

## Robert E Howard Ultimate Collection 300 Cult Classics Adventure Novels Western Horror Detective Stories Historical Books Including Poetry West The Cthulhu Mythos Tales And More

This early work by Robert E. Howard was originally published in 1933 and we are now republishing it with a brand new introductory biography. 'The Tower of the Elephant' is a story in the Conan series in which Conan tries to steal a precious gem from an evil sorcerer. Robert Ervin Howard was born in Peaster, Texas in 1906. During his youth, his family moved between a variety of Texan boomtowns, and Howard - a bookish and somewhat introverted child - was steeped in the violent myths and legends of the Old South. At fifteen Howard began to read the pulp magazines of the day, and to write more seriously. The December 1922 issue of his high school newspaper featured two of his stories, 'Golden Hope Christmas' and 'West is West'. In 1924 he sold his first piece - a short caveman tale titled 'Spear and Fang' - for \$16 to the not-yet-famous Weird Tales magazine. Howard's most famous character, Conan the Cimmerian, was a barbarian-turned-king during the Hyborian Age, a mythical period of some 12,000 years ago. Conan featured in seventeen Weird Tales stories between 1933 and 1936 which is why Howard is now regarded as having spawned the 'sword and sorcery' genre. The Conan stories have since been adapted many times, most famously in the series of films starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Robert E. Howard Foundation Press is proud to present the long-awaited index to the three-volume "The Collected Letters of Robert E. Howard." Compiled by Bobby Derie, author of "Sex and the Cthulhu Mythos," with a foreword and annotations by Howard scholar Jeffrey Shanks, this important reference work provides a much-needed tool for researchers studying the correspondence of the father of sword and sorcery and the creator of Conan the Cimmerian. Also included are seventeen letters by Howard newly discovered since the publication of "The Collected Letters," including several drafts of letters to H. P. Lovecraft. This index is a must-have for fans and scholars wishing to explore the fascinating epistolary corpus of one of the greatest fantasy adventure writers of the 20th century.

"For headling, nonstop adventure and for vivid, even florid, scenery, no one even comes close to Howard."—Harry Turtledove In a meteoric career that covered only a dozen years, Robert E. Howard defined the sword-and-sorcery genre. In doing so, he brought to life the archetypal adventurer known to millions around the world as Conan the barbarian. Witness, then, Howard at his finest, and Conan at his most savage, in the latest volume featuring the collected works of Robert E. Howard, lavishly illustrated by award-winning artist Greg Manchess. Prepared directly from the earliest known versions—often Howard's own manuscripts—are such sword-and-sorcery classics as "The Servants of Bit-Yakin" (formerly published as "Jewels of Gwahlur"), "Beyond the Black River," "The Black Stranger," "Man-Eaters of Zamboula" (formerly published as "Shadows in Zamboula"), and, perhaps his most famous adventure of all, "Red Nails." The Conquering Sword of Conan includes never-before-published outlines, notes, and story drafts, plus a new introduction, personal correspondence, and the revealing essay "Hyborian Genesis"—which chronicles the history of the creation of the Conan series. Truly, this is heroic fantasy at its finest.

In a meteoric career that spanned a mere twelve years, Robert E. Howard single-handedly invented the genre that came to be called sword and sorcery. From his fertile imagination sprang some of fiction's most enduring heroes. Yet while Conan is indisputably Howard's greatest creation, it was in his earlier sequence of tales featuring Kull, a fearless warrior with the brooding intellect of a philosopher, that Howard began to develop the distinctive themes, and the richly evocative blend of history and mythology, that would distinguish his later tales of the Hyborian Age. Much more than simply the prototype for Conan, Kull is a fascinating character in his own right: an exile from fabled Atlantis who wins the crown of Valusia, only to find it as much a burden as a prize. This groundbreaking collection, lavishly illustrated by award-winning artist Justin Sweet, gathers together all Howard's stories featuring Kull, from Kull's first published appearance, in "The Shadow Kingdom," to "Kings of the Night," Howard's last tale featuring the cerebral swordsman. The stories are presented just as Howard wrote them, with all subsequent editorial emendations removed. Also included are previously unpublished stories, drafts, and fragments, plus extensive notes on the texts, an introduction by Howard authority Steve Tompkins, and an essay by noted editor Patrice Louinet. Praise for Kull "Robert E. Howard had a gritty, vibrant style—broadsword writing that cut its way to the heart, with heroes who are truly larger than life."—David Gemmell "Howard's writing seems so highly charged with energy that it nearly gives off sparks."—Stephen King "Howard was a true storyteller—one of the first, and certainly among the best, you'll find in heroic fantasy. If you've never read him before, you're in for a real treat."—Charles de Lint "For stark, living fear . . . what other writer is even in the running with Robert E. Howard?"—H. P. Lovecraft

