



What Makes a Good Internet Horror?

**The Mandela Catalogue:
The Best Theories**

**Nephthys Media:
An Underreported
YouTube Series**

Top Podcast Picks

**OCT.
22**

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#5

BROADCAST SCHEDULE



4 A Word from SCP-049

Our Editor, the Plague Doctor, wishes to have a word with you. It's about the Pestilence. It seems you've contracted it...



6 Spotlights

Our guest writer, Long Horse, share his picks of his favorite horror podcast episodes, from The Dark Somnium to Full Body Chills to Creepy.



10 Feature

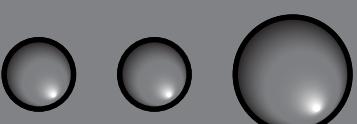
In the feature article we explore some of the elements that the best horror series on the internet share, such as ambiguity and suspense.



2ND BROTHER

Photo credits

Local 58 logo: Wikipedia
SCP-049: SCP Wiki (scp-wiki.wikidot.com)
"Creepy" Podcast cover art: Spotify screenshot
Nephthys Media: YouTube screenshot



ACCESSING FILE 22-01

A Word from
SCR-049
The Plague Doctor



Dear reader,

If your intent is to read this issue in its entirety, then I have no ill intention toward you. My goal is to eradicate the Pestilence - what is the Pestilence, you ask? Well... it seems your society has been mistaken in withholding its true identity. The Foundation censors all that it finds dangerous or controversial, it seems. **The only true Pestilence is ignorance**, the lack of knowledge of things that go bump in the night. I implore you to expand your knowledge on the various threats that roam our world, from the Iris' otherworldly Woodcrawlers to the Alternates of Mandela County. Their existence is a greater threat to human existence than nuclear holocaust. So long as you become aware of their existence, my work on this Earth is completed. I owe it to the SCP Foundation for allowing me to have such a vital role in the spreading of this information; they too have realized the threat is great, as will you when you read on. Spread the word of this publication, so my work of eradicating the Pestilence may be completed. And reader, thank you, for your openness and your concern. Beware, and be safe.

Sincerely,
SCP-049



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LONG HORSE RECOMMENDS...

Top Podcast Picks

1

File: T2R1H9 from *Creepy*

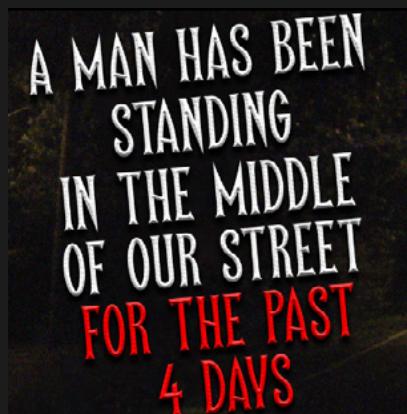
A zombie virus is overtaking the world, and no one is safe - not even the scientists studying it. After studying the infected, a scientist is a victim of his subjects. Follow him as he loses his humanity to animalistic urges.



2

A Man has been Standing in the Middle of our Street for the Past 4 Days from *The Dark Somnium*

A family is woken up by the sounds of sobbing outside their home. It's dark outside, and when dawn arrives, they fall into a slumber that persists until nightfall. The source of the sobbing, a mysterious man, almost seems like a respite...



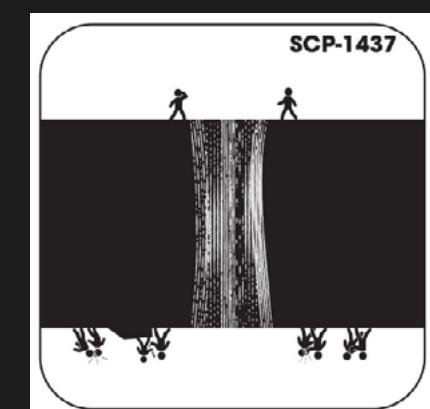
Lucid Dreamer from *Full Body Chills*

A woman has been having a recurring dream, where she finds herself in a black-and-white diner. Wanting to investigate further, she gets her hands on a tape that claims to help with lucid dreaming. It turns out, the restaurant in her dream is not what it seems...

