

the terror by dan simmons

The Haunting Depths of The Terror by Dan Simmons: An Exploration

the terror by dan simmons is a gripping novel that masterfully blends historical fiction with elements of horror and supernatural suspense. Since its release in 2007, it has captivated readers with its chilling narrative based on the true story of the doomed Franklin Expedition of the 1840s. Simmons' ability to weave fact with fiction results in a haunting tale that explores human endurance, mystery, and the unknown dangers lurking in the Arctic wilderness.

Unpacking the Storyline of The Terror by Dan Simmons

At its core, *The Terror* by Dan Simmons tells the story of two Royal Navy ships, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, which set sail to find the Northwest Passage—a sea route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Arctic Archipelago. As the ships become trapped in the unforgiving ice, the crew faces not only the brutal Arctic conditions but also an eerie and malevolent force stalking them on the ice.

What makes this novel so enthralling is Simmons' meticulous research into the historical Franklin Expedition. The novel captures the despair and isolation experienced by the sailors, adding layers of psychological horror to the physical threats of starvation, scurvy, and frostbite. The novel transcends a simple survival tale by introducing a mysterious creature, inspired by Inuit mythology, which heightens the tension and terror throughout the book.

Why The Terror by Dan Simmons Stands Out in Historical Horror Fiction

Blending History with Supernatural Elements

One of the defining features of *The Terror* by Dan Simmons is the seamless integration of authentic historical detail with speculative fiction. Readers who enjoy historical novels find satisfaction in the accurate depiction of 19th-century naval life, ship mechanics, and exploration challenges. Meanwhile, fans of horror and supernatural fiction appreciate Simmons' introduction of the "Tuunbaq," a monstrous entity that embodies the unknown forces of nature and indigenous folklore.

Rich Character Development

Unlike many historical adventure novels that focus primarily on external conflicts, *The Terror* by Dan Simmons delves deeply into the psychological states of its characters. Captain Francis Crozier, one of the central figures, is portrayed with nuance—his leadership qualities are intertwined with his vulnerabilities and doubts. This humanization allows readers to connect emotionally with the crew's plight, heightening the suspense as their situation deteriorates.

The Themes Explored in *The Terror* by Dan Simmons

The novel explores several profound themes that resonate beyond its historical setting:

- **Man versus Nature:** The relentless Arctic environment is almost a character itself, indifferent and deadly, challenging human ambition and resilience.
- **Isolation and Madness:** Prolonged entrapment and dwindling hope push the sailors to the brink of sanity, highlighting the psychological toll of extreme conditions.
- **Survival and Leadership:** The narrative examines how leadership adapts under pressure and how survival instincts emerge in the face of overwhelming odds.
- **Myth and Fear of the Unknown:** By incorporating Inuit myths, the novel reflects humanity's tendency to explain and fear what it does not understand.

Impact and Reception of *The Terror* by Dan Simmons

Upon publication, *The Terror* by Dan Simmons was widely praised for its atmospheric writing and gripping storytelling. Critics lauded Simmons for his ability to immerse readers in the perilous Arctic setting while maintaining a suspenseful narrative pace. The novel also received attention for its respectful and vivid portrayal of Inuit culture, which is often overlooked in Western storytelling.

The book's popularity eventually led to a television adaptation by AMC, which expanded its audience and brought the eerie, frozen world of the novel to life on screen. This adaptation helped cement *The Terror*'s status as a modern classic in both literary and visual storytelling.

Why Readers Keep Returning to The Terror

Many readers find themselves drawn back to *The Terror* by Dan Simmons because of its multifaceted approach to storytelling. Whether it's the suspense that builds as the crew faces death, the historical intrigue of the Franklin Expedition, or the supernatural mystery lurking beneath the ice, the novel offers something for diverse tastes. Its blend of fact and fiction encourages curiosity about polar exploration history, making it not only an entertaining read but also an educational one.

Tips for Readers Diving into The Terror by Dan Simmons

If you're considering reading *The Terror* by Dan Simmons, here are a few tips to enhance your experience:

1. **Familiarize Yourself with the Franklin Expedition:** While not necessary, having a basic understanding of the historical context can deepen your appreciation of the novel's realism.
2. **Embrace the Slow Burn:** The novel is rich in atmospheric detail and character development, so allow yourself to settle into the story without rushing through.
3. **Pay Attention to Inuit Mythology:** The inclusion of indigenous legends adds layers of meaning and symbolism to the plot, enriching the supernatural elements.
4. **Prepare for a Dark, Intense Read:** *The Terror* explores grim themes and includes moments of graphic survival horror, so it's best suited for readers who enjoy psychological and physical tension.

