
PRESS RELEASE

GROWING CONCERNS: AN ECO-HORROR ANTHOLOGY

About the Publisher

Chupa Cabra House is a publishing company started in 2001 by Timm Tayshun. We used to put out punk rock and hip hop music until all that shit got horrible and we got too old to even care about youth culture. Now we drink whiskey, punch ghosts in the face, grow beards and have a hankering to publish all kinds of things.

About the Editor

Alex Hurst is a bad ass 'merican living and teaching in Japan. She's a writer and an editor par excellence.

She edited *Growing Concerns* with classic-horror in mind. She looked for elements of psychological thrillers, slow buildups of tension, and under-your-skin terror instead of outright gore in every submission.

Book Details

Word Count: about 80,000
 Paperback: 180 pages
 Available on: Amazon, Nook, Sony, iBooks, Kobo



About the Book

Growing Concerns is the very first collection of its kind. In pop-culture, movies like “*Little Shop of Horrors*” and “*Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*” are quite well-known, but few tales in fiction have tapped into the latent fear of our botanical neighbors. With less than ten plant-themed stories well-known enough to be found in English (in the history of printing and web-archiving), *Growing Concerns* breaks new ground in the horror genre by collecting, for the first time ever, eighteen tales devoted to exploring the subject.

From the Back Cover

Disaster sprouts from the smallest seed.

Prepare yourself for a new breed of horror. Cultivated by the house that brought you Charlie D. La Marr’s circuspunk collection *Bumping Noses and Cherry Pie* and the H.G. Wells-inspired anthology *We Walk Invisible* comes *Growing Concerns*, the first fully-realized collection of eco-horror short fiction ever.



Book Media



BOOK TRAILER

<http://youtu.be/zJ2jOivPuo8>

Available images for bloggers on request:

- 14 **unique** images for blogposts (see book trailer).
- 3D Book Cover transparent PNG.
- Full or Front (½) HQ cover image.

Contributing Authors

Donna A. Leahey
 Robert J. Santa
 Ken Goldman
 Ethan Nahté
 CJ Andrew
 Jennifer Clark
 Jocelyn Adams
 Ryan M. Cady
 Jeffrey Mays
 Barry Rosenberg
 Renee' La Viness
 James S. Dorr
 D.G. Sutter
 Luke Murphy
 Roy C. Booth
 Axel Kohagen
 Melissa S. Osburn
 N J Magas
 Darren Todd

Including over a dozen authors, such as the talented Luke Murphy, Ken Goldman, N J Magas, and Donna A. Leahey, Chupa Cabra House is happy to present to you a garden of tricks, corruption, and murder.

Lakes. Cemeteries. Labs. Greenhouses. Front lawns and backyards. Plants surround us, and from their roots, branches, and seeds come the most visceral and horrific stories of all. These nightmares are sentient. They're haunted. They're tired, and done suffering a population that could not survive without them. From the most gorgeous of flowers to the smallest of fungi, *Growing Concerns* sheds light on the last psychological terror of the human race: Mother Earth in rebellion.

An Introduction

When Chupa Cabra House came to me with the idea for a short fiction anthology themed around plants, I was instantly intrigued. “Eco-Horror”, as they dubbed it, was going to be a new angle on the horror genre. When I got around to doing my homework on the subject, it turns out so much was true: less than a dozen published works exist, in English, which combine horror and plants. *Growing Concerns* is the very first work of its kind.

Choosing the stories for this anthology was difficult. I was looking for stories that didn't go for the cheap thrill; stories that were disturbing on a deeper, psychological level. In these pages you will find stories of sentient perennials, flesh-eating fungi, mad scientists, nature's oldest gods, and even dryads. *The Wisteria*, the opener for the anthology which sets the tone, carries all the way through the collection, straight to the final pages of *Plot 264*.

With *Growing Concerns*, Chupa Cabra House opens a new chapter of horror, one that replaces the beasties and psychos for the silent stalker of the earth, which populates the deepest primordial forests to the most barren of city sidewalks. Plants, often under-estimated in the “things that can kill you department”, take up almost 46% of the earth's surface, produce some of the world's deadliest toxins, and have lived on Earth 1.4 billion years longer than any animal life. The oldest living tree in the world is over 5,000 years old. Let's face it: if plants were sentient, our number would have been pulled years ago.

Rating & Trigger Warning

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Growing Concerns contains images of extreme violence in many of its offerings. While there is no gore "for the sake of gore", there are disturbing images such as mutilation, child murder, and human torture. Please be advised.

Of course, they aren't. Not always. Stories like "Don't Waste Anything", "Malefic", and "Journal 6 of 8: Techniques in Grafting" showcase humans abusing plants for their own end, while "Seeds" and "Harvest Moon" portray botanic revenge. Whatever your flavor, whatever your fright, I am confident that this collection will have you turning its pages until the very end.

Happy reading.

Alex Hurst - *Editor*

Table of Contents

"The Wisteria" by Donna A. Leahey
 "Of Sweet Peas and Radishes" by Robert J. Santa
 "Harvest Moon" by Ken Goldman
 "Pete's Peat" by Ethan Nahté
 "Don't Waste Anything" by CJ Andrew
 "Stalagmite Girl" by Jennifer Clark
 "Weird Mary" by Jocelyn Adams
 "Those Were Days of Roses" by Ryan M. Cady
 "Malefic" by Jeffrey Mays
 "Life Grows On" by Renee' La Viness
 "Seeds" by James S. Dorr
 "Maybe Another Day" by D.G. Sutter
 "Redpath" by Luke Murphy
 "Screamin' Siren" by Roy C. Booth & Axel Kohagen
 "Bittersweet Dreams" by Melissa S. Osburn
 "Journal 6 of 8: Techniques in Grafting" by N J Magas
 "Plot 264" by Darren Todd

INQUIRIES:

The editor, Alex Hurst, is available for interviews, blog tours, guest posts, review copies, giveaways, and any questions pertaining to the anthology or works within.

Please direct all inquiries to her email at alexhurst@chupacabrahouse.com, or visit her website <http://alex-hurst.com> for further contact options.

An Excerpt

from "Journal 6 of 8: Techniques in Grafting"

"The garden watched me as I brought him around to the west side of the shed. I wish I could say that was a metaphor, but I'm not that poetic. Pale yellow eyes atop multi-branched, foot tall red stalks move independently, and blink by shyly closing red petals around each gelatin ball. I've called them blinking-eyes because of this. It sounds a bit strange but it's much more beautiful in sight than in words; you'll just have to trust me. They really are quite harmless despite their uncanny appearance—curious even, though I have no reason to believe that they have a brain in which to store the information they take in.

I arranged the man on the ground beside Violet's remains. There isn't much left under her St. Fiacre's uniform except for a bit of the frothy leftovers of decomposed fatty tissue and a pale, fragile, skull drawn face, something not quite human but uncomfortably familiar all the same. In just over two weeks my garden has slowly taken from her what it needs. Her eyes have reopened on one of the newer blinking-eye stalks, and pieces of her hair have sprouted out of the sticky pores of the spider vine."