3

SCP-1437: "A Hole to Another Place" from *SCP Archives*

SCP-1437 is a strange hole that leads to a multiverse connected to similar holes. Occasionally, objects from other worlds will come through the hole, providing an insight into the differences between the alternate universes.



4



Something Walks Whistling Past My House Every Night at 3:03 from *Creepy*

When a neighbor's son stays at our main character's house for the night, he does the one thing the welcoming committee says never to do in their neighborhood: he looks out the window to see the whistler. A waking nightmare ensues.

5

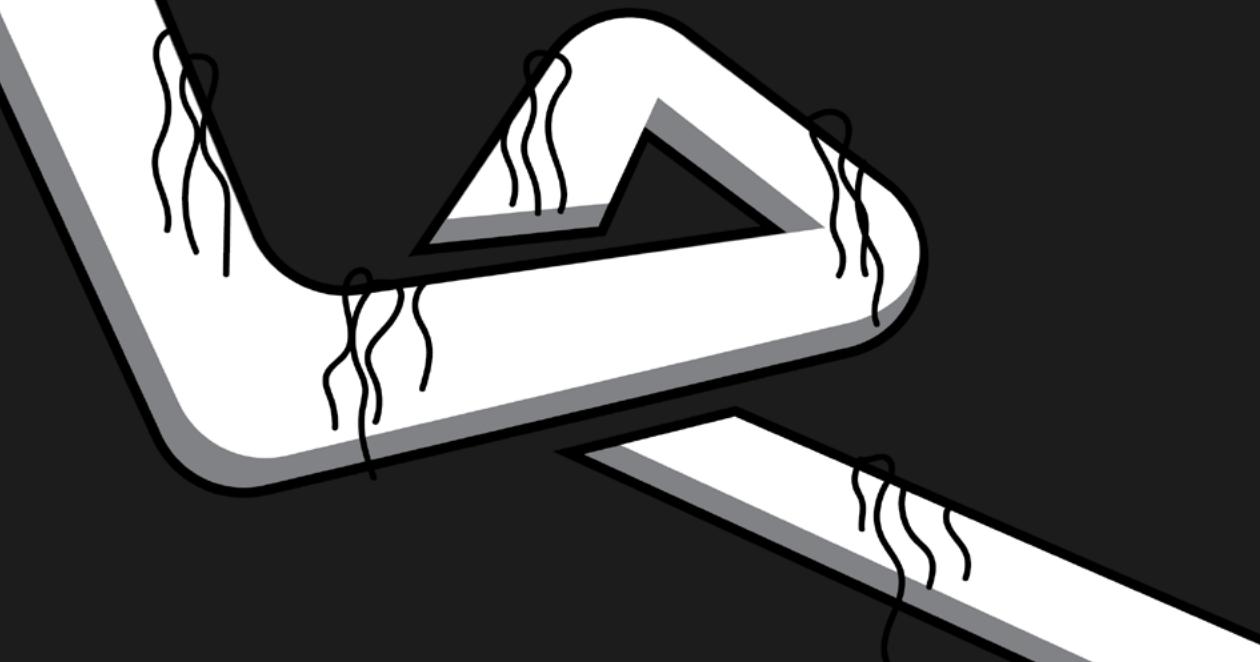


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Long Horse illustration by Carolyn Quintrell
All podcast cover art: Spotify screenshots

What makes internet good HORROR?

