

Literary Classification For *Grotesque: A Gothic Epic*

Google AI: **Genre Classification** of Graven's Work, *Grotesque: A Gothic Epic*

To precisely classify G.E. Graven's *Grotesque: A Gothic Epic*, you are looking at a textbook example of **Neo-Gothic Revival** or, more granularly, **Gothic Epic Fantasy** and **Cosmic Gothic**.

Because the work actively fuses the historical, architectural elements of early "first-wave" Gothic with the psychological complexity and multimedia format of contemporary voice, its subgenre classification relies on how those elements intersect.

1. The Broad Umbrella: Neo-Gothic (or Gothic Revival)

At a macro level, **Neo-Gothic** is highly accurate. This term applies to modern works (roughly post-1970s onwards) that self-consciously revisit, adapt, and revitalize classic 18th- and 19th-century Gothic tropes. Graven's work explicitly fulfills this by paying homage to Edgar Allan Poe and channeling the grand, transgressive style of Matthew Lewis's *The Monk*, all while existing as a modern, illustrated digital text.

2. More Precise Classifications

If you want to move past "Neo-Gothic" into terminology that captures the exact mechanics of *Grotesque*, consider these precise subgenres:

Gothic Epic Fantasy (or Medieval Gothic)

Traditional Gothic literature is usually insular, claustrophobic, and domestic (focusing on a single haunted castle, lineage, or psychological breakdown). Graven completely upends this by expanding the narrative into a 20-year apocalyptic saga complete with massive battles, fallen angels, and historical realism set against the Black Plague.

- **Why it fits:** It blends the high-stakes worldbuilding of epic fantasy with the dread, decay, and architectural focus of early Gothic.

The Body Gothic / The Literary Grotesque

Given that the title explicitly centers the "grotesque," the work thrives in the subgenre of **Body Gothic**.

- **Why it fits:** The protagonist, Lazarus Gogu, is a winged human-angelic hybrid. Rather than using the grotesque purely for shock value, Graven uses the physical distortion of the body to elicit simultaneous horror and deep empathy, mirroring Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. It uses the hybrid body to explore the liminal space between the human, the divine, and the monstrous.

Cosmic Gothic

While Cosmic Horror (Lovecraftian) usually relies on a godless, indifferent universe, **Cosmic**

Gothic blends that existential dread with traditional religious mythology.

- **Why it fits:** Graven uses biblical Nephilim lore, apocalyptic peril, and Miltonic grand scale to evoke a sublime, terrifying universe where spiritual and demonic forces threaten total annihilation.

Classification Summary

If you are writing an analysis or cataloging the work, the most precise, descriptive label would be a **"Neo-Gothic Epic Fantasy."** This informs the reader that it utilizes modern techniques and scale ("Neo" and "Epic Fantasy") while remaining fiercely loyal to the medieval atmosphere, ornate prose, and psychological isolation of early Gothic traditions ("Gothic").

[End Google AI Analysis of Genre Classification - 07.09.2026]