Bran Mak Morn

Difficult Conversations

The Collected Fight Stories of Robert E. Howard

Black Vulmea's Vengeance

El Borak and Other Desert Adventures

The Coming of Conan

With Conan the Cimmerian, Robert E. Howard created more than the greatest action hero of the twentieth century—he also launched a genre that came to be known as sword and sorcery. But Conan wasn't the first archetypal adventurer to spring from Howard's fertile imagination. "He was . . . a strange blending of Puritan and Cavalier, with a touch of the ancient philosopher, and more than a touch of the pagan. . . . A hunger in his soul drove him on and on, an urge to right all wrongs, protect all weaker things. . . . Wayward and restless as the wind, he was consistent in only one respect—he was true to his ideals of justice and right. Such was Solomon Kane." Collected in this volume, lavishly illustrated by award-winning artist Gary Gianni, are all of the stories and poems that make up the thrilling saga of the dour and deadly Puritan, Solomon Kane. Together they constitute a sprawling epic of weird fantasy adventure that stretches from sixteenth-century England to remote African jungles where no white man has set foot. Here are shudder-inducing tales of vengeful ghosts and bloodthirsty demons, of dark sorceries wielded by evil men and women, all opposed by a grim avenger armed with a fanatic's faith and a warrior's savage heart. This edition also features exclusive story fragments, a biography of Howard by scholar Rusty Burke, and "In Memoriam," H. P. Lovecraft's moving tribute to his friend and fellow literary genius.

Bran Mak Morn, King of the Picts, vows revenge on the Roman governor after witnessing the crucifixion of a fellow Pict. He seeks forbidden aid from the Worms of the Earth, a race of creatures who Bran Mak Morn's ancestors had banished from the surface of the earth...

Robert E. Howard is the world-renowned author of the Conan series and the stories that were the basis of the recent Kull movie. He also was one of H.P. Lovecraft's frequent correspondents, and an author of many pivotal Mythos tales. This book collects together all of Howard's Mythos tales, including the tales that originated Gol-Goroth, Unaussprechlichen Kulten, and Friedrich Von Junzt. Included in this collections are several fragments left behind by Robert E. Howard which have been completed by a variety of authors. This book has been long anticipated by readers of H.P. Lovecraft and Call of Cthulhu players alike.

This is writing as sheer, relentless excitement, from the grandmaster of pulp fiction. The indomitable Kull faces a deadly plot from the priests of a serpent god, and sleeps through centuries to lead an army in an epic conflict; a vengeful curse twists the will of the living and causes the dead to walk; during an elaborate criminal conspiracy in the wild west, the only justice comes through the barrel of a gun; and, of course, the barbarian king of sword-and-sorcery, Conan of Cimmeria scales walls, flexes his muscle and does battle with devious foes and grotesque monsters. 'The force and fury of his writing . . . was powerful beyond his hero Conan's wildest dreams.' Stephen King

The End of the Trail

Grim Lands

Exile of Atlantis

Under the Banner of Heaven

The Conan Chronicles

Sword & Sorcery Fiction Including Complete Conan the Barbarian, Solomon Kane and Kull the Conqueror Series, as well as Weird Fiction, Fantasy Stories of the Weird West, The Cthulhu Mythos Tales and more

Robert E. Howard is famous for creating such immortal heroes as Conan the Cimmerian, Solomon Kane, and Bran Mak Morn. Less well-known but equally extraordinary are his non-fantasy adventure stories set in the Middle East and featuring such two-fisted heroes as Francis Xavier Gordon—known as “El Borak”—Kirby O'Donnell, and Steve Clarney.

