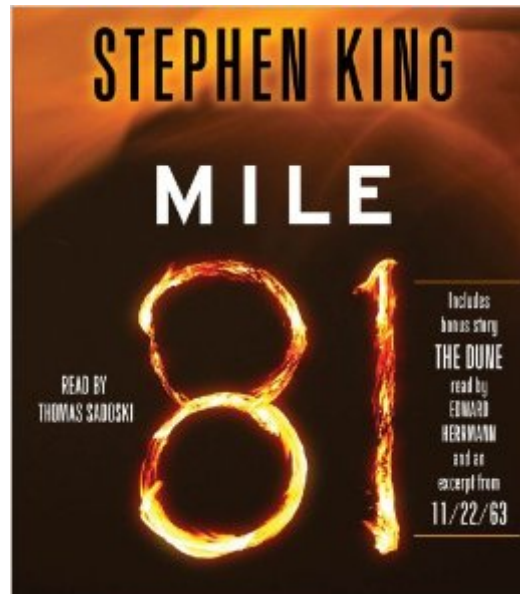


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Mile 81: Includes Bonus Story 'The Dune'



Synopsis

Mile 81 is Stand by Me meets Christine—the story of an insatiable car and a heroic kid. At Mile 81 on the Maine Turnpike is a boarded-up rest stop, a place where high school kids drink and get into the kind of trouble high school kids have always gotten into. It's the place where Pete Simmons, armed only with the magnifying glass he got for his tenth birthday, finds a discarded bottle of vodka in the boarded up burger shack and drinks enough to pass out. Not much later, a mud-covered station wagon (which is strange because there hadn't been any rain in New England for over a week) veers into the Mile 81 rest area, ignoring the sign that says "closed, no services." The driver's door opens but nobody gets out. By the time Pete Simmons wakes up from his vodka nap, there are half a dozen cars at the Mile 81 rest stop. But two kids and a horse are the only living things left...unless you maybe count the wagon. With the heart of Stand By Me and the genius horror of Christine, Mile 81 is Stephen King unleashing his imagination as he drives past one of those road signs. In the bonus story "The Dune," originally published in Granta's October 2011 horror issue, retired Florida Supreme Court Judge Harvey Beecher tells his lawyer about a mysterious sand dune on an unnamed island a short distance off the Gulf coastline of his family's property. Harvey first visited the island at the age of ten in 1932, after his grandfather, a scoundrel and land speculator who'd created the family fortune, told him Blackbeard's treasure might be buried there. Traveling to the island became a daily addiction for Harvey and now his lawyer is about to discover the shocking reason why.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The "short story" was interesting but \$11.48 is a little steep for a 90 minute listen....I will not buy any more audio CDs from unless the number of CDs and total run time are listed in the offering

The reading of Stephen King's Mile 81 was the brighter side of the big picture, the actual story in itself was a weak version of a R.L. Stine Goosebump book for children. The best part of Mile 81 was listening to him mock Justin Bieber, otherwise SKIP. The Dune, on the other hand, was amazing. short. brazen. great. The story of The Dune could have even been turned into one of his even longer 'Shawshank' size stories, but regardless by the end of the 15 minute story I LITERALLY hit the back-track and listened to it again on the car ride home, praying I missed something the first time, but was pleasantly surprised that I hadn't and loved the eerie story that much more. The Mile 81 Audio is a toss up whether to purchase or not, I bought it at a hole-in-the-wall used book store and no offense to the author (being a huge fan of King) but that is the exact place you should buy it, no Mile 81 retail.

I just reviewed Drunken Fireworks as a 5 star short story but with King it is usually really good or really bad. This was not one of his better stories and I would skip this one. I can forgive him because he has written so many others that were masterfully written but this one was so bad I would have never made it through the entire story had it not been a short one. A car that eats people? Really? Enough said, I expect more from an accomplished storyteller genius like Stephen King.

The good folks in Maine are once again under attack. The alien car must be the little brother of Buick 8 and gas guzzler does not apply here. A very quick and enjoyable read which once again has you warning the protagonists not to approach the entity at hand, but alas, to no avail.

Whatever you do, don't stop at that rest stop. Those cars are all abandoned for a reason and you don't want to know what that reason is. The story starts out a bit slowly with King focusing on what turns out to be a bit player but once it picks up, it keeps you on the edge of your seat. Great story to listen to while on a road trip.

I think King is cleaning out his vault, but nonetheless these stories are enjoyable enough, I guess. Mile 81 is a return to Christine or Mile 81. It is grotesque and certainly one of his less serious stories. But it didn't knock me off my feet. The Dune was far more enjoyable for me. It's only flaw is

that it is too short. It is story told by an old man writing his will. He tells his attorney of a mysterious island he owns. If I tell much more it will give too much away... like I said, short. Both stories are read well by accomplished readers. It also comes with a portion of King's newest door stop of a novel, 11/22/63. I wouldn't suggest this to anyone other than a King enthusiast. 11/22/63, on the other hand, I would suggest to anyone. If you haven't read his short stories, this is not the place to start. Buy the Just After Sunset audio book. There are some GREAT stories in there! N. is possibly his best short story to date.

I'm not sure why so many people don't like this short story. It did not require any deep thought or have hidden meanings, it was just an entertaining story which was probably all it was intended to be. I had one small complaint. The part where the first state trooper went to check the car and it stated he left the safety on when pulling his Glock. As any one familiar with guns knows a Glock does not have a manual safety, the safety is part of the trigger. Just a minor detail.

Stephen King is so prolific that those of us who are "constant readers" find his prose as comfortably familiar as a pair of old slippers. I believe Mile 81 is being marketed as a novella, but I would consider it more of a short story. The Body, a story that the publishers are comparing it to, is much longer with much more backstory and character development and definitely a proper novella. King draws from his well of careworn characters, ie, wise beyond their years children, salt of the earth downeasterners, but once again manages not only to make them interesting, you actually want to root for them. Spoiler Alert!!!! This isn't so much a supernatural/paranormal type story as it alien or monster. I think it took about 40 minutes or so to read, maybe less, which is another reason why I'd consider it a short story. I read on average 2 to 3 books a week from all different authors and genres, and I would highly recommend this to everyone, whether you are a King fan or not.

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