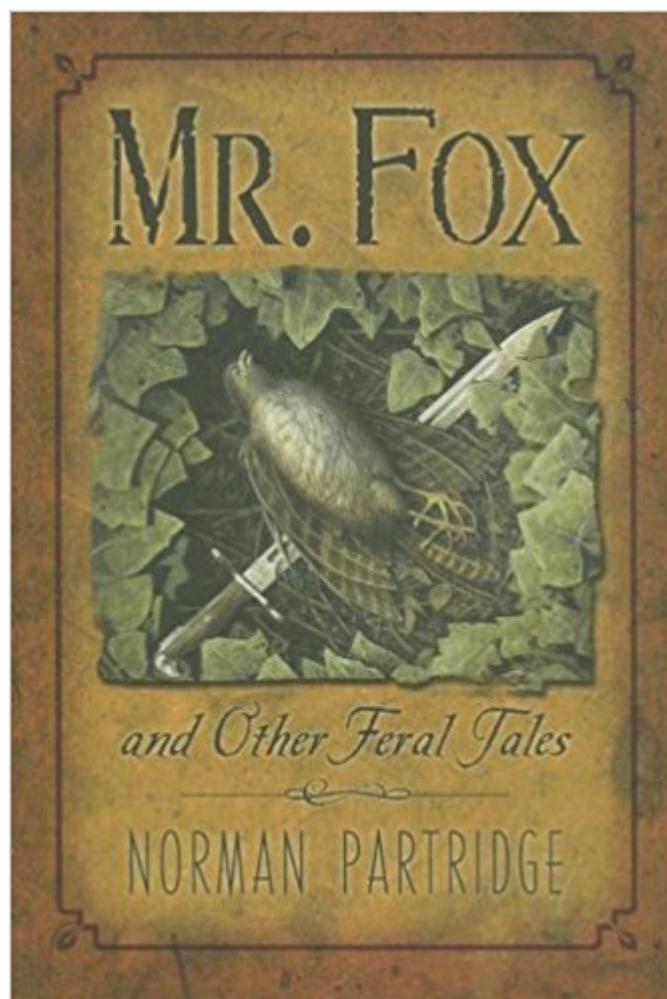


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Mr. Fox And Other Feral Tales



Synopsis

Book by Partridge, Norman

Book Information

Hardcover: 391 pages

Publisher: Subterranean Press; 1st edition (October 2005)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

The subtitles of the new Subterranean Press edition of Norm Partridge's *Mr. Fox and Other Feral Tales*--- "A Collection--A Recollection--A Writer's Handbook"--say it all. A hybrid of story, biography and practical advice, this volume should appeal to anyone who appreciates good writing. Regarding the fiction: as Joe Lansdale said in his introduction to 1996's *BAD INTENTIONS*, "Nobody writes `em like Norm Partridge." The first eight stories here comprised the original version of *Mr. Fox*, which won a well-deserved Bram Stoker Award in 1993. In addition to the stories that helped build Partridge's reputation, the book contains some added bonuses--an excerpt from *KISS OF DEATH*, (an unpublished zombie novel), and eleven additional stories, most of which were uncollected to this point, including "The Season of Giving," a successful collaboration between Partridge and Rich Chizmar. As if that weren't enough to sell it to potential buyers, Partridge has, in addition to an introduction and afterword, written extensive story notes for each tale, each containing his views and advice on the craft and the business of writing. As evidence of his hard won wisdom, Partridge quickly dismisses the idea of writing a "how to" book. What he does offer is a guide to the highs and lows of being a professional writer, frankly discussing the joy he found in perfecting his craft while at the same time cautioning wannabes about the myriad potential pitfalls of a writing career. Partridge pulls no punches, nor does he sugarcoat the truth. In addition to relating personal anecdotes, Partridge provides realistic, sensible and simple guidance to writers. Partridge's basic message is

that writing is hard, but worth it. Facing a personal problem? Keep writing and submitting.

Depressed?

The invisibility of Norman Partridge among fans of horror and dark fiction is difficult to understand. He is the most undervalued writer of the 90's and the most original voice since Thomas Ligotti. Partridge's fiction is often compared to that of Joe Lansdale, they share a love of drive-in movies, old west mythology and similar stuff, but when comes to approach and style they are poles apart and IMHO his short stories are superior to that of Lansdale. Partridge's prose is richly textured and the facility with which he blends genres and handle different styles borders on the scary. The quality of Partridge's short fiction is remarkable high and even his lesser pieces are far superior to the majority of dark fiction being published today. The expanded MR FOX AND OTHER FERAL TALES isn't Partridge's best collection (Bad Intentions and The Man With the Barbed-Wire Fists are slightly superior) but it displays his immense range, from weird dark suspense (The Entourage) to subtle ghost stories (Vessels, Sandprints), delightful juveniles (Velvet Fangs), weird western (!Cuidado!), pop culture and media (The Beauty, Like the Night, Save the Last Dance for Me) and unclassifiable pieces (Mr Fox), I could go on and on... For those who appreciate literate dark fiction Partridge is the writer.

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