation and until we have all emerged from our hibernation, I have decided to make my collection *The Phantasmagorical Imperative and Other Fabrications*, available as a PDF, for free, from my website [here](#), if you feel inclined to go on and buy a paperback copy of it then please do so [here](#) in the UK or [here](#) in the US; you'll also find links on my website to some free audio stories over at Tales to Terrify that might entertain.

Recent Publications

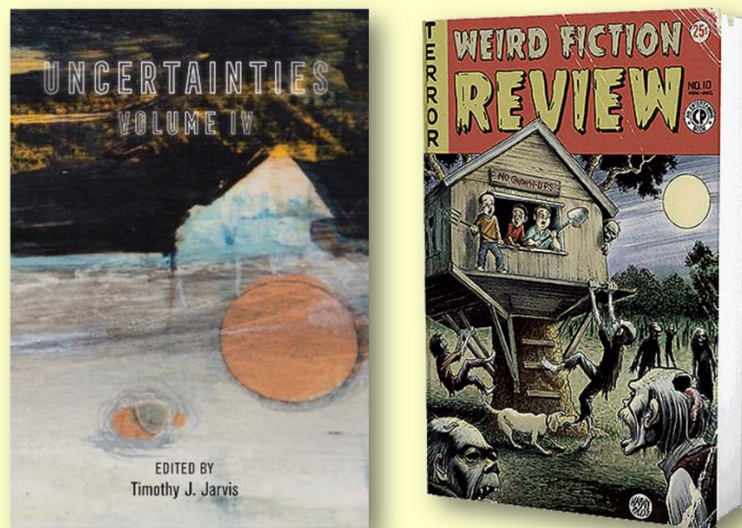
The end of last year saw a reprint of my Shirley Jackson Award nominated story, 'Blood and Smoke, Vinegar and Ashes', in Paula Guran's *Year's Best Dark Fantasy and Horror 2019*, and [Raphus Press](#) published my short story, 'Do Ut Des', in a lovely bi-lingual edition.



Then it was Christmas and New Year, a time when we were still able to meet other human beings...

As 2020 arrived Zagava published an interview that Martin Ruf did with me. Martin asked some fascinating questions... available [here](#).

Then came a couple more short stories, 'Primal' in [Uncertainties IV](#), ed. Timothy J. Jarvis, Swan River Press, and 'Harry's Pin' in [Weird Fiction Review 10](#), ed. John Pelan, Centipede Press. The former a tale of cults and family revelation, the latter a bloody tale of the British Grand Guignol...



In February, [Zagava Press](#) began to produce some handcrafted booklets, available for one month only. My story, 'Craft', funnily enough, about a handcrafted book, was the first in the series, the next ones up are from Mark Valentine and Jonathan Wood.



A few reviews have been coming in of my most recent collection, *Petals and Violins*, from Tartarus Press.



Andy Hedgecock, Black Static 74, March 2020

‘If *Petals and Violins* was a gig it would be two sets from Bruce Springsteen, sandwiching one from Dead Can Dance. The book opens and closes with sequences of subtly disturbing stories that rework, combine and perfect traditional motifs of the weird and macabre. In the middle is a series of experimental fragments, fusing a range of styles to produce a more detached and ambiguous, but equally disconcerting set of narratives... a fine collection that seized my attention with the opening story and held it to the last. It’s rich, varied and entertaining and draws on a range of traditions from the library of the weird. In addition, it proves the form is vital, relevant to our era and capable of endless reinvention. A compelling set of tales in a beautiful edition with the publisher’s trademark standards of paper, printing and binding.’

Paul St John Mackintosh, January 2020

‘It goes without saying that a writer this experienced is fully on top of his craft, and can turn a phrase or string a narrative with hooks. Weird or dark fiction, ghost stories, horror or surrealism, whatever you call it, this loose cluster of genres is in rude good health in Britain right now, and D.P. Watt is a tremendously accomplished practitioner. *Petals and Violins* is a box of dark gems.’

John Hirschorn Smith, January 2020

‘This volume also contains perhaps my very favourite Watt story, ‘Ophelia’. It’s a delicate tale of lost childhood innocence told from the perspective of a toy; a mere five pages long but seems to encapsulate all that is good in Watt’s weird world. It deserves the highest praise and will hopefully find its way into those ‘year’s best’ anthologies.’

Hopefully you have already secured your copy, if not Ray and Rosalie are still sending books out at the moment, so why not order one. If you have read it, reviews would be very welcome...

Forthcoming Publications

Mount Abraxas are currently printing my collection of critical writings, *Inner Rooms and Secret Quarters, Essays and Other Exaggerations*, containing twenty-five essays with over 450 pages and colour pages on the titles, plus a portfolio of accompanying photographs and images, and a wonderful cover by [Andrzej Welminski](#), it promises to be a great publication...



In a couple of months [Raphus Press](#) will be publishing *Chiaroscuro Void*, a volume inspired by Goya, it contains my story, 'Quinta del Sordo'...

Current Projects

Work continues on my two novellas that will be published together in one volume, with [Zagava Press](#), 'Darker than the Day' and 'Brighter than the Night', set in the strange world of previous stories such as 'The Usher', 'Autothysis', and 'Archontes Ascendant'.

Another novella is nearing completion, and work begins soon on a novel.

That's all for now, take care and keep well!

Best wishes,

Dan

D.P. Watt

[The Interlude House](#)