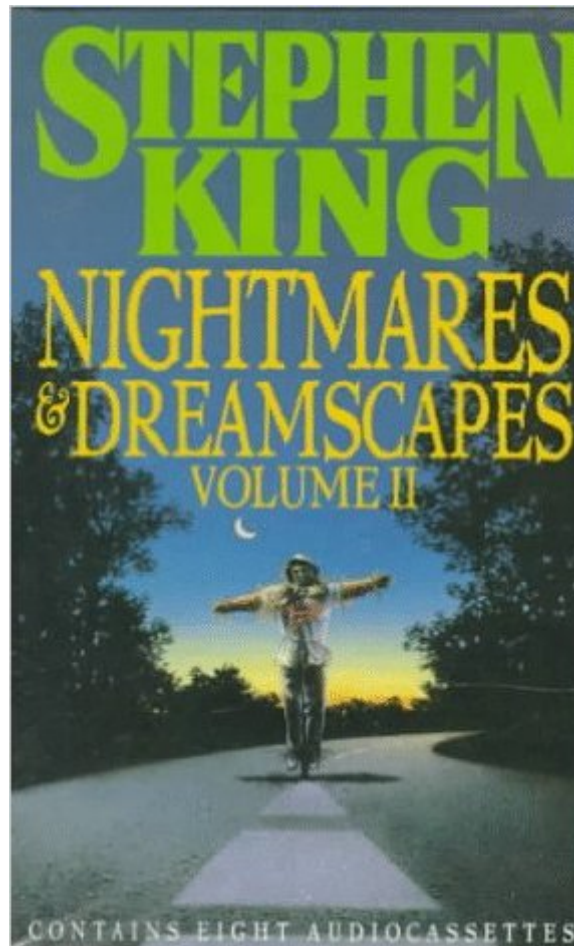


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Nightmares And Dreamscapes: Volume 2 (v. 2)



Synopsis

Nightmares and Dreamscapes is everything Stephen King fans expect and demand: magnificently written, heart-stoppingly suspenseful, darkly humorous, and wonderfully gruesome. This audio edition, the second in a three part series, contains several unabridged selections from the book's thrilling nightmares and chilling dreamscapes waiting to be explored by those who dare. Stories include: "The Doctor's Case" read by Tim Curry; "The Moving Finger" read by Eve Beglarian; "The End of the Whole Mess" read by Matthew Broderick; "Home Delivery" read by Stephen King; "Chatterly Teeth" read by Kathy Bates; "My Pretty Pony" read by Jerry Garcia; "Sneakers" read by David Cronenberg; "Dedication" read by Lindsay Crous

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I would recommend this book just for the introductory essay (see below). [Note: I made some Mormon angry because of my negative reviews of books out to prove the Book of Mormon, and that person has been slamming my reviews almost as fast as they are posted.] So your "helpful" vote is greatly appreciated. Thanks King is a master writer, and I enjoyed this collection. I loved "Umney's Last Case" (evocative of 1930s crime fiction). Also liked the "House on Maple Street" (it kept me turning the pages). The book is worth it for the introductory essay by Steven King. Here are some of the great lines from that essay, and I hope they make my short review worth reading. Steven King wrote: "When I was a kid I believed everything I was told, everything I read, and every dispatch sent out by my own overheated imagination. This made for more than a few sleepless nights, but it also

filled the world I lived in with colors and textures I would not have traded for a lifetime of restful nights. I knew even then, you see, that there were people in the world--too many of them, actually--whose imaginative senses were either numb or completely deadened, and who lived in a mental state akin to colorblindness." Robert McCammon said something similar in his brilliant coming-of-age novel, "Boy's Life" "See, this is my opinion: we all start out knowing magic. We are born with whirlwinds, forest fires, and comets inside us. We are born able to sing to birds and read the clouds and see our destiny in grains of sand. But then we get the magic educated right out of our souls. We get it church-ed out, spanked out, washed out, and combed out. We get put on the straight and narrow and told to be responsible. Told to act our age.

At 692 pages, "Nightmares & Dreamscapes" is a doorstopper of a book. I planned to read it a story at a time over a period of weeks, but as usual got hooked on King and read it straight through, right from his usual folksy introduction (each of which I am sure he writes solely for me!) to the charming little moral folktale tacked on at the end. The stories are to say the least, diverse. I would call this collection "King's Scrapbook." "Dolan's Cadillac" highly regarded by most reviewers is very hard tech for King. Interestingly, he says in his notes that technical stuff bores him, but it had to be done for this story. I have no more interest than he does in the proper "arc of descent;" I would have been just as mindlessly satisfied if he had shot the Cadillac out of a cannon, so it's not one of my favorites. "Clattery Teeth" I just know SK had a hoot of a time writing it. He lovingly sets the scene and characters and then puts them at the mercy of a set of not-so-funny joke teeth (that wear spats). It's 80 degrees more grotesque than the "Young Frankenstein," and I felt guilty for laughing. "The Moving Finger" Mr. Mitla is the perfectly normal man living a perfectly normal life when one morning he goes into his bathroom, and a finger is emerging from his bathroom sink drain and tapping on the porcelain. No one can see this finger except Mr. Mitla, and he slowly goes bonkers and his entire life is in a shambles. Unlike "Clattery Teeth" this one is terrifying. See for yourself. "My Pretty Pony" though highly acclaimed, didn't much interest me UNTIL I read in Notes that the exquisitely sensitive little boy, Clive Banning, grew up to be a hardened killer in an unpublished Richard Bachman novel. We leave Clive at 7-years old in the Pony story.

An elementary school teacher leads her students down the hall and kills them, one by one. A tabloid photographer pursues a vampire with a private pilot's license, finding a grisly horror in a small airport and meeting a modern Dracula. A single finger sticks out of a man's bathroom drain while he is watching a quiz show, triggering a life-destroying madness. The dead come alive and walk the

shores of Maine, successfully ending the world and sending isolated islanders into hostile terror. A couple gets lost in a dark end of London and find some very Lovecraftian terror. In Stephen King's *Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, it seems that reality and the macabre come together in what is almost a natural effect, blending horror, fantasy, and even non-fiction (in an essay about baseball called "Head Down") to make what may just be the perfect page entertainment. While some people insist that short stories and novellas are not as enjoyable as full-length novels, I find myself begging to differ. With short stories, you can begin them and sometimes finish them in a few minutes to an hour, engrossing yourself in and enjoying an entire tale in a fraction of the time it takes you to read a novel. They are easy to enjoy without having to allow the time for the reading of an entire book. And, perhaps most importantly, you can be entertained on an equal level with the best novels. All these things only add to the power of King's collection, his fifth after "Night Shift," "Different Seasons," "Skeleton Crew," and "Four Past Midnight." His imagination, as usual, astounds, and, in many of the stories, scares the reader silly.

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