Becky Siegel Spratford's *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Horror* provides librarians with valuable information on horror. This is the second edition of the book. The author specifies that she updated and reassessed the material, including "new authors, trends, annotations, and suggestions" (p. x). As someone who is an avid reader of the genre, it is refreshing to have a resource that not only provides great selections, but also discusses the perhaps unknown subgenres of horror. This book will assist unfamiliar librarians with the genre, as well as give librarians who know the genre inside and out renewed enthusiasm.


Each chapter has its own valuable information and appeal, but there are a few that are particularly interesting and thorough. In "Monsters and Ancient Evil," the author focuses on novels that were influenced by H. P. Lovecraft and Richard Layman. Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos has made a resurgence in the horror community in various forms, including games and film. This particular chapter makes this book that much more valuable to a reader's advisory librarian. "The Classics," is also a great chapter. It contains a necessary reading list for anyone just getting into the genre. I was a little disappointed that Guy de Maupassant was not on the list., but there were plenty of other essential authors included. Spratford provides useful tips and guidelines to creating a classics list, such as finding titles published before 1974. In "The Appeal of Horror," Spratford clearly defines horror as "a story in which the author manipulates the reader's emotions by introducing situations in which unexplainable phenomenon and unearthly creatures threaten the protagonists and provoke terror in the reader" (p. 14). She also discusses what horror is not. This may seem trivial, but to horror fans who may be picky or who want more horror reads, it is essential.

In each of the chapters, Spratford provides an annotated bibliography, as well as more commending reading. These are highly beneficial not only to the readers' advisory librarian, but the patron as well. By making the list available to patrons, they have the option to search for themselves or, if they need additional information, they may address the librarian who created the advisory list.
This book is a valuable resource for readers' advisory or general librarians in public libraries or anyone interested in the Horror genre, Spratford served as a reader's advisor at the Berwyn Public Library in Illinois. She currently teaches classes on Readers' Advisory Services at the Dominican University where she earned her MLIS. She is the author of the RA for All: Horror blog, which may be found at http://www.raforallhorror.blogspot.com/.

Lizzy Walker currently works at the Boise State Albertsons Library as a Library Assistant 2. She earned her MLS with the SWIM cohort through University of North Texas.