This trio of hard-fighting Americans, civilized men with more than a touch of the primordial in their veins, marked a new direction for Howard's writing, and new territory for his genius to conquer. The wily Texan El Borak, a hardened fighter who stalks the sandscapes of Afghanistan like a vengeful wolf, is rivaled among Howard's creations only by Conan himself. In such classic tales as “The Daughter of Erlik Khan,” “Three-Bladed Doom,” and “Sons of the Hawk,” Howard proves himself once again a master of action, and with plenty of eerie atmosphere his plotting becomes tighter and twistier than ever, resulting in stories worthy of comparison to Jack London and Rudyard Kipling. Every fan of Robert E. Howard and aficionados of great adventure writing will want to own this collection of the best of Howard's desert tales, lavishly illustrated by award-winning artists Tim Bradstreet and Jim & Ruth Keegan.

In 1970, Barry Windsor-Smith burst onto the comic-book scene with his dynamic portrayal of Robert E. Howard's Conan the Barbarian, altering the course of the blue-eyed Cimmerian forever, and cementing himself as one of the greatest artists to touch pencil to paper. Nearly forty years later, Dark Horse Comics, in the tradition of the Dark Horse Archives collections, reprints Barry Windsor-Smith's entire run on Marvel's Conan the Barbarian in two fine hardcover volumes! The first volume of The Barry Windsor-Smith Conan Archives includes such classic tales as “Rogues in the House” and “The Tower of the Elephant,” written by Roy Thomas and fully illustrated by Barry Windsor-Smith — now presented as they were intended, in their stunning original color!

“[Behind Howard's stories] lurks a dark poetry and the timeless truth of dreams.” –Robert Bloch “Howard's writing seems so highly charged with energy that it nearly gives off sparks.” –Stephen King The classic pulp magazines of the early twentieth century are long gone, but their action-packed tales live on through the work of legendary storyteller Robert E. Howard. From his fecund imagination sprang an army of larger-than-life heroes—including the iconic Conan the Cimmerian, King Kull of Atlantis, Solomon Kane, and Bran Mak Morn—as well as adventures that would define a genre for generations. Now comes the second volume of this author's breathtaking short fiction, which runs the gamut from sword and sorcery, historical epic, and seafaring pirate adventure to two-fisted crime and intrigue, ghoulish horror, and rip-roaring western. Kull reigns supreme in “By This Axe I Rule!” and “The Mirrors of Tuzan Thune”; Conan conquers in one of his most popular exploits, “The Tower of the Elephant”; Solomon Kane battles demons deep in Africa in “Wings in the Night”; and itinerant boxer Steve Costigan puts up his dukes of steel inside and outside the ring in “The Bulldog Breed.” In between, warrior kings, daring knights, sinister masterminds, grizzled frontiersmen—even Howard's stunning heroine, Red Sonya—tear up the pages in stories built to thrill by their masterly creator. And in such epic poems as “Echoes from an Anvil,” “Black Harps in the Hills,” and “The Grim Land,” the author blends his classic characters and visceral imagery with a lyricism as haunting as traditional folk balladry. Lavishly illustrated by Jim and Ruth Keegan, here is a Robert E. Howard collection as indispensable as it is unforgettable. “Howard had a gritty, vibrant style—broadsword writing that cut its way to the heart, with heroes who are truly larger than life.” –David Gemmell “For stark, living fear . . . What other writer is even in the running with Robert E. Howard?” –H. P. Lovecraft

