



Backteria and Other Improbable Tales (Richard Matheson Series Book 3)

Richard Matheson

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Available only in e-book format, Backteria and Other Improbable Tales is a brand new collection of short tales of terror and the unknown from master storyteller Richard Matheson. In the title story, published here for the first time, a researcher encounters an exotic new strain of virus that causes the infected person to disappear. Curiosity leads the doctor on a path of discovery which takes him deep into his own personal history and suggests the age-old warning: Be careful what you wish for.

In "Getting Together", a case of mistaken identity leads to a darkly farcical story of marriage, murder, and a love that knows no bounds. The quietly threatening "Haircut" shows how a routine trim becomes a dark and terrifying experience when a barber is confronted with a sick customer who seems to him otherworldly.

In this collection of stories Matheson clearly demonstrates once again why Ray Bradbury called him "one of the most important writers of the twentieth century" and Stephen King named him as "the author who influenced me most as a writer."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Burton Matheson (born February 20, 1926) is an American author and screenwriter working primarily in the fantasy, horror, and science fiction genres. Between 1950 and 1971, Matheson produced dozens of stories, frequently combining elements from the different genres in which he works, making important contributions to the further development of modern horror. Matheson wrote fourteen episodes for the American television series *The Twilight Zone*, including the famous "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet." Notably, Steven Spielberg's first full length film (made for television) was based on the story "Duel," for which Matheson also wrote the screenplay.

Matheson's first novel, *Someone is Bleeding*, was published in 1953. His thirty novels since then include *The Shrinking Man* (filmed as *The Incredible Shrinking Man*, again adapted from Matheson's own screenplay), and a science fiction/vampire novel, *I Am Legend* (made into film as *The Last Man on Earth*, 1964, *The Omega Man*, 1971, and

I Am Legend, 2007).

A new film based on Matheson's story "Steel," entitled *Real Steel*, is a major motion picture that was released in October 2011. His most recent novel, *Other Kingdoms*, appeared in March 2011.

According to film critic Roger Ebert, Matheson's scientific approach to the supernatural in *I Am Legend* and other novels from the 1950s and '60s anticipated the "pseudorealistic fantasy novels like *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Exorcist*." In 2010, Matheson was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, and Stephen King has cited Matheson as a creative influence; his novel *Cell* is dedicated to Matheson along with filmmaker George A. Romero. Author Anne Rice has said that Matheson's short story, "A Dress of White Silk" was a primary early influence on her interest in vampires and fantasy fiction.

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