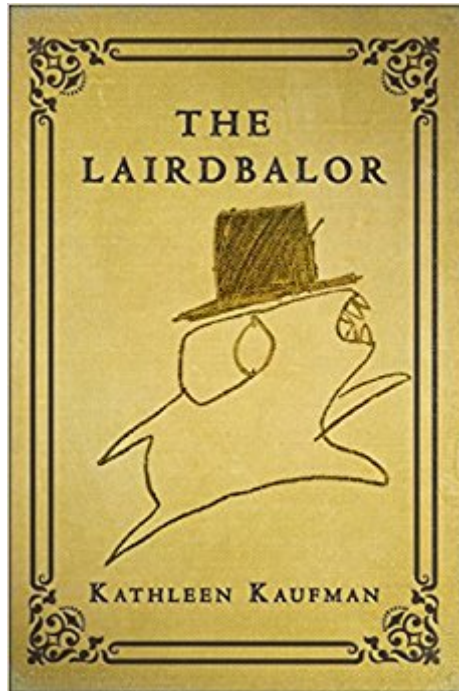




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The Lairdbalor



Synopsis

“I am the stuff of your nightmares . . . you have been writing my name on the walls of your fear your entire life.” When seven-year-old Jamie falls down a very long hill, he finds himself trapped in a world of strange creatures, harsh landscapes, and near-perpetual darkness. Lost and confused, Jamie is desperate to get home. The nightmares, fears, and all manner of what-ifs that inhabit this shadow world are unfamiliar to him—all except one: the Lairdbalor, Jamie’s personal nightmare, once relegated to his dreams. In this fantastical land, however, the Lairdbalor and all the fears and nightmares of children are very real. But Jamie’s nightmare is different. It is the sum total of the anger and anxiety that imprisoned him in his former life, and it threatens to consume and rule the nightmare realm, a place where time passes differently. With each slumber, Jamie finds himself inexorably changed. The farther he travels through this terrifying world, the better he understands the one he left behind. Crossing genres of folklore, horror, fantasy, and magical realism, *The Lairdbalor* is a story for anyone who lives with anxiety and fear and has ever wondered “what if?” It is the story of a child not meant for children and a darkly imaginative meditation on life, death, fear, and the nature of reality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Mythic, haunting, and imaginative, *THE LAIRDBALOR* is a beautifully-written nightmare where the tumultuous anxieties and emotions of childhood are given life and then skinned raw." —Jake Marley, Winner of the 2017 Golden Pen Award
“Sweeping, lyrical, and darkly philosophical, *THE LAIRDBALOR* succeeds in mapping not only a new world, but also a new voice ready to confront and explore our deepest, darkest fears.” —Bram Stoker Award-winning author John

Palisano"Imagine a harrowing coming-of-age quest in a world that is literally your worst nightmare. Kathleen Kaufman has already imagined it for you. THE LAIRDBALOR is wondrous, strange and horrifying. You won't want to sleep again after reading it."•Bill Bridges, author of The Song of Unmaking•A powerful story of myth, legend, and lore this lyrical nightmare come true is chilling and unsettling, but not without hope and heart."•Richard Thomas, author of the Thriller Award-nominated Breaker"With THE LAIRDBALOR, Kathleen Kaufman has written a novel that re-imagines the traditions of Lewis Carroll, J.R.R. Tolkien, and C.S. Lewis for the twenty-first century. In its pages, Kaufman takes us on a journey with Jamie, her young hero, cast from our world into another, fantastic one. There, he must traverse strange landscapes and treat with weird creatures, all in the shadow of the figure he fears the most, the Lairdbalor. Kathleen Kaufman has produced a fine debut, one whose roots in the literature of the fantastic rise into bizarre, memorable fruit."•John Langan, author of The Fisherman"Kathleen Kaufman's debut is a dark, twisted fairytale of the best kind. THE LAIRDBALOR is haunting, evocative, page-turning. Couldn't read it fast enough! The ending will stay with you long after you've put it down."•Jennifer Brody, award-winning author of The 13th Continuum•Kaufman conjures terrifying scenarios, from the creepily unsettling to the graphically horrific, with crisp, elegant prose."•Kirkus Reviews

Kathleen Kaufman is a native Coloradan and long-time resident of Los Angeles, California. She is a University of Southern California alum, teaches high school English, and is a writing and composition adjunct professor at Santa Monica College. In addition to writing, Kathleen is an avid amateur photographer and has published work in The Huffington Post and other publications. When not writing, she probably has a camera in hand or is curled up with a good horror novel. Kathleen currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband, son, terrier, and a pack of cats.

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