



**THE DANCING BEARS:  
Queer Fables for the End Times**  
by Rob Costello

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[Lethe Press Listing](#)

**"Hauntingly moving and evocative, this collection's got teeth... *THE DANCING BEARS: Queer Fables for the End Times* will linger with readers long after they reach the final page."**

-Aden Polydoros, author of *The City Beautiful* and *Wrath Becomes Her*, and finalist for the World Fantasy and Lambda Awards

**"Costello's dark debut presents a wide spectrum of grisly queer supernatural shorts."**

- *Publishers Weekly*

- A lost boy under the spell of a seductive killer suffers the sting of betrayal while on the hunt for fresh blood.
- A misanthrope obsessed with death carries on a torrid affair with the malevolent spirit haunting the house in his favorite novel.
- The dead son of an abusive horror novelist returns from the grave to tell his father what really happened the night he died.
- An ex-child star desperate for a comeback meets a sinister stranger who reveals the terrible price of attaining his heart's desire.
- A headstrong girl determined to seduce her gay ex-boyfriend discovers what being trapped in the closet really means.

***THE DANCING BEARS: Queer Fables for the End Times*** showcases eleven dark tales of the queer and uncanny. With eight previously published and three brand new stories, this debut collection features young queer characters grappling with love and desire in a heartless world hurtling toward the abyss.

## Author Bio:

**Rob Costello** (he/him) writes dark fiction with a queer bent for and about young people. He's the contributing editor of ***WE MOSTLY COME OUT AT NIGHT: 15 QUEER TALES OF MONSTERS, ANGELS & OTHER CREATURES*** (Running Press Teens, 2024) and author of the story collection ***THE DANCING BEARS: QUEER FABLES FOR THE END TIMES*** (Lethe Press, 2024). His stories have appeared in *The Dark*, *The NoSleep Podcast*, *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Stone Canoe*, *Narrative*, and ***RURAL VOICES: 15 AUTHORS CHALLENGE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT SMALL-TOWN AMERICA*** (Candlewick, 2020). An alumnus of the Millay Colony of the Arts, he holds an MFA in Writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and has served on the faculty of the Highlights Foundation since 2014. He is co-founder (with Lesa Cline-Ransome, Jo Knowles, and Jennifer Richard Jacobson) of the **R(ev)ise and Shine!** writing community, and he lives in upstate NY with his husband and their four-legged overlords. Learn more at: [www.cloudbusterpress.com](http://www.cloudbusterpress.com) & [www.revise-and-shine.com](http://www.revise-and-shine.com).



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