

Test Reader Feedback Form

A Sleepless Cycle Beneath His Gaze - Version 0.1

Thank you for reading this test edition. Please answer honestly. Specific examples, chapter numbers, and page numbers are more useful than general praise or dislike.

Reader Information

Name or initials: _____

Date completed: _____

Preferred horror genres: _____

Familiarity with H. P. Lovecraft or the Cthulhu Mythos:

- ☐ None
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Extensive

Overall Response

1. Overall rating from 1 to 10: _____
2. Did the book feel complete at its current length? Why or why not?
3. At what point did the story fully pull you in?
4. Where, if anywhere, did you become bored or tempted to stop?
5. What was the strongest part or chapter?
6. What was the weakest part or chapter?

Clarity and Confusion

7. List any scene, event, rule, location, or character decision that confused you.
8. Did you understand why Daniel performed the ritual and chose the wrong column?
9. Was the distinction between sleep, microsleep, dream crossing, and physical reality understandable?
10. Did the transition from ordinary geography to Mistbound Hollow and the Celestial Well make sense within the story's rules?
11. Were the signal interludes useful, distracting, or unnecessary?

Characters

12. Did Daniel feel like a believable person rather than only a narrator for cosmic events?
13. Did you remain emotionally invested in Daniel after learning that he opened the Gate?
14. Did Mara have enough agency, personality, and influence on the plot?
15. Did Daniel and Mara's relationship feel clear without being labeled as a conventional romance?
16. Did Jonah's decision to remain in Mistbound Hollow feel earned?
17. Which character did you care about most, and why?
18. Did Nyarlathotep feel intelligent and manipulative rather than generically evil?

Pacing and Tension

19. Rate the pacing of each section from 1 (too slow) to 5 (too fast):

- The Beginning Of... _____
- Gates of Hell _____
- Sleepless Shadows _____
- Night Breed's Embrace _____
- Mistbound Hollow _____
- The Celestial Well _____
- Tentacled God _____
- The Final Vigil _____
- The Obsidian Tide _____

20. Did the quieter sections provide useful contrast while maintaining dread?

21. Did the story move from private horror to global apocalypse too quickly, too slowly, or correctly?

22. Were any chapters too short or too compressed?

23. Were any scenes repetitive?

Horror and World Rules

24. Which scene frightened or disturbed you most?

25. Did Cthulhu feel cosmic and incomprehensible, or merely like a giant monster?

26. Did the Necronomicon and Watcher ritual feel dangerous and consistent rather than convenient?

27. Did Daniel's worsening sleep deprivation feel convincing?

28. Were the rules of Mistbound Hollow and the Celestial Well clear enough while retaining mystery?

29. Did any horror image feel excessive, unclear, or unintentionally confusing?

Ending

30. Did Mara's death have sufficient emotional weight?

31. Did Daniel's Final Vigil resolve his character arc?

32. Did returning the Watcher shard feel like an earned limited action rather than a false victory?

33. Was the complete destruction of humanity satisfying for this story?

34. What did you believe happened to Leah?

35. What did you believe happened to Jonah?

36. What was your emotional reaction to the final line and underwater organ chord?

Final Comments

37. One thing that absolutely should not change:

38. One thing that most needs revision:

39. Any factual, continuity, grammar, formatting, or typographical problems:

40. Additional comments:
