

= Twilight Zone : 19 Original Stories on the 50th Anniversary =

Twilight Zone : 19 Original Stories on the 50th Anniversary is a collection of short stories written by various authors and edited by Carol Serling , the widow of series creator Rod Serling . Each story was written with themes or styles similar to The Twilight Zone episodes , including narrated introductions and conclusions to each story . Authors who contributed a story include Twilight Zone veteran Earl Hamner , Alan Brennert and William F. Wu , and a previously unpublished story by Rod Serling . Reviewers listed some of the better stories as being Kelley Armstrong 's " A Haunted House of Her Own " , Alan Brennert 's " Puowaina " and Mike Resnick and Lezli Robyn 's " Benchwarmer " .

= = Background = =

This anthology of short stories was published to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the television debut of The Twilight Zone . Since the death of her husband , The Twilight Zone creator Rod Serling , Carol Serling had been acting as a consultant for a series of fiction anthologies and for the 1983 theatrical film . She contributed to or edited books including Journeys to the Twilight Zone , Adventures in the Twilight Zone , Return to the Twilight Zone , More Stories from the Twilight Zone , and the non @-@ fiction book Rod Serling and The Twilight Zone : The 50th Anniversary Tribute . Among the authors solicited to write stories for the 50th anniversary book were Alan Brennert and William F. Wu , who worked on the 1980s The Twilight Zone series ; Earl Hamner , who wrote episodes for the original series ; and Rod Serling 's older brother , Robert J. Serling . Peter S. Beagle and Harlan Ellison were advertised as contributors but their stories did not make it into the book .

= = Synopsis and format = =

The book begins with an introduction by the editor Carol Serling and ends with brief biographies of all the authors . Each of the 19 self @-@ contained short stories includes an introduction and conclusion with the same tone and style as Rod Serling 's narration at the beginning and end of each Twilight Zone episode .

Adam Balm on Ain 't It Cool News categorized the short stories into following four basic types of The Twilight Zone episode formats : the social revenge fantasies (" The Art of Miniature " , " Family Man " , and " The Good Neighbor ") use unlikable characters who eventually suffer an ironic twist to their predicament ; stories about paranoid characters trying to convince others that something is wrong (" The Street that Forgot Time ") ; stories with a war theme (" Genesis " , " Puowaina " , " Ghost Writer " , and " The Soldier He Needed to Be ") ; and stories centered on a hitch @-@ hiker (" On the Road " and " Truth or Consequences ") .

= = Publication and reception = =

The book was published by Tor Books as a hardcover and paperback in September 2009 . To help with its promotion a 39 second video trailer was produced . Compared to Rod Serling and The Twilight Zone : The 50th Anniversary Tribute , which was reviewed by writer Elizabeth Hand as " a piece of hagiography that does little to illuminate Serling 's genius or the enduring appeal of his most famous creation " , the anthology was called " a far superior homage to Serling " . In her Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction column Hand listed Hagberg 's " Genesis " as the best story in the anthology though Lansdale 's and Stine 's are also good . She called Rod Serling 's and Strieber 's stories " the only real misfires " .

The review in Publishers Weekly listed Armstrong 's " A Haunted House of Her Own " , Brennert 's " Puowaina " , and Tad Williams 's " Ants " as the best stories . The review also listed Wu 's " On the Road " , Douglas 's " Truth or Consequences " , and Serling 's " Ghost Writer " as being " less satisfying " stories . The review concluded that the book is " largely inoffensive and faithful to the

Twilight Zone format , this anthology is primarily of interest to hardcore fans " . Carl Hays from Booklist wrote a positive review , saying " superior craftsmanship ensures can 't @-@ miss entertainment for speculative @-@ fiction fans and anyone nostalgic for the original Twilight Zone aura " . Impressed by the authors , the reviewer in the Library Journal wrote " with this slate of authors and the perennial popularity of the show , all libraries should own a copy " .

The Starlog reviewer , David McDonnell , lists the anthology 's best stories as Lansdale 's " Torn Away " , Zahn 's " Vampin ' Down the Avenue " , Resnick and Robyn 's " Benchwarmer " , and Armstrong 's " A Haunted House of Her Own " . McDonnell noted that Rod Serling 's " El Moe " was least like a typical Twilight Zone story , and that Williams 's " Ants " belonged to the Alfred Hitchcock Presents universe rather than The Twilight Zone . On Ain 't It Cool News , Adam Balm identified Wu 's " On the Road " as " the best entry in the collection " . Balm wrote that the anthology is " uneven , with too many stories disappointing and too many that are nostalgianautic remember @-@ whens , mining territory long since tamed and settled by others " but ultimately worth the money spent .