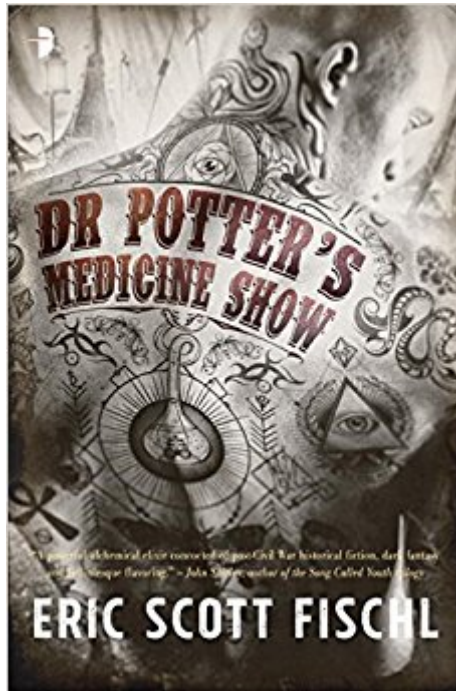




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Dr. Potter's Medicine Show



Synopsis

The year is 1878. Dr Alexander Potter, disgraced Civil War surgeon, now snake-oil salesman, travels the Pacific Northwest with a disheartened company of strongmen, fortune-tellers, and musical whores. Under their mysterious and murderous leader they entertain the masses while hawking the Chock-a-saw Sagwa Tonic, a vital elixir touted to cure all ills both physical and spiritual. For a few unfortunate customers, however, the Sagwa offers something much, much worse. For drunken dentist Josiah McDaniel, the Sagwa has taken everything from him; in the hired company of two accidental outlaws, the bickering brothers Solomon Parker and Agamemnon Rideout, he looks to revenge himself on the Elixir's creator: Dr. Morrison Hedwith, businessman, body-thief, and secret alchemist, a man who is running out of time. [File Under: Fantasy](#) [[The Secret Tradition](#) | [Chemical Imbalance](#) | [Hustlers Hustled](#) | [The Carnival is Over](#)]

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Customer Reviews

“Dr. Potter's Medicine Show” is a brilliant study of characters struggling against the monstrous to retain their own humanity. Fischl's talent for voice and knack for characterization finds humor and beauty amidst horror and depravity. It's heartbreaking, elegiac, and an absolute pleasure to read. — Carrie Patel, author of the Recoletta series “Fischl has infused his tale of the old west with one part of alchemy and one part of gangster movie. The resultant brew is deliciously dark and entirely compelling.” — Rod Duncan, Philip K Dick Award-nominated author of *The Bullet-Catcher's Daughter* “A word of advice: whatever you do, don't drink the Sagwa. One part history, two parts fantasy, and three parts toe-curling horror. Drink it down. A

grotesque elixir of history, fantasy, and toe-curling horror. Warning: may cause nausea, sleep disturbances, and compulsive page-turning. Not to be taken orally. • “ Arianne • Tex • Thompson, author of the Children of the Drought trilogy • Dirty, dank, and dangerous. • Dr Potter’s Medicine Show is the missing season of • Carniv• le• you didn’t know you needed until now. • “ Adam Rakunas, Philip K Dick Award-nominated author of • Windswept • So even though • Dr Potter • rightly belongs on the • horror/occult • side of the Weird Western spectrum, it cleaves apart from the sensational grimdark vogue that so heavily tints our view of the past. Fischl’s command of his characters’ world is grotesque, vivid, joyful, and sublime • an uncommon realism that honors the human side of history, and a reminder that a carnival of horrors is still a carnival, after all, with miracles and spectacles awaiting anyone brave enough to venture into the sideshow tent. • “ • Tor.com • The characters are vividly realised, leading you to feel as sympathetically towards some as you are horrified by others, and Eric Scott Fischl isn’t afraid to be brutal with his creations. The ingredients may seem pulpy, but Fischl has turned them into gold. • “ • SFX • magazine • You’ll feel slightly dirty after spending time with some of these characters, but you’ll never forget them • or this gritty, down-and-dirty debut. • “ • The B&N Sci-Fi & Fantasy Blog • Dr Potter’s Medicine Show is violent, gory, and uncomfortable but ultimately a hell of a read. • “ • Manhattan Book Review • I enjoyed reading this. It’s well written and the characters are all well rounded and you know they’ve lived full lives before we met them. There’s a very oppressive, claustrophobic atmosphere which builds tension to a satisfying finale. • “ • Helen Lindley • This novel is dark, and at times violent. So be warned. But with each turn of the page I was transported to a different era, to events that were both strange and bizarre, and I loved it. • “ • Buzzing Bookmark • I highly recommend • Dr. Potter’s Medicine Show. It’s a good story with great characters. • “ • Purple Owl Reviews • A great and wonderful read that won’t disappoint those used to fantasy, horror or suspense. • “ • The Writers, Artists and Readers Guild • How to describe the book? It’s almost as if Mary Shelley had set • Frankenstein, or Robert Louis Stephenson • Doctor Jekyll, in the Old West. But weirder than that, and funnier too. 4/5 • “ • Blue Book Balloon • The kind of story you should read while chugging cheap • whiskey straight from the bottle and cussing up a storm. It’s an intense ride full of alchemy, death, and violence. • “ • The Eichenblog • If you’re looking for subtle but engrossing fantasy with a deliciously dark heart, then look no further, the doctor will see you now. • “ • The Eloquent Page • The old west is so well evoked you can almost smell the manure, the characters are incredible, leaping off the page and into your brain and the story carries you along in this miraculous world. Thrilling, entertaining and totally immersive. • “ • Morpheus