The Literary Style of Dan Simmons in The Terror

Dan Simmons is known for his descriptive prose and ability to evoke mood through vivid imagery. In *The Terror*, his writing style enhances the claustrophobic and chilling atmosphere of the trapped expedition. The pacing shifts expertly between moments of quiet dread and sudden bursts of terror, reflecting the unpredictable nature of the crew's environment.

Simmons also employs multiple perspectives, which helps to flesh out the experiences of various crew members and provides a broader understanding of the group's dynamics. This narrative technique keeps the story engaging and allows readers to see the unfolding disaster from different angles.

Exploring the Psychological Horror

Beyond external threats, *The Terror* by Dan Simmons delves into the psychological horror faced by men isolated from civilization, battling starvation, the cold, and fear. The novel explores how desperation can lead to paranoia, hallucinations, and breakdowns in social order. This internal struggle is as terrifying as the physical dangers, making the novel resonate on a deeper emotional level.

Legacy and Influence of *The Terror* by Dan Simmons

Since its publication, *The Terror* has influenced how historical expeditions are portrayed in popular culture, inspiring other works that blend true events with supernatural or speculative elements. It has also sparked interest in Arctic exploration history, encouraging readers to learn more about the real Franklin Expedition and the mysteries that still surround it.

The novel stands as a testament to how historical fiction can be revitalized through imaginative storytelling, combining educational content with compelling entertainment. For aspiring writers, *The Terror* by Dan Simmons serves as an excellent example of how to balance research with creativity to craft a story that is both credible and captivating.

Whether you are a fan of historical fiction, horror, or psychological thrillers, *The Terror* by Dan Simmons offers a unique reading experience that lingers long after the last page. Its haunting depiction of human endurance amidst hostile forces continues to draw readers into the frozen, perilous world of the Arctic, making it a must-read for anyone intrigued by the mysteries of the past and the terrors that lie just beyond the edge of the known world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main premise of '*The Terror*' by Dan Simmons?

The main premise of '*The Terror*' is a fictionalized account of Captain Sir John Franklin's lost expedition to find the Northwest Passage in the Arctic during the 1840s, blending historical events with supernatural horror elements.

Who are the primary characters in '*The Terror*' by Dan Simmons?

The primary characters include Captain Sir John Franklin, Commander Francis Crozier, and Dr. Henry Goodsir, among the crew of the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror.

How does Dan Simmons incorporate horror elements in 'The Terror'?

Dan Simmons incorporates horror elements by introducing a mysterious monstrous creature stalking the crew, as well as depicting the psychological and physical horrors of the Arctic environment and isolation.

Is 'The Terror' based on a true story?

Yes, 'The Terror' is based on the true historical expedition led by Captain Sir John Franklin, but it adds fictional supernatural and horror elements to the narrative.

What themes are explored in 'The Terror' by Dan Simmons?

The novel explores themes such as survival, leadership, the unknown, human endurance, fear, and the clash between man and nature.

How does the setting influence the story in 'The Terror'?

The harsh, frozen Arctic setting creates a claustrophobic and hostile environment that amplifies the crew's struggles and despair, serving as both a physical and psychological antagonist.

What role does the supernatural play in 'The Terror'?

The supernatural is embodied by a mysterious creature that hunts the crew, symbolizing the unknown terrors of the Arctic and the men's growing desperation and fear.

Has 'The Terror' by Dan Simmons been adapted into other media?

Yes, 'The Terror' was adapted into a television series by AMC in 2018, which closely follows the novel's plot and atmosphere.

What narrative style does Dan Simmons use in 'The Terror'?

Dan Simmons uses a third-person limited narrative style, focusing primarily on different crew members' perspectives to build suspense and develop characters.

How is leadership portrayed in 'The Terror'?

Leadership is portrayed with complexity, highlighting the challenges faced by commanders Franklin and Crozier as they try to maintain order, morale, and hope amidst dire circumstances.

