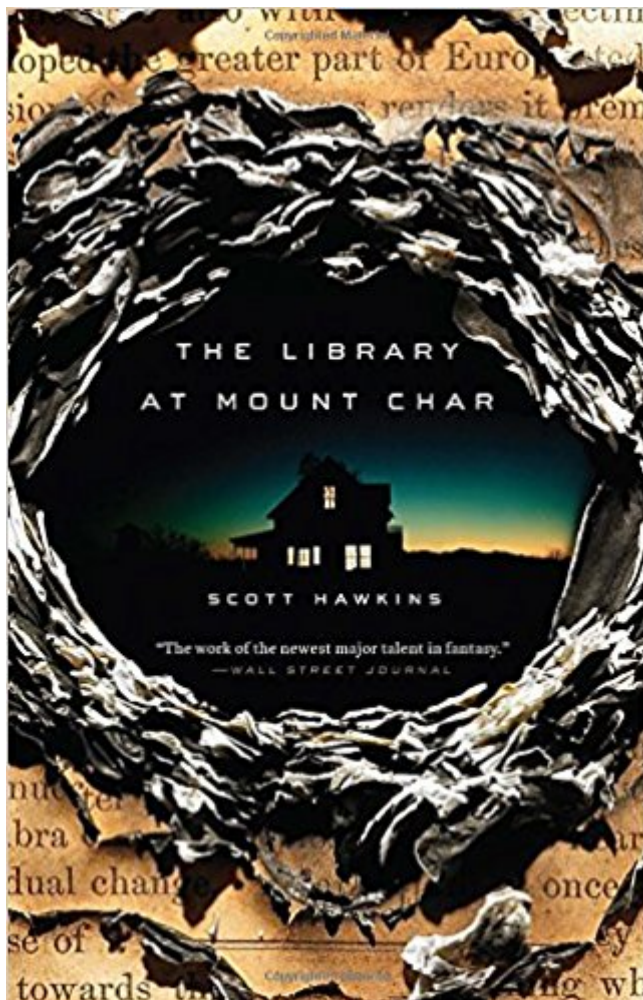


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# The Library At Mount Char



## Synopsis

A missing God. A library with the secrets to the universe. A woman too busy to notice her heart slipping away. Carolyn's not so different from the other people around her. She likes guacamole and cigarettes and steak. She knows how to use a phone. Clothes are a bit tricky, but everyone says nice things about her outfit with the Christmas sweater over the gold bicycle shorts. After all, she was a normal American herself once. That was a long time ago, of course. Before her parents died. Before she and the others were taken in by the man they called Father. In the years since then, Carolyn hasn't had a chance to get out much. Instead, she and her adopted siblings have been raised according to Father's ancient customs. They've studied the books in his Library and learned some of the secrets of his power. And sometimes, they've wondered if their cruel tutor might secretly be God. Now, Father is missing—perhaps even dead—and the Library that holds his secrets stands unguarded. And with it, control over all of creation. As Carolyn gathers the tools she needs for the battle to come, fierce competitors for this prize align against her, all of them with powers that far exceed her own. But Carolyn has accounted for this. And Carolyn has a plan. The only trouble is that in the war to make a new God, she's forgotten to protect the things that make her human. Populated by an unforgettable cast of characters and propelled by a plot that will shock you again and again, *The Library at Mount Char* is at once horrifying and hilarious, mind-blowingly alien and heartbreakingly human, sweepingly visionary and nail-bitingly thrilling—and signals the arrival of a major new voice in fantasy. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• "Wholly original" the work of the newest major talent in fantasy. • "Wall Street Journal" "Freakishly compelling...through heart-thumping acts of violence and laugh-out-loud moments, this book practically dares you to keep reading." • "Atlanta Magazine" "An engrossing fantasy world full of supernatural beings and gruesome consequences." --Boston Globe "Vivid...the dialogue sings...you'll spend equal time shuddering and chortling." • "Dallas Morning News" • "A spellbinding story of world-altering power and revenge" | Hawkins has created a fascinating, unusual world in which ordinary people can learn to wield breathtaking power • "and he's also written a compelling story about love and revenge that never loses sight of the human emotions at its heart. A wholly original, engrossing, disturbing, and beautiful book." • "Kirkus (starred)" • "An extravagant, beautifully imagined fantasy about a universe that is both familiar and unfamiliar" | Hawkins makes nary a misstep in this award-worthy effort of imagination. • "You won't be able to put it down." • "Booklist (starred)" • "A bizarre yet utterly compelling debut...might remind readers of Robert Jackson Bennett's or Neil Gaiman's horror/fantasies." • "Library Journal (starred)" • "A terrific book, full of dark mystery and genuine beauty." • "Richard Kadrey, New York Times bestselling author of Sandman Slim" • "A first-rate novel" | a sprawling, epic contemporary fantasy about cruelty and the end of the world, compulsively readable, with the deep, resonant magic of a world where reality is up for grabs. Unputdownable. • "Cory Doctorow, New York Times bestselling author of Little Brother and Makers" • "Funny, horrifying and original" the kind of story that keeps yanking you off in ridiculous new directions every time you think you know what's coming next." • "David Wong, New York Times bestselling author of John Dies at the End" • "The most genuinely original fantasy I've ever read. Hawkins plays with really, really big ideas and does it with superb invention, deeply affecting characters, and a smashing climax I did not see coming." • "Nancy Kress, Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author of Beggars in Spain" • "This book is batshit crazy. From the very first pages, the story grabs you by the guts and doesn't let go. It mashes together fantasy and thriller, love stories and dark comedy, into a wild trip at once unpredictable and unforgettable. You'll never look at a librarian in quite the same way." • "Keith Donohue, New York Times bestselling author of The Stolen Child" • "A pyrotechnic debut...The most terrifyingly psychopathic depiction of a family of gods and their abusive father since Genesis." • "Charles Stross, Hugo and Locus Award-winning author of Accelerando and The Apocalypse Codex" • "Don't pick up this book unless you want to read something you've absolutely never read before." • "The Library at Mount Char is funny, bizarre, moving, frightening, and surreal." • "The most original work I've read in ages." • "Walter Jon Williams, New York Times bestselling author of Destiny's Way and This is Not a Game"

SCOTT HAWKINS works as a software engineer for Intel. He and his wife live in Atlanta, where they spend much of their time playing Olympic-caliber fetch with their large pack of foster dogs. THE LIBRARY AT MOUNT CHAR is his first novel.

