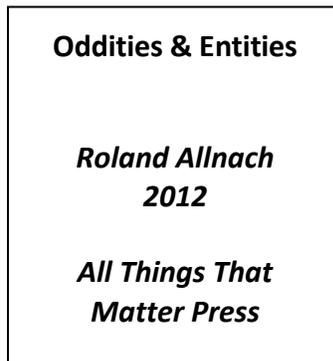
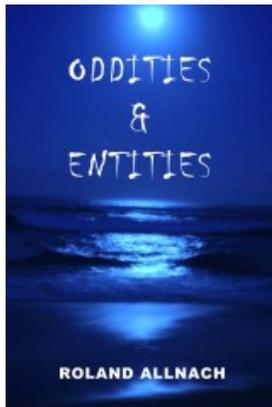


# Oddities & Entities

by Roland Allnach

## Presskit information



**Within this package please find the following materials:**

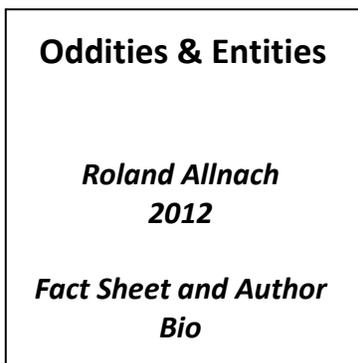
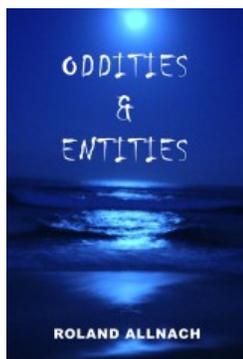
- Book fact sheet**
- Author biography and publication history**
- General press release** (courtesy of Pacific Book Review)
- Select review, courtesy of Cynthia Brian, New York Times bestselling author and World Talk Radio host**
- Sample Reviews**

**Publisher contact information:**

- Publisher website:** [www.allthingsthatmatterpress.com](http://www.allthingsthatmatterpress.com)
- Publisher email:** [allthingsthatmatterpress@gmail.com](mailto:allthingsthatmatterpress@gmail.com)

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**Oddities & Entities** is a surreal, provocative anthology of six tales within the supernatural/paranormal/horror genres, exploring a definition of life beyond the fragile vessel of the human body. The stories are: 'Boneview', in which a young woman struggles to balance her ability to see through people with the presence of a supernatural creature in her life; 'Shift/Change', in which a hospital worker struggles to regain his memory as he is confronted by a series of desperate people; 'My Other Me', in which a lonely college student finds himself displaced from his body by his alter ego; 'Gray', in which a frustrated man is stunned to discover a little creature has been living in his head; 'Elmer Phelps', in which a brother and sister find themselves linked in a strange reality by a bat bite in their youth; and lastly, 'Appendage', in which a cynical mercenary is hired by his son to protect a research lab on the verge of a stunning discovery.

**Book information:**

**Format:** Paperback, square bound, 9x6x0.6 inches, 268 pgs.

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**Publisher:** All Things That Matter Press

**Publication date:** March 2012

**Available:** Amazon.com, Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble.com, Tower.com

**Author website:** [www.rolandallnach.com](http://www.rolandallnach.com)

**Critiques and Awards:**

- Bronze Medalist, Horror, 2012 Readers Favorite Book of the Year Awards**
- Finalist, Paranormal, 2012 Readers Favorite Book of the Year Awards**
- Award Winner-Finalist, Fiction/Horror, 2012 USA Book News Best Book Awards**
- Award Winner-Finalist, Fiction/Anthology, 2012 USA Book News Best Book Awards**
- "If you only read one book this year, make it this one."* Lee Ashford, Readers Favorite
- "Allnach is a master storyteller with a powerful pen."* Cynthia Brian, NY Times bestselling author, host of World Talk Radio's 'Starstyle'

**Author Bio:**

Roland Allnach has been writing since his teens, but did not actively seek publication until 2007. He has numerous published short stories to his credit, one of which was a 2010 Pushcart Prize nominee, as well as two award winning books, **Remnant** (2010) and **Oddities & Entities** (2012). His literary inspirations arise from classic literature, history, and mythology, and his aim is to invest his stories and characters with a complexity and depth that continue to reward upon repeated readings. Writing aside, his joy in life is the time he spends with his family.