This carefully crafted ebook: "ROBERT E. HOWARD Ultimate Collection – 300+ Cult Classics, Adventure Novels, Western, Horror & Detective Stories, Historical Books (Including Poetry, Essays, Articles & Letters) - ALL in One Volume" is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. Robert Ervin Howard (1906 – 1936) was an American author who wrote pulp fiction in a diverse range of genres. He is well known for his character Conan the Barbarian and is regarded as the father of the sword and sorcery subgenre. In the pages of the Depression-era pulp magazine Weird Tales, Howard created Conan the Barbarian, a character whose cultural impact has been compared to such icons as Batman, Count Dracula, James Bond, Sherlock Holmes, and Tarzan. Table of Contents: Fantasy Stories: 'Conan the Barbarian' Stories The 'Kull' Stories The 'Solomon Kane' Stories The 'Bran Mak Morn' Stories The 'Turlogh Dubh O'Brien' Stories The 'James Allison' Stories Other Fantasy Stories Boxing Stories: The 'Sailor Steve Costigan' Stories Other Boxing Stories Western Stories: The 'Breckinridge Elkins' Stories The 'Pike Bearfield' Stories The 'Buckner Jeopardy Grimes' Stories Other Western Stories Historical Stories: The 'El Borak' Stories The 'Cormac Fitzgeoffrey' Stories The 'Kirby O'Donnell' Stories The 'Black Vulmea' Stories The 'Helen Tavrel' Story Other Historical Stories Horror Stories: The 'John Kirowan' Stories The Faring Town Saga The 'De Montour' Stories The Weird West Stories Other Weird Menace Other Cthulhu Mythos

Stories Other Horror Stories Detective Stories: The 'Steve Harrison' Stories Spicy Stories: The 'Wild Bill Clanton' Stories Poetry Essays and Articles Letters A Tribute Poem Centenary Edition

The Tower of the Elephant

Conan

Solomon Kane

The Horror Stories of Robert E. Howard

A Collector's Descriptive Bibliography of American and British Hardcover, Paperback, Magazine, Special and Amateur Editions, with a Biography

**This early work by Robert E. Howard was originally published in 1929 and we are now republishing it with a brand new introductory biography. 'The Shadow Kingdom' is a story in the Kull series in which Kull is tricked by the Serpent Men and barely escapes with his life. Robert Ervin Howard was born in Peaster, Texas in 1906. During his youth, his family moved between a variety of Texan boomtowns, and Howard - a bookish and somewhat introverted child - was steeped in the violent myths and legends of the Old South. At fifteen Howard began to read the pulp magazines of the day, and to write more seriously. The December 1922 issue of his high school newspaper featured two of his stories, 'Golden Hope Christmas' and 'West is West'. In 1924 he sold his first piece - a short caveman tale titled 'Spear and Fang' - for \$16 to the not-yet-famous Weird Tales magazine. Howard's most famous character, Conan the Cimmerian, was a barbarian-turned-King during the Hyborian Age, a mythical period of some 12,000 years ago. Conan featured in seventeen Weird Tales stories between 1933 and 1936 which is why Howard is now regarded as having spawned the 'sword and sorcery' genre. The Conan stories have since been adapted many times, most famously in the series of films starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.**

**A tale about Cthulhu, the greatest of the true gods of Earth whose name can be found only in ancient, blasphemous manuscripts, and the demonic rites of the Old Ones**

**A sumptuous collection of epic fantasy heroes from the pen of Robert E. Howard, one of the true Masters of Fantasy Robert E. Howard was a pulpwriter who turned his hand to everything from historical adventure and detective stories to Western and boxing fiction - and invented the genre now known as sword-and-sorcery: it is for these tales of heroic fantasy and horror that he is best remembered. His mighty heroes - including an English Puritan adventurer sent on redressing grievous wrongs, the king of a mythical, antediluvian empire contemporary with Atlantis, a Pictish warrior-king - all these brothers of the sword and more bestrode the pages of WEIRD TALES and the other pulp magazines of the twenties and thirties. This companion volume follows on from the success of the first Gollancz Big Black Book featuring Howard's world-famous barbarian king, and contains all the stories featuring his brothers-in-arms, collected together in chronological order, as fresh and atmospheric today as when they were first published in the pulp magazines of more than eighty years ago. Compiled by and with an Afterword by award-winning writer and editor Stephen Jones, and with cover image, frontispiece and internal pictures by the award-winning artist Les Edwards.**

**Reproduction of the original: The People of the Black Circle by Robert E. Howard**

**Western Stories**

**The Silver Bear: A Novel (Silver Bear Thrillers)**

**The Last King**

**The Complete Weird Tales Omnibus**

**The Man in the High Castle**

**Omnibus**

Lavishly illustrated with black-and-white art by the team behind Dark Horse Comic's "The Adventures of Two-Gun Bob," an anthology of Howard's classic desert adventures featuring Dark Agnes restores each tale to its earliest, most definitive version. Original.

