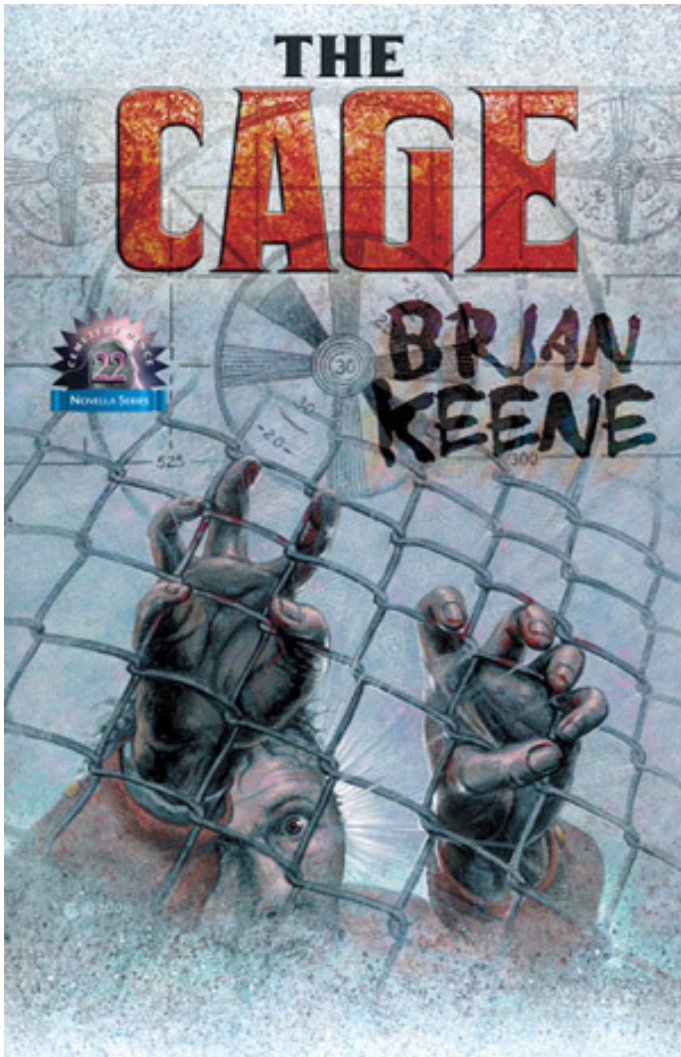


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**Brian Keene**

**The Cage**



Title: The Cage

Author: Brian Keene

Format: Hardcover

Language: English

Pages: 104

Publisher: Cemetery Dance, 1280188800

ISBN: 1587671875

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 7.5 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

For the employees of Big Bill's Home Electronics, it's just the end of another workday — until a gunman bursts into the store and begins shooting. Now, with some of their co-workers dead, the hostages are being slaughtered one-by-one, and if they want to survive the night, they'll have to escape... The Cage.

## Insightful reviews

Ms. Nikki: Not for me. A bunch of guys were pretty much held hostage in the back of an electronics store inside a cage where items are held. We don't know what the man holding them hostage wants, but the guys get tidbits of info. While they were being held hostage the fellas turned into a bunch of chatty Cathy's which is a pet peeve of mine. Too much talky. It really took away from the supposed tension in the story: who is he?, what does he want?, oh, my god, we're gonna die. The ending? Meh.

Just an alright read ~

Tim Mayer: The Cage is a collection of 4 horror tales by writer Brian Keene. It's not too long and can be read in one sitting. The first tale, for which the book anthology is named, is the longest. The final story is very brief and, as the author mentions, can fit on a t-shirt.

What made me grab this one was the lead story. A group of men are closing down an electronics store for the evening when in walks a psycho decked out in black. He's carrying plenty of firepower. He orders everyone into "the cage"- a locked area sectioned off by a chain link fence in the back warehouse for the smaller, valuable items. Then he starts bringing them out one by one and doesn't say why. When it becomes obvious those he takes out of the cage aren't coming back, all kinds of tension results. It's a grim tale. I worked at a major electronics dealer years ago and the kinds of people he describes ring true. And the action takes place not very far from where I write.

Here's a sample:

"Big Bill had been legendary among home electronics salesmen in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Over the years, he'd worked in all the usual places—Rex, Circuit City, Best Buy, Sears, American Appliance, and all the others. He'd been there when satellite television was brand new. He'd been there when projection screens were the next big thing, and when they became archaic, giving way to plasma and liquid crystal display. He'd even been there when compact discs made cassettes as extinct as eight-track tapes and vinyl. Big Bill had seen it all. He knew the trends. He knew the technology. Most importantly, he knew what people wanted and he knew how to sell it to them."

The next tale, "Marriage Causes Cancer In Rats", is the best. Following on the theme of the previous story, a married electronics retail manager falls hard for a customer, but his family creates a complication. He devises a gruesome way to get them out of the picture. However, his plan has unintended repercussions. Bonus points for an original ending.

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The third story, "Lest Ye Become", is a shooting rampage chiller. Original and topical for these dark times.

This is a good introduction to the writer. I just wish there had been more stories in the collection. "The Cage" is long, but might've made a good novel.

Eric: An outstanding novella from Brian Keene, available in limited edition from Cemetery Dance as part of its Novella Series. It's closing time at the consumer electronics store, when the Man in Black appears. He's got a plan. And a big ol' gun. Now, Jeff and what's left of his co-workers are locked in the Cage in the back, trying to figure out what's going on, and how they can avoid being the next to die. A quick, excellent read, more psycho-thriller than horror despite the author and publisher. Ordinary men face an extraordinary circumstance in the vein of "The Mist" or other We're-Trapped-In-Here-Are-We-Gonna-Die literature. Highly recommended.

Geoff: This was once a solid novella which follows Keene's usual formula. It tells the tale of a bunch of staff at a electronics store who while ultimate have a psychopath input and after killing some of the staff order the remainder into the warehouse and locks them up in a cage that's used for smaller pricey electronics. What transpires is the concepts and fears of the remainder staff as they watch all the final co-workers get carted out of the cage one-by-one yet without wisdom of what occurs to them. So its a stunning good mental thriller, yet leads to common Keene horror that still accommodates Keene's mythos of the Thirteen, which has a Lovecraftian consider to it. This wasn't an outstanding story, however it was once nonetheless good performed and engaging.

Hexsyn: I learn The Cage in hardback again in Jan '11. this can be for the quick tale "Lest Ye Become" the fast to inside the Deadite Press paperback.

Patricia Kaniasty: i used to be now not inspired with the most story. It was once type of stupid. However, the 2 tales that that one have been beautiful good. brief yet good.

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