BABY, COME TO MUMMY! CELEBRATING
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CALL GIRL OF CTHULHU THE FINAL GIRLS

HANGORIA

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"HOARDER" Horror!

ndie filmmaker Armando D. Muñoz has been quietly making strange, no-budget shorts like Pervula and Panty Kill throughout the 2000s, and credits his devotion to horror to his lifelong love of FANGORIA. Indeed, Muñoz may be one of our greatest fans and most vo-cal supporters, and that's why we're thrilled to shine some light on his latest venture: a grim, typically odd novel called Hoarder.

Hoarder is Muñoz's first foray into written fiction, and it's dynamite—a sickening, imagi-native shocker that blends elements of Wes

Craven's The People Under the Stairs with the even more terrifying reality-TV show Hoarders to grim, fast-paced and often creepy effect. In it, a group of too-curious kids break into the local lair of presumed lunatic Missy to reclaim their lost cat. They find the deranged Missy, and also discover her secret: She lives in a lethal labyrinth of trash, filth and death that threatens our heroes' very lives. Muñoz made some time for his favorite mag to weed through the clutter and cut to the chase...

FANGORIA: The idea of a hoarder serving as the basis of a horror story

ARMANDO D.

MUÑOZ: Hoarding has been on my mind for many years. There was a period in my past when I discovered I was developing those tendencies, so I changed my habits. My uncontrollable collection was horror-movie memorabilia, which continues, but is more manageable now. I also hoarded FAN-GORIA magazine, and now I buy one of every issue instead of three. I've seen many of those hoarder programs, and they are some of the most gag-inducing shows on television. Mixing horror and hoarding always seemed like a natural idea to me.

FANG: Why do you think people hoard?

MUÑOZ: There are so many reasons. Hoarding is classified as a mental disorder, and has a variety of triggers, like a death or tragedy, divorce, loneliness, low self-esteem, lack of medication, addiction and sometimes just laziness or gluttony. I do feel a degree of sympathy for many of them. It's harder to defend animal hoarders, when neglect, disease and the deaths of those animals are involved. Unfortunately, sometimes a really bad person hoards. My hoarder is a delusional monster. Missy is terror by the tons.

ARMANDO D. MUÑOZ

FANG: There's a hint of the Stephen King story "Gray Matter" in Hoarder. Are you a

MUNOZ: I've been hooked on King for 30 years now, since I picked up Cujo in early 1985. My other favorite author I discovered one year later, after I read the first FANGORIA interview with a promising young chap named Clive Barker in issue #51. These guys continue to inspire me with their stories and fireless work ethic. I definitely want to adapt Barker and King for the screen someday.

FANG: Can you talk about the use of humor in your novel?

MÚÑOZ: My short films are known for their

mix of humor and horror, and there is a degree of sick humor in Hoarder. Just like the kids trapped in Missy's house, you have to laugh to cope when you discover the creeping contents of Missy's refrigerator, or the deplorable state of her bathroom, or that thing growing out of her toilet.

In my novels, I'm moving further away from the humor and working toward bigger scares and greater suspense. My second novel, Turkey Day, which will be coming out soon after Hoarder, is far more grim and violent, and is mostly devoid of laughs. FANG: If Hoarder became a film, who would

play Missy? MÚÑOZ: Hoarder is being developed as a feature. I'm currently in talks with my number-one choice for Missy, Diane Delano [The Wicker Man, Jeepers Creepers II), and I'm so excited to have her on board. Before *Hoarder*, I'm developing a spinoff feature called *The Cutters*, which concerns a character named Mrs. Cutter who makes an appearance in Hoarder. Lesleh Donaldson [Happy Birthday to Me, Curtains] is set to star as Mrs. Cutter, who is not a hoarder-she's something worse.

Hoarder will be available to order on-line at www.hoardernovel.com. -Chris Alexander