What the best series
have in common

written by
SIREN HEAD

Photo credits: YouTube screenshots, Pinterest

SUSPENSE

Suspense is one of the aspects of any horror that makes the genre so addictive. The media can have you on the edge of your seat, waiting for that monster to burst out of nowhere and take one of the characters away. Suspense in horror is more fear-based than other genres, such as action, which rely more on excitement of what will happen. The Mandela Catalogue really nails the element of suspense, especially in Volume 1. When Mark arrives at Cesar's house to flip through the camera feeds, the viewer is given a live view of the feeds. With MC being a horror series, the viewer waits anxiously for whatever happens next. The camera feed switches to the outside view, then to the in-side, then down the stairs. That suspense leads up to the audio snippet of Cesar's mother supposedly being attacked by the Alternate. Later on in the same episode, when Mark returns to his home and is being tormented by the Alternate, the thing finally gets him to un-alive himself. The next scene shows a blank

screen. The viewer gets a tense knot of anxiety in their chest in anticipation of what will happen next. The Alternate Mark finally runs up to the camera, breathing loudly. The face alone is enough to scare almost anyone, but the preceding suspense makes it that much more shocking. While the second volume contains some suspense, the element is far more memorable and successful in the first.



AMBIGUITY

The best internet horror series are often ambiguous or cryptic, leaving the viewer to make up their own theories. What's with all the religious themes in the Mandela Catalogue? Some people, such as the YouTuber Wendigoon, think that the Alternates are demons, and that Lucifer replaced Jesus and is deceiving people into believing in him. This theory makes sense, as many Christians believe committing suicide will send one straight to hell, so that could be why the Alternates are influencing people



into doing so. Another ambiguous thing is the nobility in Nephthys Media. Are the royal family actual planets? Or do they merely inhabit planets? The latter is more likely to be true, as the astronomical objects in that system are referred to as 'vessels.' Perhaps the most cryptic internet horror series is Boisvert. Many of the episodes contain strange dialogue that is hard to decipher. For example, the main character's dialogues with the angel are strangely worded. Strange and cryptic themes and messages in internet horror series make them that much more interesting and mysterious. Ambiguity is inherently intriguing, thanks to humans' curious nature and our fear of the unknown. For a series creator to come out and explain everything would take the joy out of the hunt for information, and making up theories is far more satisfying, since it allows the viewer to make up their own explanations which may make more sense to them than what others can deduce.

IMAGERY

Some horror series rely on creepy sounds to scare the viewer. Others, however, are more reliant on jarring imagery. Almost any horror series, both on the internet and on the big screen, will have some variety of creepy imagery. There's the Mandela County Alternates, with black faces and cartoonish eyes or blank faces entirely. Then there's those weird trees from Alex Kansas' videos. While not outwardly creepy, the trees are clearly different from any normal tree, making them stand out from the rest. Nephthys Media uses creepy, if not interesting, images that appear computer-generated, such as the sea creatures in Thalassophobia, or the masked faces of the royal family. The Wyoming Incident has a lot of creepy faces, but that's about it, but that doesn't mean it wasn't effective. Boisvert stands out with its unique, Hylics-like art style, which uses both hand-drawn animation and photography. Every episode of the series has some variety of jarring imagery, whether it be the weird, centipede-like angels, or the various other characters, like the one



the main character fights who has knives for teeth. While scary images are not completely necessary to make a scary horror series, it would be very difficult for one to make a creepy series without using even a little imagery. Sounds are creepy, sure, but pictures are worse.

All photos: YouTube screenshots

CONTINUITY



You know how in a book where there are multiple plots, and the book switches between them? You read a few chapters about one thing, then the book switches to the other thing that you almost forgot about. There's a bit of an 'oh yeah!' moment where you remember what exactly happened in the plot you forgot about. Some internet horror series do this, and do it well. One such series is from Alex Kansas. While many of his horror videos don't seem to relate to each other, they are all tied together at some point.

For example, there are multiple videos dedicated to separate plots, such as the Freedom statue, the Special Tree, and the Cornerfolk. While these videos seem out of place compared to the others, they are all tied together nicely. The Freedom statue and the Angel get in a brawl that essentially destroys the world and changes it into the strange dimension that the Cornerfolk inhabit. Gemini Home Entertainment has some moments like this as well. Some episodes are about seemingly unrelated things, such as one about the solar system. While seemingly unrelated to the strange 'Woodcrawlers' featured in World's Weirdest Animals, the subject matter does tie in. The Iris is the source of the Woodcrawlers, which are invading Earth. While episodes about seemingly unrelated subject matter are rather rare across internet horror series, the ones that are done are done well.





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