One of the best books I've ever read. Hail the Gods for recommending this book about American Gods while I was shopping the other day! I am sad that I didn't know about it when it was released last year, but am oh so thankful to have had this experience now. Fans of Neil Gaiman are in for a treat. In his debut novel, Scott Hawkins has created a darkly weird world of adult librarians, who were essentially kidnapped by Father when they were eight years old and brought into the infinite Library at Mount Char to study and work. The librarians have been trained in twelve catalogues – one category per child, with strict instructions on not discussing/sharing your catalogue with another. David (master of the war catalogue) and Margaret (master of the dead catalogue) have story lines that are the most violent and brutal, and some of the scenes concerning David, frankly, I could have lived without, but what do you expect from a character who is the master of the war catalogue? His story line is not going to be about eating cupcakes in the park with his girlfriend. The violence is necessary for the subject matter. After all, one does not get to be a God without being burned alive a time or two. As examples of other catalogue subjects, Rachel's catalogue involves the prediction and manipulation of possible futures. Carolyn is the master of all languages. So. Back to the plot. Father is dead, and maybe one of his librarians killed him (I don't want to spoil it for you) and maybe another one of his many enemies killed him. All of the librarians are completely out of touch with humanity and arguably insane now that they are in their 30s. It made me think of our world leaders, and how out of touch they must all be with their respective citizens. (Oh, do you not have the sun anymore? Food is a problem for you now? And I am to understand that you don't like that?) I was also quite amused by the zombies in the suburbs. Hey, I know these people! Wait a minute, am I one of these people?! Just kidding. I am pretty sure I am not one of the reanimated dead. But, you never know who your neighbors are. I think what I enjoyed the most about this read is how Hawkins brought the story full-circle towards the end of the book. We learn more about Father and his relationships with his librarians, specifically, with his protege that he has been grooming all this time to take over his position. Many times, after I am finished with a book, I am still left with a lot of questions that I wish were tied up by the author. Challenging your readers is great, and Hawkins does this in the beginning and the middle. The end is tied up quite nicely for you, and I appreciate that. I want to know what the author

thinks he's written! Tell me a story. Don't tell me a set of circumstances and then leave me sitting over here pissed off contemplating like a jerk for days on end. Well, what did it all mean? I think that is a skill that is quite rare, and I hate it when the author doesn't address the big "Why" questions. Great job, Hawkins! This is one of the best books I have read in many years. I am so glad I purchased this one, because I marked the copy up quite a bit, and will no doubt be returning for a second read next summer. This is one that I am betting will read different to me after knowing how it ends.

I have to say, this book just blew me away. It was recommended to me by my Kindle, and with nothing else lined up, I figured why not? I had not read any reviews of it, just the little blurb that the publisher puts out. I'm not really sure what to say about it. It is very dark and gruesome and the lack of empathy and humanity in many/most of the main characters is chilling, but perfectly suited to the story. As I was reading, the writing did remind me a lot of Neil Gaiman, not just specifically American Gods, but now that I'm reading some reviews I see others picked up on that as well. Just the dark, pragmaticism of many of the characters was reminiscent of Gaiman's writing style. I have to say, I enjoyed this book much more than American Gods but I can't exactly put my finger on why. Maybe it was the pace the total unpredictability, and the convoluted mystery of what was going on. I have never read a book quite like this, but I'm looking forward to reading more by the author!

Amazingly good book! Dark and difficult but a wonderful read. The characters were easy to enjoy, even love, with their more than human, fundamental flaws, creating such an insight to human nature. I thought I had already written a review because for a long time after I finished the book I wanted more, wanted to pick it back up and engulf myself in it. Bizarre, different, but completely addicting. If you like Stephen King, Neil Gaiman, any of the higher level speculative fiction (thank you Mr. Ellison for a proper description) novelists who create real characters that come alive, you will love this novel. Read it and enjoy.

This was unlike anything I've read before. So after finishing I went to Goodreads to see what others said. Everyone else said it was unlike anything they'd read as well so I don't feel so alone in this thought. Hard book to explain without giving a lot away. A little difficult to get into because it drops you in the middle of the story and subsequent chapters bounce forward and backward to fill in the blanks. Well written and great character development. I'd recommend it.

Being an English teacher, I always like unusual books where the endings are unpredictable. Well, this one fits that bill. Very interesting characters, complex plot, and the magical angle that I like. If I could give half stars, I might have given it four and a half, only because the mechanisms that hold the plot together might just be a little too neat, but certainly a book that is off the beaten path. This author needs to write more novels!

I LOVED this book. It was definitely outside of my wheelhouse. Fantasy is not a genre I normally select, but all of the quirky things in this book worked. There was also a tiny bit of Sci-Fi in there, and I am a fan of that. The characters and plot were well developed. This would have been my favorite read of the summer, if I had not read it in April!

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