Additional Resources

The Terror by Dan Simmons: A Gripping Fusion of History and Horror

the terror by dan simmons stands as a remarkable work that blends historical fiction with supernatural horror, creating an immersive narrative that has captivated readers since its release. Drawing inspiration from the real-life doomed Franklin Expedition of the mid-19th century, Dan Simmons crafts a novel that transcends traditional genre boundaries, offering an intricate exploration of human endurance, mystery, and the unknown forces lurking in the Arctic wilderness.

In-depth Analysis of The Terror by Dan Simmons

At its core, *The Terror* by Dan Simmons is a masterful reimagining of one of history's most tragic maritime expeditions. The novel recounts the journey of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, two Royal Navy ships that set out in 1845 to chart the Northwest Passage but became icebound in the unrelenting Arctic ice. While the historical backdrop is meticulously researched, Simmons introduces a chilling supernatural dimension that elevates the narrative beyond a mere survival story.

The novel intertwines the harsh realities faced by the expedition—starvation, scurvy, frostbite, and interpersonal conflict—with the looming presence of a mysterious predatory creature stalking the crew. This combination of historical authenticity and speculative horror creates a suspenseful atmosphere that keeps readers engaged throughout the book's extensive length.

Historical Foundations and Authenticity

One of the defining features of *The Terror* by Dan Simmons is its commitment to historical detail. Simmons employs extensive research to authentically depict mid-19th century naval life, the technology of the era, and the brutal conditions of Arctic exploration. The narrative delves into the psychological strain endured by the crew, illuminating themes of leadership, loyalty, and despair.

By anchoring the story in well-documented events—such as the ships' entrapment in ice and the subsequent dwindling supplies—Simmons lends credibility to the novel's more fantastical elements. This grounding in reality not only enriches the story's texture but also appeals to readers interested in maritime history and polar expeditions.

Supernatural Elements and Horror Aspects

While historical fiction provides the framework, the horror components define much of *The Terror's* unique appeal. The enigmatic creature, often referred to as "The Terror," is an embodiment of primal fear and the unknown. This monstrous presence introduces a psychological and existential threat that parallels the physical dangers of the Arctic

environment.

Simmons uses the creature not merely as a source of terror but as a symbol reflecting the crew's internal struggles and the broader themes of nature's indifference and humanity's vulnerability. The pervasive dread and suspense are heightened by detailed descriptions of the Arctic's oppressive landscape, which becomes almost a character in its own right.

Character Development and Narrative Structure

The *Terror* by Dan Simmons features a broad cast of characters, each meticulously developed to represent various facets of Victorian society and human psychology under duress. Captain Francis Crozier and Sir John Franklin serve as focal points, embodying contrasting leadership styles and responses to crisis.

Simmons employs a third-person omniscient narrative that shifts perspectives among the crew members, providing insight into their fears, hopes, and motivations. This approach allows readers to experience the unfolding catastrophe from multiple viewpoints, deepening emotional engagement and complexity.

Comparisons and Context within Genre

The *Terror* by Dan Simmons occupies a distinctive niche at the intersection of historical fiction, horror, and thriller genres. Comparatively, it shares thematic similarities with works such as Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* in its depiction of survival against harsh natural elements, while its supernatural horror evokes the atmospheric tension found in classic Gothic literature.

In the realm of maritime fiction, it can be contrasted with novels like Patrick O'Brian's *Aubrey-Maturin* series, which focus more on naval adventure and less on horror. Simmons' integration of speculative elements distinguishes *The Terror*, positioning it alongside contemporary genre-crossing works that challenge conventional storytelling.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The novel's compelling narrative and rich atmospheric qualities have inspired adaptations in other media, most notably the television series produced by AMC. The show expands upon Simmons' vision, translating the novel's chilling mood and complex characters to the screen, further cementing *The Terror*'s status in popular culture.

Such adaptations have introduced the story to wider audiences, sparking renewed interest in the historical events and stimulating discourse on the blending of fact and fiction in storytelling.

Key Features and Reader Considerations

- **Historical Accuracy:** Deeply researched, providing an authentic depiction of 19th-century Arctic exploration.
- **Genre Fusion:** Seamlessly merges historical narrative with supernatural horror.
- **Character Complexity:** Offers multi-layered portrayals of leadership, survival, and human resilience.
- **Atmospheric Setting:** Uses the Arctic environment as a source of tension and symbolism.
- **Length and Pacing:** The novel's considerable length demands patience, but the evolving suspense maintains engagement.

For readers seeking a straightforward historical account, *The Terror*'s supernatural elements may challenge expectations. Conversely, fans of horror and psychological thrillers will find the book's nuanced character development and setting a compelling backdrop for the unfolding terror.

