

OBITUARY

Charles Lewis Grant, 64, one of the post-war generation's most honored and influential fantasy and horror writers, died of a heart attack at home in Newton, New Jersey, on September 15, 2006 following a long illness. He was born in Hackettstown, New Jersey on September 12, 1942. The son of an Episcopalian priest, Grant attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, with thoughts of following in his father's footsteps; but he soon changed his majors to English and History. After graduation from Trinity in 1964, he returned to New Jersey (the setting for all of his major novels) to teach high school. His first serious efforts at writing fiction came in 1966, when he attended the meetings of a local writers' club. In April 1968, he made his first sale, to *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. Later that month, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, and served in Vietnam with the Military Police at Qui Nhon, where he was seriously wounded twice.

After two years of active duty, Grant returned to teaching, but dedicated himself to writing, producing five novels that were never published. His first published novel, *The Shadow of Alpha* (1976), as well as *Ascension* (1977) and *Legion* (1979) were science fiction, but he soon shifted his attention to horror, creating the "Oxrun Station" series, which includes the novels *The Hour of the Oxrun Dead* (1977), *The Sound of Midnight* (1978), *The Last Call of Mourning* (1979), *The Grave* (1981), *The Bloodwind* (1982), *The Soft Whisper of the Dead* (1982), *The Dark Cry of the Moon* and *The Long Night of the Grave* (both 1986), as well as two collections of novelettes, *Nightmare Seasons* (1982) and *The Orchard* (1985).

In 1978, Grant unveiled the short story anthology series *Shadows*, setting a new and insistently literary standard for horror fiction anthologies. In the introduction to its first volume, Grant offered his enduring manifesto, championing "a quiet way to scream" – a literature of "dark fantasy" that became known as "quiet horror."

Although critically acclaimed as a writer and editor, Grant sometimes wrote pseudonymously for financial or simply entertaining reasons. He penned a best-selling series of romances as Felicia Andrews; occult adventure novels as Geoffrey Marsh; humorous fantasies and other novels as Lionel Fenn, Timothy Boggs, Mark Rivers, and Simon Lake. But his devotion to horror fiction was unrelenting – as witness the novels *Night Songs* (1984), *The Tea Party* (1985), *The Pet* (1986), *For Fear of the Night* (1988), *In a Dark Dream* (1989), *Stunts* (1990), *Something Stirs* (1991), *Raven* (1993), *Jackals* (1994); his "Millennium Quartet," *Symphony* (1997), *In the Mood* (1998), *Chariot* (1998), and *Riders in the Sky* (1999); his "Black Oak" series; his final story collection *The Black Carousel* (1995); and two New York Times best-selling "X-Files" novels.

Grant wrote more than 110 books and 200 short stories, and edited more than two dozen short fiction anthologies. He received (among other awards and honors) the Nebula, World Fantasy, British Fantasy, and Bram Stoker Awards. He was also presented with Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Horror Writers Association, the British Fantasy Society, and the World Horror Convention. He was a past president of the Horror Writers Association and past Vice President of the Science Fiction Writers of America. As writer, editor, mentor, and friend, he nurtured the careers of countless younger writers throughout the world.

Grant is survived by his wife of 24 years, Kathryn Ptacek of Newton; his brother, John C. Grant of Washington, New Jersey; a son, Ian M. Grant and his wife Caroline of Juneau, Alaska; a daughter, Emily Stalnaker and her husband Aaron of Akron, Ohio; two grandchildren, Payton M. Grant and Aaron Robert Stalnaker; and many cousins. He was predeceased by his parents, Reverend Sydney E. and Minerva (Clark) Grant.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Charles L. Grant Memorial Fund, which will be established to help further the careers of young writers and editors of fantasy and horror fiction.

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DATE OF DEATH: September 15, 2006