THE COLOUR OUT OF SPACE

By

H. P. LOVECRAFT

UNITED STATE

1924

ILLUSTRATED & PUBLISHED

BY

CHEAPEST BOOKS

www.cheapestboooks.com

Copyright, 2026

Istanbul

ISBN: 978-625-8829-32-7

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ABOUT AUTHOR



H. P. Lovecraft:

"*The Pioneer of Cosmic Horror*"

He was born on August 20, 1890, in Providence, Rhode Island, Howard Phillips Lovecraft led a life deeply marked by tragedy, isolation, and financial hardship. Raised by a troubled family after both of his parents suffered mental breakdowns and died in psychiatric care, Lovecraft grew up as a sickly, reclusive child plagued by vivid night terrors. He spent most of his youth immersed in dark literature and science, which heavily shaped his grim view of the world. Despite his immense talent, he lived much of his adult life in near-total poverty, working primarily as a ghostwriter and editor for pulp magazines like *Weird Tales*. He died of cancer in 1937 at the young age of 46, completely unrecognized by the mainstream literary world.

Following his death, Lovecraft's work underwent a massive global revival, permanently altering the landscape of modern fiction. He became the undisputed pioneer of "Cosmic Horror," a revolutionary subgenre that blended gothic horror with science fiction. Unlike classic tales of ghosts, vampires, or demons, Lovecraft introduced the philosophy of cosmicism: the terrifying idea that human beings are completely insignificant in a cold, vast universe ruled by ancient, uncaring alien deities.

His creation of the "Cthulhu Mythos"—a shared universe of forbidden books like the *Necronomicon* and colossal monsters—redefined how writers approach the fear of the unknown.

Today, Lovecraft is celebrated as one of the most influential horror authors of all time, standing alongside Edgar Allan Poe. His immense impact on world literature has inspired legendary creators like Stephen King, Guillermo del Toro, and Neil Gaiman, while his concepts continue to heavily shape modern cinema, video games, and pop culture. His unique style of blending psychological dread with alien existentialism was so groundbreaking that his very name became an official literary adjective worldwide: "Lovecraftian."

Literary Innovation: Cosmic Horror

- **Pioneer:** Invented the genre known as **Cosmic Horror**.
- **Philosophy:** Believed humanity is insignificant in the universe.

- **Themes:** Focused on forbidden knowledge and cosmic madness.
- **Subgenre:** Blended traditional gothic horror with modern science fiction.
- **Fear Factor:** Replaced ghosts and vampires with alien gods.
- **The Mythos:** Created the famous and terrifying **Cthulhu Mythos**.

Global Influence on World Literature

- **Posthumous Fame:** Achieved worldwide recognition only after death.
- **Cultural Icon:** Transformed modern horror, fantasy, and sci-fi.
- **Inspirations:** Directly shaped authors like Stephen King and Neil Gaiman.
- **Media Impact:** Influenced countless movies, video games, and board games.
- **Legacy:** His name became an official adjective: **"Lovecraftian."**

Here are H. P. Lovecraft's most essential masterpieces that shaped the cosmic horror genre and heavily influenced world literature:

- **The Call of Cthulhu (1926):** The most iconic story that laid the foundation for the Cthulhu Mythos, introducing the colossal, ancient alien deity sleeping at the bottom of the ocean.
- **At the Mountains of Madness (1931):** A brilliant blend of sci-fi and horror, this novella follows an Antarctic expedition that discovers the ruins of a monstrous alien civilization predating humanity.
- **The Shadow over Innsmouth (1931):** Lovecraft's most suspenseful and cinematic tale, focusing on a decaying, sinister port town inhabited by a mutated race of half-human, half-fish hybrids.
- **The Colour Out of Space (1927):** Lovecraft's personal favorite story, detailing a meteorite that crashes into a farm and poisons the surrounding nature and human minds with an incomprehensible alien color.
- **The Dunwich Horror (1928):** A core Mythos tale about a deformed boy's attempts to

use the *Necronomicon* to summon a terrifying cosmic god (Yog-Sothoth) into our world.

- **The Case of Charles Dexter Ward (1927):** Lovecraft's only full-length novel, exploring themes of alchemy, necromancy, and a young man who becomes dangerously possessed by the spirit of his wizard ancestor.
- **The Whisperer in Darkness (1930):** An early sci-fi horror classic involving a fungal alien race (the Mi-Go) hiding in the mountains of Vermont, capable of extracting human brains into metal cylinders for space travel.
- **The Shadow Out of Time (1934):** A mind-bending tale of psychological dread and time travel, where a professor's mind is swapped across millions of years with a member of a prehistoric alien race.
