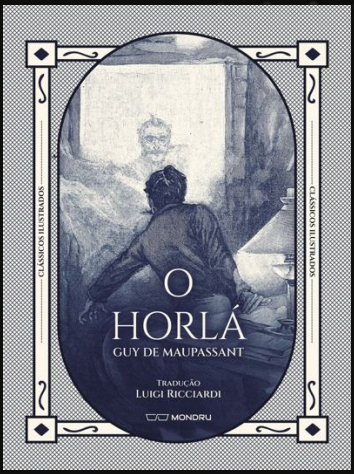
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The Horla

GUY DE MAUPASSANT, LUIGI RICCIARDI

Original title: O Horlá

IMPRINT	GENRE	PUBLISHED	PAGES	TRIM SIZE	ISBN
Mondru	Short Stories	2025	80	21 × 28 cm	978-65-6042-177-6

SYNOPSIS

"The Horla" is a fantastic short story by Guy de Maupassant that narrates, through the protagonist's diary, the escalating paranoia and psychological terror that overtake him as he becomes convinced he is being haunted by an invisible being, the Horla. Initially, the protagonist attributes his symptoms to physical and mental ailments, but a succession of inexplicable events, such as the disappearance of water and the movement of objects, leads him to believe in the existence of a malevolent entity. The narrative traces the deterioration of the protagonist's mental health as he feels increasingly powerless before the Horla's growing influence over his life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The life and work of Guy de Maupassant are tragically intertwined in The Horla. Mentored by Gustave Flaubert, he became one of the greatest short story writers of French realism. However, his successful career was overshadowed by syphilis, a disease that, incurable at the time, led him into a profound physical and mental decline.

The narrator's symptoms in The Horla—fever, paranoia, hallucinations, and the sensation of an invisible presence—mirror the author's own suffering. Maupassant lived with pain, delusions, and an increasing loss of control over his mind, culminating in a suicide attempt in 1892. Committed to a psychiatric clinic, he died the following year in a state of dementia.

More than a work of fantastic horror, The Horla is the agonizing portrait of a writer consumed by his own abyss.

Luigi Ricciardi is a writer, professor, and editor. Holding a PhD in Literature, he is a professor of French language and literature, as well as a translator. Among other works, he has published the novel "Os passos vermelhos de John" (Litteralux, 2020) and the short story collection "O descobrimento do Brasil" (Patuá, 2023). "Fragmentos de uma ausência" is his first work published by Mondru.

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