



# The Collected Strange Stories Of Robert Aickman:

## I

*Robert Aickman , David Tibet (Contributor) , Ramsey Campbell (Contributor)*

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Contents:

-a quote from Stenbock

-Robert Aickman: An Appreciation, by David Tibet

-An Essay by Robert Aickman

-Remembering Robert, by Ramsey Campbell

-The Trains/ The Insufficient Answer/ The View/ The School Friend/ Ringing the Changes/ Choice of Weapons/ The Waiting Room/ Bind Your Hair/ Your Tiny Hand is Frozen/ My Poor Friend/ The Visiting Star/ Larger Than Oneself/ A Roman Question/ The Wine-Dark Sea/ Ravissante/ The Inner Room/ Never Visit Venice/ The Unsettled Dust/ The Houses of the Russians/ No Stronger Than a Flower/ The Cicerones/ Into the Wood.

*..with Volume II, not sold separately.*

*Note: An addendum was produced for the volumes.*

## The Collected Strange Stories Of Robert Aickman: I Details

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Author : Robert Aickman , David Tibet (Contributor) , Ramsey Campbell (Contributor)

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## **From Reader Review The Collected Strange Stories Of Robert Aickman: I for online ebook**

### **Maartje says**

I must admit I don't understand the amount of raving reviews of Robert Aickman's short stories. Though I am an avid reader, and definitely not afraid of difficult writing styles, most of Aickman's stories seem completely pointless to me. One can only digest so much symbolism, and even then, i.m.o. it needs to serve some purpose, and not being a purpose in itself. The stories remind me of David Lynch movies.

If you want to read Aickman, this review on Amazon might prove really helpful. It tells you which stories are worth reading. My advise: skip the rest!

<http://www.amazon.com/review/RTKWRAOX...>

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### **Aric says**

Robert Aickman is my absolute favorite author. His stories are surreal, haunting, psychological, dangerous, magical and well written. This is the first volume of a two volume set which made the task of collecting his work much easier and cheaper than it would have been otherwise. Tartarus Press does a service by reprinting his work.

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### **mark monday says**

We Are for the Dark: Six Ghost Stories by Robert Aickman and Elizabeth Jane Howard.

review is for the 3 Robert Aickman stories in that collection. apparently Elizabeth Jane Howard had some slippery business with Aickman. I wish I had the actual book so I could have read her stories as well. alas!

fortunately his stories are in this excellent Tartarus Press omnibus, which also includes 3 interesting nonfiction pieces by Ramsey Campbell, David Tibet, and Aickman himself.

3 unusual domiciles of uncertain danger: a manor sitting solitary in rainy northern England, its only companions the trains rumbling frequently by its side; a crumbling ruin in Slovenia, home to two eccentric Englishwomen and servants who must remain silent; a mansion on a sunny island, somewhere south of England, somewhere south of everyday, humdrum reality.

as is his wont, Aickman toys with his readers: what at first may seem sinister or magical is soon understood to be prosaic and normal... odd but understandable. but then, just as quickly, the unease returns... a building or a person or a situation inexplicably gains layers of strangeness and menace, a sense of offness builds, sliding characters and readers into an ambiguously threatening unknown, out of the everyday and into grayer, more uncertain territories.

*The blackness of the building was no effect of the light, but the consequence of inlaid soot.*

*"It's right on top of the railway," cried Mimi. Struggling through the murk, they had not noticed that.*

*There was a huge front door, grim with grime.*

*"What a hope!" said Mimi, as she hauled on the bell handle.*

*"It's a curious bell," said Margaret, examining the mechanism, and valiant to the soaking shivering end. "It's like the handles you see in signal boxes."*

3 interlopers not used to straying from the comforting numbness of home, finding themselves far astray: a sheltered young woman on her first cross-country hike; an aimless son of gentry traveling abroad in search of a recluse; a gray company man, suffering from emotional exhaustion, taking a very extended holiday.

3 sets of threats for our ill-fated trespassers: a garrulous aristocrat and a servant of questionable gender; a brilliant sculptress and her sickly companion; an enchanting woman and the lone, hulking man who sits silently on her grounds. 3 strange situations made even stranger by the mundanity of that strangeness.

*...he had never seen anything like the shadowy stronghold room lighted by the two bundles of flame high above Miss Franklin's unremarkable head, commonplace features, and customary dress.*

Aickman turns a ghost story into something less haunting yet more horrible, with an ending full of bleak irony. he shows how humanly fallible a pair of eccentric women with only each other can be - until their foibles become monstrous and their need for control - inhuman. he takes the myths of Circe and of how human time differs from faerie time, how time slips and slides away away from all of us, and spins a bewilderingly sad tale of time lost and little gained, a life in tragic miniature.

3 different endings but only one lesson to be learned: the world and its puzzling mysteries will crush you, if given a chance. 'tis foolish to ask questions that have answers you have not been bred to understand; 'tis best to stay safe, in your tidy, tiny, meaningless holes.

*"You must have noticed it is always too late when questions are answered and hopes fulfilled and sacrifices made and murder done. Because it is always later than you think."*

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## **Christopher Marshall says**

"Bind Your Hair," "Ravissante," "The School Friend," and "My Poor Friend" from Vol.