## Roland Allnach

### Author Biography and Publication History

#### **Short Story Credits:**

- “After the Empire”, Summer 2008 issue of *The Armchair Aesthete*
- “11”, Fall 2008 (Vol. 7/34) issue of *Allegory*
- “Icon”, January 2009 issue of *Midnight Times*
- “Creep”, Spring 2009 issue of *The Storyteller* (**Pushcart Prize nominee**)
- “Return”, Fall 2009 issue of *Lullwater Review*
- “Flowers for Colleen”, April 2010 issue of *Absent Willow Review*
- “Memento”, on the web for the 2010 issue of *Reed Magazine*
- “Shift/Change”, July/August 2010 issue of *Aphelion*
- “The Great Hunter”, September 2010 issue of *Foliolate Oak*
- “Apogee”, Fall 2010 issue of *Rose & Thorn Journal*
- “The City of Never”, October 2011 issue of *Aphelion*, **Editor’s ‘Best of 2011’**
- “Conquest’s End”, Spring 2012, *Bewildering Stories*, **‘Editor’s Choice’ Spring 2012**
- “Turn the Wheel”, ‘Garden Nettles’ issue (2012) of *Midwest Literary Magazine*
- “Beheld”, Summer 2012, *Raphael’s Village*

#### **Book Credits:**

- Remnant, November 2010, All Things That Matter Press
- Oddities & Entities, March 2012, All Things That Matter Press

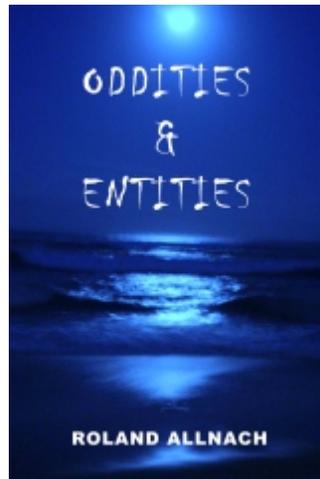
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#### **Web Presence:**

- Website, [www.rolandallnach.com](http://www.rolandallnach.com)
- Facebook (as Roland Allnach)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Award Winning Author  
Roland Allnach Reveals Tales of the  
Supernatural and Paranormal in His  
New Collection of Novellas Titled  
“Oddities & Entities”**

***In Between Life and Death Are Extraordinary Worlds and Bizarre Realities***

**NOVEMBER 2012:** Original, fanciful tales of psychoses, psychics, neuroses, and revelations not explainable by common sense biology comprise the context of *Oddities & Entities*, the latest in a genre of supernatural writing by Roland Allnach.

“ I have a feature on my website where I talk about the creative considerations I put into everything I write,” commented Roland Allnach during a recent interview with Pacific Book Review. “For this book, it started while I was walking across a parking lot at night, and my shadow was curling around me as I passed the lights in the lot. From there it didn’t take much to start wondering what the perception of the *shadow* would be if the shadow had an intellect, an awareness, of its own,” he said.

This form of abstract perception is philosophically explored in his writing, lending itself to reveal different perceptions upon multiple readings.

“ I wanted to work with several themes in *Oddities & Entities*, and one of them is the uncertainty that resides in shifting states of existence,” said the author. “That may come across as a rather detached idea, but I think it’s something that has a direct translation into everyday life, and the way in which people segue from one phase of life into another.” Allnach goes on to

explain, "As people mature, the shift from the insular life of a pre-adult to the responsibility *and accountability* of adulthood is perhaps one of the greatest shifts we endure. So, the use of characters who are making that transition opened two creative possibilities: one, to touch on the more normal aspects of growth to ground the characters as accessible, flesh and blood people; two, to also take that process and use it as an open door for the characters to renegotiate their presence in the world with the varying states of bizarre awareness that blunder through their lives."

As a tribute to the acumen of Allnach's writing, nothing you expect to happen, happens. The author keeps you thinking and turning the page over and over.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Roland Allnach has been pursuing various forms of creative expression since his earliest memories. His imagination, as well as an innate do-it-yourself personality, led him to evolve his hobby of writing into a more serious pursuit. His numerous published short stories include a Pushcart Prize nomination as well as Editor's Choice nods. His first book, *Remnant*, probed sci-fi landscapes, while his second, *Oddities & Entities*, treads between several genres. Roland has been featured on both television and Internet radio interviews. Along with critical acclaim, both of Roland's books have received multiple award recognition: *Remnant* in the 2011 National Indie Excellence Awards and 2012 Readers Favorite Awards for Sci-fi, and *Oddities & Entities* in the 2012 Readers Favorite Awards for both Horror and Paranormal.