The Terror by Dan Simmons continues to resonate due to its ability to provoke thought on human fragility amid nature's vastness, all while delivering a gripping and unsettling narrative. Its blend of fact and fiction invites readers to ponder the boundaries between reality and myth, survival and surrender.

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command and lead the remaining crew on a last, desperate attempt to flee south across the ice. With them travels an Eskimo woman who cannot speak. She may be the key to survival - or the harbinger of their deaths. And as scurvy, starvation and madness take their toll, as the Terror on the ice become evermore bold, Crozier and his men begin to fear there is no escape...

the terror by dan simmons: *The Terror* Dan Simmons, 2010-04-30 Hailed by STEPHEN KING as 'a brilliant, massive combination of history and supernatural horror'. And made into an acclaimed, chilling 10-part Ridley Scott-produced BBC TV series Hailed as the most advanced scientific enterprise ever mounted, Sir John Franklin's 1845 expedition in search of the fabled North-West Passage had every expectation of triumph. But for almost two years his ships HMS Terror and Erebus have been trapped in the Arctic ice. Supplies of fuel and food are running low. Scurvy, starvation and even madness have begun to take their toll. And yet the real threat isn't from the constantly shifting, alien landscape, the flesh-numbing temperatures or being crushed by the unyielding, frozen ocean. No, the real threat is far more terrifying. Because there is something out there in the frigid darkness. It stalks the ships and snatches men. It is a nameless thing. At once nowhere and everywhere, this terror will become the expedition's nemesis . . . Readers are gripped by *The Terror*: ***** 'One of the best books I have ever read. I couldn't put it down!' ***** 'A tremendous weighty achievement in atmosphere and storytelling.' ***** 'So beautifully written and well researched. I can't praise this book highly enough.'

the terror by dan simmons: The Terror Dan Simmons, 2007 The bestselling author of *Ilium* transforms the story of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition into a devastating historical adventure that will chill you to your core.

the terror by dan simmons: Terror Dan Simmons, 1998-01

the terror by dan simmons: HMS Terror Matthew Betts, 2020-10-30 In the summer of 1845, Sir John Franklin and a crew of 134 men entered Lancaster Sound on board HMS Erebus and HMS Terror in search of a Northwest Passage. The sturdy former bomb ships were substantially strengthened and fitted with the latest technologies for polar service and, at the time, were the most advanced sailing vessels developed for Polar exploration. Both ships, but especially HMS Terror, had already proven their capabilities in the Arctic and Antarctic. With such sophisticated, rugged, and successful vessels, victory over the Northwest Passage seemed inevitable, yet the entire crew vanished, and the ships were never seen again by Europeans. Finally, in 2014, the wreck of HMS Erebus was discovered by Parks Canada. Two years later, the wreck of HMS Terror was found, sitting upright, in near pristine condition. The extraordinarily well-preserved state and location of the ships, so far south of their last reported position, raises questions about the role they played in the tragedy. Did the extraordinary capabilities of the ships in fact contribute to the disaster? Never before has the Franklin Mystery been comprehensively examined through the lens of its sailing technology. This book documents the history, design, modification, and fitting of HMS Terror, one of the world's most successful polar exploration vessels. Part historical narrative and part technical design manual, this book provides, for the first time, a complete account of Terror's unique career, as well as an assessment of her sailing abilities in polar conditions, a record of her design specifications, and a full set of accurate plans of her final 1845 configuration. Based on meticulous historical research, the book details the ship's every bolt and belying pin, and ends with the discovery and identification of the wreck in 2016, explaining how the successes and ice-worthiness of Terror may have contributed to the Franklin disaster itself. It is an ideal reference for those interested in the Franklin Mystery, in polar exploration, the Royal Navy, and in ship design and modelling.

the terror by dan simmons: *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Horror* Becky Siegel Spratford, 2012-04-09 Vampires, zombies, ghosts, and ghoulies: there are more things going bump in the night than ever. So how do you wend your way through all of them to find the ones that interest a particular reader? RA expert Spratford updates her advisory to include the latest in monsters and the macabre, including Lists of recommended titles, authors, and sub-genres, all cross-referenced for quick reference Tips for effectively practicing horror RA, with interview questions for gauging a

reader's interests An expanded resources section, with an overview addressing the current state of horror lit, and suggestions of how to dig deeperAs both an introductory guide for librarians just dipping their toes into the brackish water of scary fiction, as well as a fount of new ideas for horror-aware reference staff, Spratford's book is infernally appropriate.

