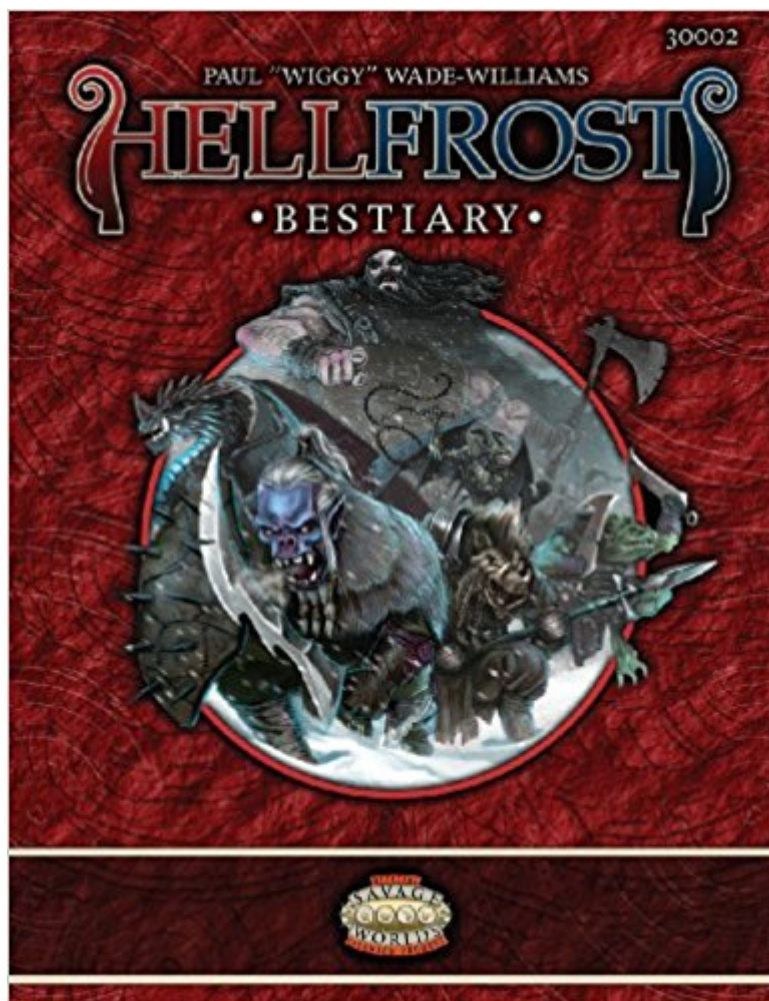


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Hellfrost Bestiary (Savage Worlds, TAG30002)



Synopsis

PREPARE TO FIGHT FOR YOUR LIVES! Enter a world where Ice Demons and Frost Wights wait to destroy the careless adventurer. Do you dare to tread the same path as them? This core book for the Hellfrost setting contains information and statistics for over 300 hazards, monsters, and citizens of Rassilon. Whether your heroes explore the Hearthlands or the Hellfrost itself, all manner of potential allies and fearsome foes await. Assassins and nobles, clerics and mages, Hearth Knights and healers, sailors and mercenaries-the GM has over 40 archetypes at his fingertips, easily added to their game. Among the many creatures detailed are over a dozen types of orcs and elementals, complete stats for six breeds of dragon, and five races of giants, as well as trolls, elementals, fey, demons, undead, and unique Hellfrost beasts. As well as the monsters there are new rules for knockback and a chapter on creating relics, Hellfrost's permanent magic items. A simple system and generous advice gives the GM everything he needs to create an unlimited variety of relics in just a few moments. Lavishly illustrated throughout, the Hellfrost: Bestiary contains everything you need to populate a town or ruin. Your fantasy adventures will never be the same again! This book is designed for use in conjunction with the Hellfrost Players' Guide. Hellfrost: Bestiary is a core book in the epic Hellfrost setting for the award-winning Savage Worlds RPG.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When it comes to monster books for RPGs, it's pretty much a given that the number of monsters presented is inversely proportion to the amount of information given about each one. Which is to say, you can make a book with lots of monsters that aren't described in great detail (like the D&D Monster Manuals produced for 4e) or a few monsters described in great detail (like the Riddle of

Steel supplement *Of Beasts and Men*). The *Hellfrost Bestiary* is a bit of a mixed bag in this respect, but in general trends more toward more monsters with less description. Personally, I don't think this was a good approach. Despite the prevalence of common fantasy tropes in *Hellfrost*, the PG and Gazetteer nonetheless present a setting with a very strong flavor. It doesn't feel like Generic Fantasy Setting #1 covered in snow. And I think the *Bestiary* could have gone a long way toward enhancing that particular feel and separating *Hellfrost* from the glut of fantasy settings on the market. But its success in this respect is limited. There are some excellent entries in the book, monsters that feel very much like they are **Hellfrost** monsters, not D&D monsters with a white coat and "Ice" stuck at the front of the name. In particular, the Fey entries are very good as are the monsters that seem to be drawn from Norse and Germanic myth (and if they aren't actually drawn from myth, kudos to the writers for making them feel like they were). Other entries are less impressive. Some are interesting but not particularly evocative or inspiring. Most of the undead fall into this range, which is sad because I feel like undead are important in the setting. Monsters specific to the *Hellfrost* seem much the same. Others are just stock-standard fantasy monsters. Except for a sidebar on tribal traits (which is very cool), the orcs could have been drawn from nearly any *Savage Worlds* fantasy game. Leaving aside the entries I outright disliked (the mantichore -- a Persian monster -- and the various demons that don't seem to fit the setting at all), the book seems like a mix of interesting, evocative monsters and, well, filler. There is a plethora of ordinary beasts and monsters with "Ice" or "Frost" or "Hellfrost" stuck in front of the name, and while some are cool, others are frankly silly (the Ice Ooze and the manta-like creature that hides under the snow come to mind here). It honestly gives me the impression that some of the entries were written just to take up page count or meet some arbitrary number of monsters planned for the book. And given that it's so easy to come up with *Savage Worlds* monsters on your own, the "filler" entries seem even less necessary. All that said, this is still a useful book and an enjoyable read. As another reviewer noted, the art is good but sparse. The book isn't quite what I was looking for, but even the pickiest of GMs should be able to find a few useful monsters in here, some of which can spark an entire storyline. As for me, I wouldn't say I'm disappointed in the book, per se, but it does lose a star for missing a great opportunity.

Pretty boring. Very few of the entries seemed creative, and none of them inspired me to create new stories. They were fine for fleshing out a generic ice world, but they were neither inspired nor added any distinctive flavor to the world. It's not bad, but it's just filler.

The Hellfrost Bestiary has new creatures particular to the Hellfrost setting as well as plenty of standard fantasy critters to challenge players. This well stocked bestiary also presents some NPC entries and a few natural environmental hazards. There is a short section for handling random encounters and using an action deck to determine if an encounter occurs. The back of the book contains some advice and a few uncomplicated tables for creating Relics. The art work is very well done, if a bit sparse. I would have loved to see a few more illustrations, especially since a few of the creature descriptions were a little vague. Overall this is a fine book that offers many beasts and villainous ideas to oppose characters in any Savage Worlds campaign.

I would liked to have seen a picture of each creature instead of a couple every two pages. This would have helped me give life to the creatures for my group.

If you are a fan of SW or Vokings or just cool monsters and or bad guys...get this book!! Its really a good read!

Fluff , core rules are all that is needed

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