**Title:** *Oddities & Entities*

**Author:** Roland Allnach

**Publisher:** All Things That Matter Press

**ISBN:** 9780985006648

**Pages:** 268, Paperback/Kindle/Nook

**Genre:** Horror/Supernatural/Science Fiction

**Author website:** [www.rolandallnach.com](http://www.rolandallnach.com)

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## Review of 'Oddities & Entities', by Roland Allnach

*Reviewed by Cynthia Brian, Producer/Host of StarStyle®-Be the Star You Are!® on World Talk Radio and New York Times best selling author*

### 5 STARS

#### Horror in Poetic Prose

Normally books I choose to review are non-fiction, upbeat, positive, and life-enhancing. Horror is not a genre that I read, but when Roland Allnach's *Oddities & Entities* crossed my desk, I was intrigued by the sentence "*Set in the mysterious space between the everyday world and an existence just beyond reach, 'Oddities & Entities' traces a path through the supernatural, the paranormal, and the speculative.*"

The read didn't disappoint. *Oddities & Entities* is an anthology of six tales that explore the meaning of life beyond flesh and bone. The stories are gritty, gruesome, bewitching, and beautiful. Allnach began writing as a hobby when he was a teenager without dreams of becoming an author. After more than two decades working the night shift in a hospital, he had experienced an abundance of strange and abnormal activities, many of which found their way into his writings. Allnach is a master storyteller with a powerful pen. His words flow as gently as a stream meandering through a bucolic meadow even as he describes nightmarish scenes.

Roland was a guest on my internationally broadcast radio program, Starstyle® -Be the Star You Are!® and he enthralled our listeners around the world as he described real life happenings hidden beyond the veil, his writing process, and his runaway imagination. An avid reader, Allnach has a do-it-yourself personality, thus when he writes, he studies what he reads then designs his own musicality for his sentences. The fluid transparency of his words catapult the reader into the world of his macabre characters forcing one to make a moral judgment on his philosophical musings. We experience the paranormal, the speculative, and the crazed with Allnach's poetic prose. He is a master writer of the surreal and deserving of the numerous awards he is winning.

*Oddities & Entities* will entice, frighten, and shock as the little voices that live in the author's mind jump into yours. Enjoy the creatures, the complexities, and the curveballs. The horror and the haunting have never been more therapeutic!



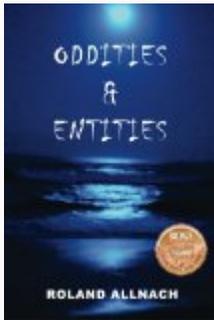
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**Title:** **Oddities & Entities**

**Author:** Roland Allnach

**Publisher:** All Things That Matter Press

**ISBN:** 9780985006648

**Pages:** 268, Paperback/Kindle

**Genre:** Horror/Supernatural/Science Fiction

**Reviewed by:** Jason Lulos

**Date Review Completed:** September 29, 2012

Psychoses, psychics, neuroses, and revelations not explainable by common sense biology, the characters in this fantastic collection of stories reveal and discover, to quote the author, a human "is a bridge, and not an end."

The borders between psyches, humans and the world, the natural and the supernatural are not shattered; they are subtly made fluid as bridges themselves. Each story in "Oddities and Entities" is beautifully written and the flawed characters, from fallen angels to reluctant vampires, do not just romantically accept their nature as some cookie cutter cult figures might. These characters, in Hamlet-esque style, question the hell out of who they are and therefore take philosophical and psychological tangents about what they are in relation to the world.

"Boneview" is the first story in the collection. Allison, an atypical Goth girl, plagued and protected by a ghoulish guardian angel from birth, has psychic abilities. This is, of course, a blessing and a curse. In the end, she must make a choice between two kinds of sight. It is a Bildungsroman, beautifully dark.

"Shift/Change" is composed of two stories which surprisingly intertwine. John, a literal or

figurative fallen angel, finds potential redemption while working with a hedonist in the mortuary of a hospital. Think Night Shift but written by Stephen King or the Coen brothers.

Mo, short for "My Other Me," an alter-ego and more. What starts out as a dark vignette about a shy young Noel stalking a young beauty becomes a similarly dark, but slapstick dual personality war in which Noel and Mo take turns kicking each other out of Mo and Noel's body. A wonderful philosophical tangent comes from the shadowed (out of body) Noel, who struggles with this new way of perceiving the world. "If what he perceived as his intellect was a fantasy generated by his own flesh, then the perception of existence about his flesh was fantasy as well. Nothing was real, and so everything was real." A fine deconstruction.

"Gray." Dave, our protagonist has a small man expelled from his brain during a feverish bout of nose blowing. The homunculus, "Gray," is not the ghost in the machine; he's a symbiote who establishes order, living in virtual harmony with his human comrade since birth. Perhaps a comment on the fallacy that the world can be described or even lived in binary oppositions, the gray symbolizes the fluctuation between black and white concepts such as order and freedom.

A reluctant vampire, "Elmer Phelps," unwilling to join the fraternity/sorority of the unspoken vampires, falls in love with Samantha, a waitress at the local diner. A small town love story, with charm and sensitivity, turns into an all out blood bath before it's over. Elmer's older sister praises the immortal lifestyle and shy Elmer's conscience resists. She is a psychic bridge to Elmer, a depraved but protective older sister, encouraging Elmer to partake in all things forbidden.

The final, and aptly named, appending story is "Appendage." Think of a Buddhist or Transcendentalist Island of Dr. Moreau. Randal is a mercenary hired by his son, Jonah, to protect his discovery of an elixir called "Purity," a veritable panacea. The miracle drug from the jungle is a kind of "cure all" but not exactly a new "discovery." Sort of a spoiler: The "villagers" have mastered a certain art: Transcendental in mind and body. What reads like an action/horror story actually segues nicely to an end (or a bridge, I should say) connecting humans and nature with a lyrical lasting image of the rustling of leaves as the echoes of our ancestors.

This is a great book. Nothing you expect to happen, happens. The author keeps you thinking and turning the page over and over.

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### ***Oddities & Entities***

Roland Allnach

All Things That Matter Press (2012)

ISBN 9780985006648

Reviewed by Paige Lovitt for Reader Views (8/12)

“Oddities & Entities” by Roland Allnach is composed of six engrossing, and sometimes grossing short stories. Each one is unique in its own way, and completely different from anything I have ever read before. Reading these twisted stories gave me an awesome escape that made me feel like I was on a ride through a fun house with no idea when it would be over or where I would end up. As a result of the uniqueness of the author’s ideas, he is in control of the journey because you will have no idea what is going to happen next in his creative imagination.

If you are looking for a romantic comedy, this is not the book for you. Although there are several relationships that are involved in most of these stories, they tend to be out of the norm. Way out of the norm as a matter of fact. For example, in “Elmer Phelps,” the main character has two relationships to deal with. One would be perfect, if it wasn’t complicated by Elmer’s secret dire need for consuming raw flesh. There is also a bit of an issue with how well he gets along with his sister who shares his dietary needs. I will stop there because I don’t want to spoil it.

As I read each story, I appreciated how well Roland Allnach was able to write such complete, detailed scenes in the space of a short story or a novella. He does a wonderful job of describing the scenes and helping you dive right into the characters’ minds. He will take you to some dark and twisted places, and you will enjoy having goose bumps on your arms. And when you are done with reading “Oddities & Entities,” you will be extremely relieved to find yourself back in your mundane world, as I was. Then, if you are like me, you will find yourself looking on the Internet to find out what else Roland Allnach has written so that you can dive right back into that twisted darkness.

## Readers Favorite



**Five star review**

**Bronze Medalist, Horror, 2012 Book of the Year Awards**

**Finalist, Paranormal, 2012 Book of the Year Awards**

## Oddities & Entities

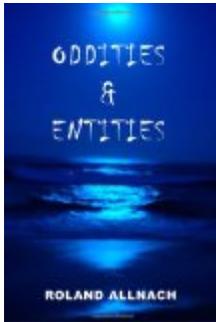
Roland Allnach

Reviewed by Lee Ashford for Readers Favorite

"Oddities & Entities" by Roland Allnach, categorized as horror fiction, is unlike any other horror fiction I have ever encountered. The book is comprised of six stories, each of which is written a cut above the norm. There are no recognizable monsters in these stories, no sophomoric zombies, no evil ancient vampires, and none of the standard fare I have become accustomed to in the horror genre. I do like the usual run of the horror genre, but this book is written with thoughtful intelligence, for an intelligent adult reader. I do not mean to imply sexual situations or coarse language. What I mean is, any intelligent reader, capable of deep thought, will find this book irresistible. The six individual stories are as unlike as any 5 stories can be, yet each one is so sufficiently well-written that, if sold as individual short stories, I wouldn't hesitate to award 5 stars to each of them.