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the terror by dan simmons: The Hidden Hand of Underwater Cultural Heritage Elena Perez-Alvaro, 2024-12-23 This book acts as a cautionary tale, urging society to proactively invest in forging a path towards the future by drawing upon the insights gleaned from the past. Underwater cultural heritage is not merely a collection of broken ruins on the ocean floor; it holds the potential to provide strategic intelligence into global security challenges and future uncertainties. By understanding and valuing the unknown force of underwater cultural heritage, we can anticipate and navigate potential future challenges, harnessing its hidden power to shape the course of history.

the terror by dan simmons: The Palgrave Handbook of Neo-Victorianism Brenda Ayres, Sarah E. Maier, 2024-01-20 This handbook offers analysis of diverse genres and media of neo-Victorianism, including film and television adaptations of Victorian texts, authors' life stories, graphic novels, and contemporary fiction set in the nineteenth century. Contextualized by Sarah E Maier and Brenda Ayres in a comprehensive introduction, the collection describes current trends in neo-Victorian scholarship of novels, film, theatre, crime, empire/postcolonialism, Gothic, materiality, religion and science, amongst others. A variety of scholars from around the world contribute to this volume by applying an assortment of theoretical approaches and interdisciplinary focus in their critique of a wide range of narratives—from early neo-Victorian texts such as A. S. Byatt's *Possession* (1963) and Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966) to recent steampunk, from musical theatre to slumming, and from *The Alienist* to queerness—in their investigation of how this fiction reconstructs the past, informed by and reinforcing the present.

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the terror by dan simmons: On the Backs of Others Edward Armston-Sheret, 2024-12 In the Victorian and Edwardian eras British explorers sought to become respected geographers and popular public figures, downplaying or reframing their reliance on others for survival. Far from being solitary heroes, these explorers were in reality dependent on the bodies, senses, curiosity, and labor of subaltern people and animals. In *On the Backs of Others* Edward Armston-Sheret offers new perspectives on British exploration in this era by focusing on the contributions of the people and animals, ordinarily written out of the mainstream histories, who made these journeys possible. He explores several well-known case studies of enduring popular and academic interest, such as Richard Francis Burton and John Hanning Speke's Nile expeditions (1856-59 and 1860-63); Isabella Bird's travels in North America, Persia, and East Asia (1872-c. 1900); and Captain Robert Falcon Scott's two Antarctic expeditions (1901-4 and 1911-13). Armston-Sheret argues that numerous previously ignored stories show the work and agency of subaltern groups. In rethinking the history of exploration *On the Backs of Others* offers the first book-length study of the relationship between exploration and empire and their legacies within academic geography.

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the terror by dan simmons: James Fitzjames William Battersby, 2010-08-09 A lively man with a wicked sense of humour, James Fitzjames joined the Franklin Expedition at the age of 32. While he never returned, he left behind a legacy of misinformation, half-truths, and adventures that the author wades through to create a great portrait of this brave Royal Navy hero.

the terror by dan simmons: The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary Gothic Clive Bloom, 2020-07-10 "Simply put, there is absolutely nothing on the market with the range of ambition of this strikingly eclectic collection of essays. Not only is it impossible to imagine a more comprehensive view of the subject, most readers - even specialists in the subject - will find that there are elements of the Gothic genre here of which they were previously unaware." - Barry Forshaw, Author of *British Gothic Cinema* and *Sex and Film* The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary Gothic is the most comprehensive compendium of analytic essays on the modern Gothic now available, covering the vast and highly significant period from 1918 to 2019. The Gothic sensibility, over 200 years old, embraces its dark past whilst anticipating the future. From demons and monsters to post-apocalyptic fears and ecological fantasies, Gothic is thriving as never before in the arts and in popular culture. This volume is made up of 62 comprehensive chapters with notes and extended bibliographies contributed by scholars from around the world. The chapters are written not only for those engaged in academic research but also to be accessible to students and dedicated followers of the genre. Each chapter is packed with analysis of the Gothic in both theory and practice, as the genre has mutated and spread over the last hundred years. Starting in 1918 with the impact of film on the genre's development, and moving through its many and varied international incarnations, each chapter chronicles the history of the gothic milieu from the movies to gaming platforms and internet memes, television and theatre. The volume also looks at how Gothic intersects with fashion, music and popular culture: a multi-layered, multi-ethnic, even a trans-gendered experience as we move into the twenty first century.