Conan the Cimmerian: he rose from boy-thief and mercenary to become king of Aquilonia. Neither supernatural fiends nor demonic sorcery could oppose the barbarian warrior as he and dispatched his enemies to a bloody doom on the battlefields of the legendary Hyborian Age. A classic fantasy featuring one of the most iconic figures of the genre, The Conan action-packed, romance-filled fantasy masterpiece.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the author of Into the Wild and Into Thin Air, this extraordinary work of investigative journalism takes readers inside America's isolated Mormon fundamentalist communities. Defying both civil authorities and the Mormon establishment in Salt Lake City, the renegade leaders of these Taliban-like theocracies are zealots who answer only to God and practice polygamy in these communities. At the core of Krakauer's book are brothers Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a commandment from God to kill a blameless victim. Beginning with a meticulously researched account of this appalling double murder, Krakauer constructs a multi-layered, bone-chilling narrative of messianic delusion, polygamy, savagery, and unyielding faith. Along the way he uncovers a shadowy offshoot of America's fastest growing religion, and raises provocative questions about the nature of religious belief.

This is a collection of stories that are set in the time of the Crusades. They are not part of the fantasy stories that Howard is famous for. but can be classified as belonging to the

The Conan Chronicles 1

The Mythos and Kindred Horrors

The Complete Collection of Published Stories

The Best of Robert E. Howard Volume 2

Waterfront Fists and Others

Nameless Cults

**Solomon Kane is a sixteenth century anti-hero created by renowned sword and sorcery author Robert E Howard (creator of Conan the Barbarian). When Solomon Kane meets the Devil's Reaper, he postpones his fate by renouncing violence - a vow that is soon tested by the forces of evil. Compelled to once again strap on his weapons, he embarks on an epic journey of redemption.**

**Offers advice on working gracefully and effectively through such confrontational situations as ending relationships and asking for a raise, identifying key adjustments necessary to the dialogue process.**

**It is impossible to ignore the sheer number of boxing stories that Robert E. Howard wrote. Serious or funny, spooky or adventurous, these stories represent a fierce creative outburst that would pave the way later for his western hero, Breckenridge Elkins. In these stories we see Howard's craft pushed from mere construction to passionate involvement. He took all of his interests and peppered them through the various boxing stories. He wrote them faster than the magazine could print them. Clearly, he loved what he was doing. When Howard could write no more, he went on to draft Conan and the aforementioned Elkins, who owes much in style and content to the Costigan stories. The fight stories are a joy to read and reread. They are funny, bawdy, picaresque, and violent. Presented here, as they were originally printed, they perfectly showcase why Robert E. Howard was one of the greatest adventure writers of the 20th century.**

**In a classic work of alternate history, the United States is divided up and ruled by the Axis powers after the defeat of the Allies during World War II.**

**Reissue. Winner of the Hugo Award for Best Novel.**

**Robert E. Howard, the Final Years**

**Conan's Brethren**

**Robert E. Howard's Sailor Steve Costigan**

**Kull**

**The Conan the Barbarian Stories**

**Worms of the Earth**

*This early work by Robert E. Howard was originally published in 1938 and we are now republishing it with a brand new introductory biography. 'Black Vulmea's Vengeance' is a story in the Black Vulmea series about an Irish pirate sailing the Caribbean. Robert Ervin Howard was born in Peaster, Texas in 1906. During his youth, his family moved between a variety of Texan boomtowns, and Howard - a bookish and somewhat introverted child - was steeped in the violent myths and legends of the Old South. At fifteen Howard began to read the pulp magazines of the day, and to write more seriously. The December 1922 issue of his high school newspaper featured two of his stories, 'Golden Hope Christmas' and 'West is West'. In 1924 he sold his first piece - a short caveman tale titled 'Spear and Fang' - for \$16 to the not-yet-famous Weird Tales magazine. Howard's most famous character, Conan the Cimmerian, was a barbarian-turned-King during the Hyborian Age, a mythical period of some 12,000 years ago. Conan featured in seventeen Weird Tales stories between 1933 and 1936 which is why Howard is now regarded as having spawned the 'sword and sorcery' genre. The Conan stories have since been adapted many times, most famously in the series of films starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.*

*Robert E. Howard published primarily in pulp magazines, creating memorable characters like Conan of Cimmeria. After his suicide at the age of 30, pulps continued publishing Howard material posthumously. His first hardcover book appeared in 1937, a year after his death. That book, A Gent from Bear Creek, is the holy grail for Howard collectors--only 12 original copies are known to exist. This invaluable resource for Howard collectors has information for every known published work. Initial chapters provide a biography, discuss Howard's literary legacy, and give basic tips about book collecting and selling. The main body of the work is a bibliography of Howard's published works from 1925 through 2005. A thorough index locates the publication of every Howard story or poem.*

*Here are Robert E. Howard's greatest horror tales, all in their original, definitive versions. Some of Howard's best-known characters—Solomon Kane, Bran Mak Morn, and sailor Steve Costigan among them—roam the forbidding locales of the author's fevered imagination, from the swamps and bayous of the Deep South to the fiend-haunted woods outside Paris to remote jungles in Africa. The collection includes Howard's masterpiece "Pigeons from Hell," which Stephen King calls "one of the finest horror stories of [the twentieth] century," a tale of two travelers who stumble upon the ruins of a Southern plantation—and into the maw of its fatal secret. In "Black Canaan" even the best warrior has little chance of taking down the evil voodoo man with unholy powers—and none at all against his wily mistress, the diabolical High Priestess of Damballah. In these and other lavishly illustrated classics, such as the revenge nightmare "Worms of the Earth" and "The Cairn on the Headland," Howard spins tales of unrelenting terror, the legacy of one of the world's great masters of the macabre.*

*Capturing the harsh realities of life in the Old West, a collection of short fiction by the creator of Conan features twelve stories of outlaws, gunfighters, lawmen, and others for whom loyalty, courage, and personal codes of honor are more important than the trappings of civilization. Simultaneous.*

*The Collected Letters of Robert E. Howard - Index and Addenda*

*The Sowers of Thunder*

*The Conquering Sword of Conan*

*The Complete Cthulhu Mythos Tales Of Robert E. Howard*

*Sword Woman and Other Historical Adventures*

*ROBERT E. HOWARD Ultimate Collection - 300+ Cult Classics, Adventure Novels, Western, Horror & Detective Stories, Historical Books (Including Poetry, Essays, Articles & Letters) - ALL in One Volume*

Discover the elements of style and personality that would define the writing of Robert E. Howard, creator of Conan, Kull, Solomon Kane, and one of the most influential pulp writers.

The start of one of the greatest fantasy stories ever told. Contains the first short stories featuring Robert E. Howard's legendary Conan, one of the most iconic fantasy characters.

rarified list next to Gandalf and Harry Potter. Also includes stories of of Kull of Atlantis, and an essay on the history of their world. Includes "The Tower of the Elephant," "The God i

"Rogues in the House," "The Frost-Giant's Daughter," and "Queen of the Black Coast." Penguin Random House Canada is proud to bring you classic works of literature in e-book form.

highest quality production values. Find more today and rediscover books you never knew you loved.

Before Robert Jordan conquered the bestseller lists with his phenomenally successful Wheel of Time series, he revived the legendary fantasy hero, Conan the Cimmerian. These wide

adventures introduced the world-famous barbarian to a new generation of readers. This volume contains three tales, CONAN THE INVISIBLE, CONAN THE DEFENDER and CONAN THE

UNCONQUERED, all of which feature the storytelling magic and epic splendour that have made Robert Jordan one of the best-loved fantasy authors of all time.

The definitive edition of Conan, featuring every story published in Robert E. Howard's lifetime Arranged in what contemporary scholars consider the preferred reading order, this ext

collection of Conan stories covers every piece that Robert E. Howard published in the thirties, and includes his essay on the world of Conan, The Hyborean Age. The perfect starting

interested in one of the greatest heroic characters of all time, Conan has been lovingly produced by Broadsword Books as an introduction to their new Broadsword Legacy imprint.

and including a new introduction covering the life of Robert E. Howard and his career writing Conan, this is a must-have volume for any fan of heroic fantasy.

*The Shadow Kingdom*

*The Complete Chronicles Of Conan*

*The People of the Black Circle*

*The Savage Tales of Solomon Kane*

*Heroes in the Wind*

*One who Walked Alone*

***The intense psychological portrait of a hitman—the anti-Jason Bourne—as he stalks his prey from Boston to LA. He wants you to know him, maybe even admire him, but only for his excellence in his craft. Perhaps he was even born for it. "A natural killer," his mentor—a middleman named Vespucci—said he was. He proved it with his first professional hit: a Fifth Circuit Court judge in Boston, executed with a sheet of Saran Wrap in the stairwell of her own courthouse. He's proved his merit often, usually with a Glock semiautomatic, but he's improvised too, with his bare hands, the heel of a shoe, knives, even a sewing machine. He is the consummate assassin, at the top of his form, immune to the psychological strains of his chosen profession. He is what the Russians call a Silver Bear. He calls himself Columbus. It's the name Vespucci gave him, ten years ago, when he discovered a dark, new world of fences, clients, marks, jobs, jack. Not that his real name meant much to him anyway. He never knew his father or his mother, a prostitute who became dangerously involved back in the seventies with an earnest young congressman named Abe Mann, then a rising star in the Democratic Party. The magnetic Abe Mann has since become the Speaker of the House. He is currently running for the Democratic nomination in an exhausting presidential campaign, weaving his way across the country. Columbus is not far behind. But as he pieces together his past and prepares the seamless assassination of his mark, the criminal underworld he has always ruled begins unraveling violently around him.***

***Robert E. Howard is best known today for his "sword-and-sorcery" stories. But in the early 1930s, he was a legend in boxing circles for his humorously over-the-top adventure stories starring the sailor Steve Costigan, champ of the Sea Girl -- the toughest trading vessel on the Seven Seas. Steve is an A.B. mariner and amateur boxer, with a heart of gold -- and a head of solid wood. In these 21 tales, he blows around the waterfronts of various Far East ports with his white bulldog Mike, getting swindled by clever dames, pummeling the occasional underworld criminal, and getting into epic fistic battles with anyone who can take a good punch -- in or out of the ring. Here's a taste -- the first four paragraphs of "Circus Fists" ME AND THE Old Man had a most violent row whilst the Sea Girl was tied up at the docks of a small seaport on the West Coast. Somebody put a pole-cat in the Old Man's bunk, and he accused me of doing it. I denied it indignantly, and asked him where he reckoned I would get a pole-cat, and he said well, it was a cinch somebody had got a pole-cat, because there it was, and it was his opinion that I was the only man of the crew which was low-down enough to do a trick like that. This irritated me, and I told him he oughta know it wasn't me, because I had the reputation of being kind to animals, and I wouldn't put a decent skunk where it would have to associate with a critter like the Old Man. This made him so mad that he busted a bottle of good rye whiskey over my head. Annoyed at such wanton waste of good licker, I grabbed the old walrus and soused him in a horse-trough-us being on the docks at the time. The Old Man ariz like Neptune from the deep, and, with whiskers dripping, he shook his fists at me and yelled, "Don't never darken my decks again, Steve Costigan. If you ever try to come aboard the Sea Girl, I'll fill you fulla buckshot, you mutineerin' pirate!" "Go set on a marlin-spike," I sneered. "I wouldn't sail with you again for ten bucks a watch and plum duff every mess. I'm through with the sea, anyhow. You gimme a bad taste for the whole business. A landman's life is the life for me, by golly. Me and Mike is goin' to fare forth and win fame and fortune ashore."***

***This 860-page collection contains all of Robert E. Howard's Conan the Cimmerian stories published during his lifetime, contextualized with biographical details of their author. The hardcover, a Multimedia Bundle Edition, includes the e-book and audiobook editions as downloadable bonus content. Excerpt from Introduction: "When the first Conan of Cimmeria***