To say I like this book is a crass understatement. Each story drew me in and evoked my empathy for various characters. These stories forced me to actually think beyond what I was reading. Each premise was unique, at least in my experience; I have never encountered any other stories that even approach the situations these present with authority and authenticity. If I could boil down my perception of this book into a single word, that word would be WOW! Roland Allnach's first anthology, "Remnant", which I have also read, was placed as a finalist in the Science Fiction category in the 2011 National Indie Excellence Awards. I absolutely expect "Oddities & Entities" to follow suit. If you read only one book this year, make it this one. Be prepared to have your comfort zone challenged.

**'Oddities & Entities' by Roland Allnach**



Reviewed by Douglas R. Cobb

If you're fans of quality horror literature, you owe it to yourselves to check out the up-and-coming author, Roland Allnach, and his collections of brilliant novellas, *Remnant* (which I've reviewed at this site elsewhere), and *Oddities & Entities*. The stories he writes are stealth bombs of suspense and they have a high creepiness factor that suck his readers in like quicksand teeming with all sorts of vile, squiggly creatures. That may sound unappetizing, if you, like his characters, are mired in the quicksand of predicaments he writes about; but, if you're a fan of the horror genre reading them, they're like electrical shocks to the pleasure centers of the brain.

*Oddities & Entities* consists of six marvelous miniature masterpieces of horror. I won't go into each in-depth, but I will touch on some of the many highlights that make this a stand-out collection that you should add to your personal libraries. The six novellas are: "Boneview (one of my personal favorites)," "Shift/Change," "My Other Me," "Gray," "Elmer Phelps (also nicely atmospheric and twisted)," and the collection concludes with the polished gem, "Appendage."

"Boneview," is a tale about a young woman who has a most remarkable gift, though it's often more like a curse to her: Allison can use her psychic ability called boneview to see how people will die. It's like she gets an X-ray gaze into their futures, into whatever degenerative bone diseases the people might develop. Allison can peer into their bodies and learn if they will get into a car wreck, or fall off of a ladder and break their necks.

Allison discovers that her powers are more of a burden than a blessing. Two different entities want to get at her and use her for their own purposes. There's a bizarre but very cool creature called the Curmudgeon who wants to become more human, and desires to steal her first-born to accomplish this goal. And, there's someone who is ostensibly a human, but who travels all around the country killing people with the sight and cutting out their eyeballs to save their immortal souls.

In "Shift/Change," a hospital worker struggles to regain his memory while being confronted by a series of desperate people. The character, Eldin, takes life and death very nonchalantly, telling the new employee with the memory issues, John, that: "Time don't mean nothin' down here." Some people like the junkie, Rose, pay Eldin money to shoot up there. Others pay for the

twisted desire of necrophilia with the “stiffies.” i.e., to have sex with the corpses. How is this new employee similar to one that the hospital used to employ? When one has unfinished business to take care of, can even death prevent him from giving himself up to the cops?

“My Other Me,” reminded me of Edgar Allan Poe’s short stories, especially the ones in which he mentions doppelgangers. That’s because, in Allnach’s novella, a college student finds himself displaced in his own body by his alter ego. If your alter ego is someone like Superman, everything’s fine—but, what if your alter ego was that of a serial killer? “My Other Me,” is a great take on this theme.

I’ll just discuss in brief one more of the six novellas, “Appendage.” It is the final story of the collection, and it’s about what happens when a cynical mercenary is hired by his son to protect a research lab on the verge of a stunning discovery. Without hopefully giving too much away, the story reminded me somewhat of the movie Predator. That’s because much of it takes place in a jungle. The mercenary, Randal, discovers that he has an inoperable brain tumor. This novella, among many other things, illustrates that “Going Green,” is not always a good thing to do.

*Oddities & Entities* is a collection of six tales of the macabre which will chill your spine. The novellas made me think, as I was reading them, of some of the best Twilight Zone episodes I’ve ever viewed. Roland Allnach already impressed me with his suspenseful collection of short stories, *Remnant*, and he has proven with this latest collection that he is rapidly becoming a master of the horror/suspense genres. Horror aficionados, check out *Oddities & Entities* today, and be on the look-out soon for my interview with the author, Roland Allnach, at this site!