



The Spider Tapestries: Seven Strange Stories

Mike Allen

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“Mike Allen will infect your subconscious with hallucinatory and alarming delight. This book is a must-read for fans of weird fiction and dark fantasy.”

—Helen Marshall, World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Gifts for the One who Comes After*

“Surrender yourself to *The Spider Tapestries* and let these tales rewire your mind.” —Scott Nicolay, World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Do You Like to Look at Monsters?*

The Spider Tapestries, Mike Allen’s sophomore short story collection, takes a wrecking ball to genre boundaries, showcasing seven stories that mix transhuman noir, Lovecraftian horror, and surrealistic sorcery in an exploration of the further reaches of the Weird. Readers who savored the disorienting strangeness in Allen’s debut collection *Unseaming*, a Shirley Jackson Award finalist and Amazon.com horror fiction bestseller, will find *The Spider Tapestries* begins where *Unseaming* left off.

As Nicole Kornher-Stace, author of *Archivist Wasp*, explains in her introduction, “Allen outdoes himself even further, borrowing and synthesizing across genres with gleeful abandon....This results in stories like ‘Twa Sisters,’ with an atmosphere and setting as if Heironymous Bosch had been brought in as a consultant on *Blade Runner*. Or ‘Sleepless, Burning Life,’ which, with simultaneous nods to steampunk and metaphysics, explores and upends the familiar trope of Mortal Chosen by the Gods.”

More praise for *The Spider Tapestries*

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—Helen Marshall, World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Gifts for the One Who Comes After*

“The aptly named *Spider Tapestries* forms a stunning picture that is equal parts darkness and light . . . a whirlwind tour through worlds of decadent fantasy, noir-touched future-weird, and elegant horror. Mike Allen offers up intricate mythologies that feel real and lived in, rich-detailed stories for readers to immerse themselves in, and from which they will emerge changed. The stories feel epic in scope, from an assassin climbing through the clockwork gears of the world to rescue a goddess in a cage, to an AI moving through bodies and networks to gather up and reassemble the pieces of his lost love. Allen takes readers on a journey through years and worlds, all in the space of a few pages.”

—A.C. Wise, author of *The Ultra Fabulous Glitter Squadron Saves the World Again*

“There was a time before the marketplace sliced our wild fantastic literature into bite sized chunks, a time when visions could be astounding, amazing, and weird all at once, a time when Clark Ashton Smith could mainline a Thousand and One Nights into million-colored suns. Now comes Mike Allen, shredding raw that scar-woven shroud between then, now, and infinity, releasing hallucinatory torrents of jewel-encrusted erotic transhumanism with the intensity of a quasar and stripping bare the secret wheels and cogs of the universe beside those lovers who would destroy them.”

—Scott Nicolay, World Fantasy Award-winning author of *Do You Like to Look at Monsters?*

“Mike Allen, among the most dynamic of contemporary fantasists, habitually upends Lovecraftian tropes with his own brand of cosmic horror.”

—Laird Barron, Bram Stoker Award-winning author of *X's for Eyes*

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