the terror by dan simmons: City of the Silent: Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery Pasquale De Marco, Nestled in the heart of Cincinnati, Ohio, Spring Grove Cemetery is more than

just a burial ground; it is a sanctuary of remembrance, a place where history, nature, and art converge. Within its sprawling grounds, a rich tapestry of stories unfolds, waiting to be discovered. In this captivating book, we take you on a journey through the City of the Silent, revealing the hidden gems and untold tales that lie beneath its venerable trees. From its humble beginnings as a rural cemetery to its transformation into a magnificent arboretum, Spring Grove has witnessed the passage of time and the shaping of Cincinnati's destiny. As you wander through these hallowed grounds, you'll encounter the final resting places of notable figures who have left an indelible mark on the city's history. Industrialists, politicians, artists, musicians, and countless others have found their eternal repose here, their lives and contributions forever etched in stone. Their stories, both grand and humble, offer a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of Cincinnati. But Spring Grove is more than just a repository of the past; it is also a place of breathtaking natural beauty. Its meticulously manicured lawns, vibrant flowerbeds, and towering trees create a serene and contemplative atmosphere. The cemetery is home to a diverse array of flora and fauna, providing a sanctuary for wildlife amidst the urban landscape. Beyond its historical and natural significance, Spring Grove is also a place of art and architecture. Elaborate mausoleums and monuments grace the grounds, showcasing the artistic talents of Cincinnati's finest craftsmen. From intricate carvings to stunning stained-glass windows, these structures are testaments to the enduring power of human creativity. In addition to its historical, natural, and artistic treasures, Spring Grove is also a place of mystery and intrigue. Tales of ghostly apparitions and unexplained phenomena have been whispered for generations, adding an aura of enchantment to the cemetery. Whether these stories are true or not, they serve as a reminder that the boundary between the living and the dead is a thin veil, easily pierced by the imagination. City of the Silent: Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery is an invitation to explore this extraordinary realm, to discover the stories, secrets, and significance of a place that transcends time. It is a book that will appeal to history buffs, nature lovers, art enthusiasts, and anyone seeking a glimpse into the hidden world that lies just beneath the surface of our everyday lives. If you like this book, write a review!

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the terror by dan simmons: Prestige Television Seth Friedman, Amanda Keeler, 2022-11-11 Prestige Television explores how a growing array of 21st century US programming is produced and received in ways that elevate select series above the competition in a saturated market. Contributing authors demonstrate that these shows are positioned and understood as comprising an increasingly recognizable genre characterized by familiar markers of distinction. In contrast to most accounts of elite categorizations of contemporary US television programming that center on HBO and its

primary streaming rivals, these essays examine how efforts to imbue series with prestigious or elevated status now permeate the rest of the medium, including network as well as basic and undervalued premium cable channels. Case study chapters focusing on diverse series, ranging from widely recognized examples such as *The Americans* (2013-2018) and *The Knick* (2014-15) to contested examples like *Queen of the South* (2016-2021) and *How I Met Your Mother* (2005-2014), highlight how contributing authors extend conceptions of the genre beyond expected parameters.

the terror by dan simmons: The Spectral Arctic Shane McCorristine, 2018-05-01 Visitors to the Arctic enter places that have been traditionally imagined as otherworldly. This strangeness fascinated audiences in nineteenth-century Britain when the idea of the heroic explorer voyaging through unmapped zones reached its zenith. *The Spectral Arctic* re-thinks our understanding of Arctic exploration by paying attention to the importance of dreams and ghosts in the quest for the Northwest Passage. The narratives of Arctic exploration that we are all familiar with today are just the tip of the iceberg: they disguise a great mass of mysterious and dimly lit stories beneath the surface. In contrast to oft-told tales of heroism and disaster, this book reveals the hidden stories of dreaming and haunted explorers, of frozen mummies, of rescue balloons, visits to Inuit shamans, and of the entranced female clairvoyants who travelled to the Arctic in search of John Franklin's lost expedition. Through new readings of archival documents, exploration narratives, and fictional texts, these spectral stories reflect the complex ways that men and women actually thought about the far North in the past. This revisionist historical account allows us to make sense of current cultural and political concerns in the Canadian Arctic about the location of Franklin's ships.

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