*story appeared in the pages of Weird Tales magazine in December 1932, nothing quite like it had ever before appeared in print. Author Robert E. Howard had been writing stories broadly similar to it for half a decade; but it was with Conan, and the Hyborian Age storyworld in which he was placed, that Howard finally fully doped out the sub-genre that would become known as "sword and sorcery," of which Howard is today considered the founding father. "Conan's origins date back to an experiment in 1926 titled "The Shadow Kingdom," featuring the character Kull, exile of Atlantis. The idea -- Howard's great innovation -- was, at its core, historical fiction set in a pre-historical period. That pre-historical period -- being, of course, lost in the mists of time -- could contain anything Howard might like to include: evil races of sentient snake-things, sorcerers, undead creatures, demons walking upon the earth, anything. "In other words, Howard was creating a secular mythology. "And as with any mythology, secular or no, there would be a hero, a Ulysses or a Theseus, an exceptional man of legend striding through that myth-world, sword in hand, righting wrongs and slaying supernatural monsters and, along the way, providing metaphorical insight onto his world and ours. "At the same time, he was finding success with another historical-fiction-fusion innovation: The grim, savage English Puritan Solomon Kane. Kane's world was the skull-strewn chaos of Europe and north Africa during the Thirty Years War, in the early 1600s. Little enough is known about specific events during that dark time that it was possible to take historical liberties with it as a storyworld, so that it could accommodate dark magic, walking skeletons, vampires, magic staffs, and, of course, N'Longa the witch-doctor. "Howard quickly realized he was onto something with Solomon Kane. The first Solomon Kane story, "Red Shadows," appeared in August 1928 in Weird Tales, and readers loved it. Here was a dark, brooding world of menace and witchcraft connected pseudo-genealogically to their own. It was easy for readers to "take the ride" -- to suspend their disbelief and envision Kane's adventures as a part of the real world. "But, perhaps the connection with the real world was too close. The countries of 1630s Europe are well known; the causes of the conflict fully understood. There was only so much Howard could do in Solomon Kane's world. Moreover, Solomon Kane is just a hard character to root for. Unlike Kull, he is, not to put too fine a point on it, really not a sane man. "So it makes perfect sense that after the shadowy, prehistoric world of Kull and the dark, necromantic world of Solomon Kane, Howard would combine these two precursors to develop a world that was far enough into the distant past to be free of actual historical constraints -- like Kull's -- yet close enough to the present to still exist as echoes and legends in the world's mythologies. "And so Howard created The Hyborian Age, circa 10,000 B.C. And to play the role of our avatar as we explore this shadowy, almost-historical world, he gave us Conan the Cimmerian - to tread the jeweled thrones of the Earth under his sandalled feet." An action-packed collection of Conan the Barbarian's wild adventures. In this unparalleled collection from a literary mastermind, swordsman Conan the Barbarian faces powerful sorcerers, deadly creatures, and ruthless armies of thieves. With his character Conan the Barbarian, author Robert E. Howard single-handedly invented the genre that came to be known as sword and sorcery. In this volume are eighteen Conan stories, including a classic of dark fantasy, "The Phoenix and the Sword," and the classic adventure "The Devil in Iron." These timeless stories feature Conan the raw and dangerous youth, Conan the daring thief, Conan the swashbuckling pirate, and Conan the commander of armies, and bring to mind the pulp tales that dominated the mid-twentieth century. The Conan the Barbarian Stories includes "The Phoenix on the Sword," "The Scarlet Citadel," "The Tower of the Elephant," "Black Colossus," "The Slithering Shadow," "The Pool of the Black One," "Rogues in the House," "Gods of the North," "Shadows in the Moonlight," "Queen of the Black Coast," "The Devil in Iron," "The People of the Black Circle," "A Witch Shall be Born," "Jewels of Gwahlur," "Beyond the Black River," "Shadows in Zamboula," "Red Nails," and "The Hyborian Age." This ebook has been professionally proofread to ensure accuracy and readability on all devices.*

**Cthulhu**

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