



Lila The Werewolf and Other Tales

Peter S. Beagle

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16 old and new classics by acclaimed fantasy icon Peter S. Beagle, 10 of which are collected for the first time.

The reprints in this book were originally gathered together in Beagle's 1997 fiction/nonfiction set, *THE RHINOCEROS WHO QUOTED NIETZSCHE*. That book is never going to be reissued in any format, so the stories were given a new home here. They include the title piece, which very nearly invented the entire subgenre of urban fantasy; "Professor Gottesman and the Indian Rhinoceros" (Beagle's personal favorite among all his short fiction); the exquisite "Come Lady Death," which inspired Neil Gaiman to make Death a young woman in his *SANDMAN* comic series; and the deceptively simple, heartbreaking/heartwarming truth of "My Daughter's Name is Sarah."

The 10 new pieces are all from 2009 through 2012, part of Beagle's astonishing 21st century outpouring of short fiction, during which he has written five times as many stories in just 10 years as he wrote in the previous 40. More amazing still is the diversity of the work, even for an artist long-recognized as hating to repeat himself. In "Music, When Soft Voices Die" Beagle moves beyond the surface trappings of steampunk to reach the dark heart of the world; in "Trinity County, CA" he offers an alternate modern-day California where illegal backwoods meth labs use dragons as fiery watch dogs; and in "Underbridge" he reveals the horrific truth behind a popular Seattle tourist attraction. The seven other new tales in this set are equally wide-ranging, leaping from 17th-century Maine to Edgar Rice Burroughs' Africa and Barsoom. There's never any guessing where a Beagle story will start, or where it will go—but adventurous readers can be assured they are in the hands of a master.

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—Peter S. Beagle was born in 1939 and raised in the Bronx, just a few blocks from Woodlawn Cemetery, the inspiration for his first novel, *A FINE AND PRIVATE PLACE*. Today, thanks to classic works such as

THE LAST UNICORN, TAMSIN, and THE INNKEEPER'S SONG, he is acknowledged as America's greatest living fantasy author; and his dazzling abilities with language, characters, and magical storytelling have earned him many millions of fans around the world. In addition to stories and novels Beagle has written numerous teleplays and screenplays, including the animated versions of THE LORD OF THE RINGS and THE LAST UNICORN, plus the fan-favorite "Sarek" episode of STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION. His nonfiction book I SEE BY MY OUTFIT, which recounts a 1963 journey across America on motor scooter, is considered a classic of American travel writing; and he is also a gifted poet, lyricist, and singer-songwriter. He has won the Hugo, Nebula, Locus, and Mythopoeic Awards, along with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Fantasy Association, and also France's prestigious Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire.

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