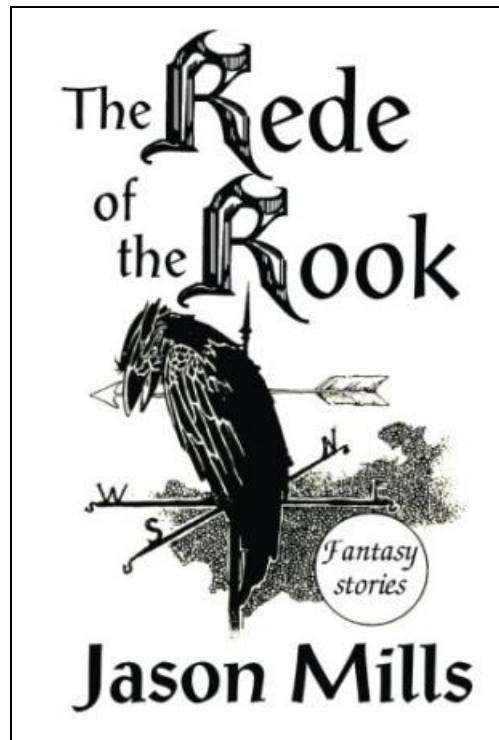


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Reviews

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THE REDE OF THE ROOK: FANTASY STORIES (PAPERBACK)

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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. Here are stories that range far from our world, or cut disturbingly close to it: * A boy and an old man try to outface destiny at the foot of a towering waterfall. * A princess betrothed must decide if she dare provoke the curse laid on her. * A hired sword confronts the secret king of a city swathed in darkness. * A youth in a world of marionettes explores the dangerous science of divinity. * A servant must carry the message that will bring his own death upon him. These tales and more will bear you on strange journeys to an unfamiliar home. Reader review of an early print (titled 'Grasping at Prose'): [A] seriously great collection (.). And I was hoping it would at least be interesting but BLOODY HELL! [This is tagged] under fantasy and/or science fiction, and excepting one tale they mostly steer towards the former, or at least have the feel of the former, through a fairly timeless narrative style that could belong to either past, present or future - reminds me a little of Ursula Le Guin or even Daniel O'Mahoney's Newtons Sleep. There are infrequent touches of the magical (the arms race of curses in The Merchant and the Dancer), the surreal (string puppets argue theology in A Light, Inelastic String), and the dreamlike (The House of Many Norths which reminded me of the Mexican Nahua perception of the underworld as a physical place visited in sleep). The prose is incredibly and effortlessly rich (.) as befitting the parable-like quality of many of these stories - no cliché is committed, and just enough is held back to keep the reader busily fitting pieces together. My favourite authors...

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