Talesâ œThe darkness and violence fits the overall tenor and style of the novel. It rattles along as a satisfying thriller, building to a climactic and horrific close.â •â “Â Astounding Yarnsâ œDid I say dark? Wow, this book is dark.â •â “Â Fed On Peachesâ œIf youâ™re easily freaked out, read this one with the lights on or with a buddy, and if you have a strong reaction to violence, proceed with caution.â •â “Â Geek Dadâ œAn impressive book: the world is richly imagined, and the characters are vividly drawn. The mysteries are teased out at just the right pace, and I couldnâ™t put it down. If this show rolls around again, Iâ™ll be first in line for a ticket.â •â “Â Barnes & Noble Sci-Fi & Fantasy Blog

Eric Scott Fischl writes novels of speculative historical fiction and the supernatural.Â He lives in Montanaâ™s Bitterroot Mountains. verbadverb.com twitter.com/eric_fischl Author hometown: Montana, USA

Good read. The characters were believable and you either love them or hated them . The plot had enough twists and turns but I never knew what was gonna happen . I look forward to his next book .

I enjoyed this read! I liked this historical elements mixed in with the alchemy. I think it kept things interesting and the twists coming. The characters are great and their stories intriguing. Looking forward to the next entry at the end of the year, Eric.

I was sucked into this book from chapter one. I almost missed my bus stop I was so engrossed in the first chapter and every chapter after that sucked me in just as much as the first. This book is very well written and although I'm not even finished with the book yet I'm already looking forward to the authors next book. The characters are very well developed and the story flows at a great pace. Well worth the read.

I enjoyed this book very much! It is well written and an easy read.

I enjoy odd books in this particular setting (1800s/early 1900s) and this was right up my alley. I can't write good reviews on fiction, so I'm just saying I liked it. Strange, witty, and well-written. Have a sip.

This isn't my normal reading genre but was recommended by a friend. I was captivated by the characters and how real they seemed

The best book I've read in a long time!

You know what really sucks about books? They don't come with the genre equivalent of nutrition labels. It's the dumbest thing. The back cover and the blurbs and all the advertising pitch this book as a historical dark fantasy, which it is, with murder and occult magic, which it has, to put you in the mood for some arcane sideshow grotesquery, which it does. But the packaging will not tell you that this book comes with a Laurel-and-Hardy pair of bickering rustic clownshoes, or one of those headstrong young women who are always gadding about on the frontier. There will be little mention of the Hangover-esque quartet (including the hapless drunk dentist with missing teeth) and their quest to revenge themselves on a murderer and/or get some pie. You certainly aren't going to hear anything about the colorfully upgraded rural vocabulary, despite the fact that it would do Deadwood's Al Swearengen proud, much less the author's own wonderful use of language. Who's got time to catalogue all that? Well, I do. So here it is. Dr.

Potter's Medicine Show is 35% carnival horror, 22% redneck picaresque, 15% friendship and loyalty and true human connection spitting in the face of every needless cruelty, 12% opium and grain alcohol (with more than one greasy belching thereof), 8% latent tuberculosis, 5% people being rained on, and 3% Agamemnon Rideout, a corn-fed dull-edged shotgun hero-clod and one hell of a model American. So if that all sounds like a good time to you, shake it up, hold your nose, and drink it down. There's no telling what it might do to you, but I guarantee you won't find bad medicine this good anywhere else.

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