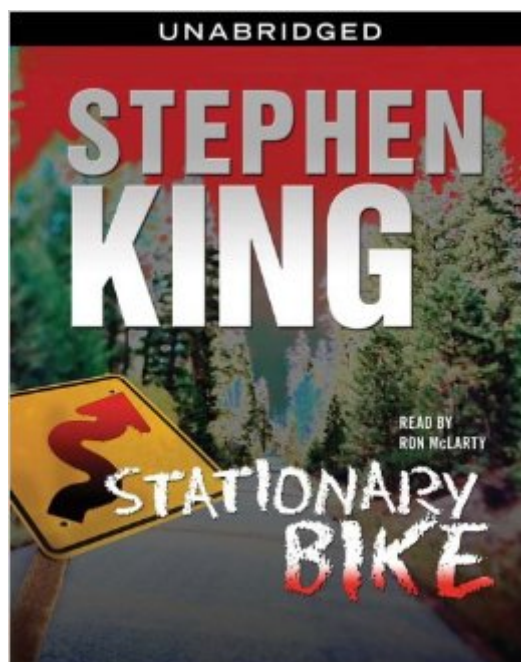


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# Stationary Bike



## Synopsis

Climb aboard *Stationary Bike* -- a streamlined fever dream of a tale, in which an ordinary household object assumes otherworldly powers and a familiar journey takes a terrifying twist. When commercial artist Richard Sifkitz finally gets around to having that physical he'd been putting off for years, and his cholesterol comes back dangerously high, he does what so many thirty-something, junk food-eating couch potatoes have done before him: he buys a stationary bike, and vows to ride it regularly. Unlike many a mid-life exercise convert, however, Richard actually starts to ride his new stationary bike. A lot. Soon he's spending so much time on his bike that he decides to put his artistic talents to use and paint a mural on the wall opposite his stationary bike. But it turns out that Richard's mural is no ordinary picture -- and soon his stationary bike is taking him places he doesn't want to go ...and can't stay away from. A riveting riff on artistic frustration, midlife mortality, and hard-won redemption, *Stationary Bike* is a thrill ride that could come only from the mind of Stephen King. --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Unabridged edition (June 6, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743555619

ISBN-13: 978-0743555616

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 5.6 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,130,176 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in [Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > \( K \) > King, Stephen](#) #380 in [Books > Books on CD > Horror](#) #6170 in [Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged](#)

## Customer Reviews

The middle aged hero of this story has gotten fat after the death of his wife and his cholesterol has gone sky high so he goes on a crash diet and buys a stationary bike. Being an artist he draws a picture of a lovely country road to a tiny town in upstate New York on his wall. After a few weeks things get weird and our hero finds that while he's losing that flab he's also traveling on the road for real and somehow he's angered the workmen--- the guys, real guys somehow who maintain the road which is really his own body. This is dreary cautionary tale for fat guys has too much cursing,

too much product placement and there's only one good scary moment: the scene in Carlos's garage. Other than that one scene I did not care about the hero or what was waiting for him at the end of the road. I don't want to say that the King is dead but maybe he's under a spell, or stunned or sleeping or something because this story just didn't take off. I'm not saying that I want King to write like he did in *Carrie* or *Salem's Lot* because that is impossible but I do wish he could get his literary groove back. *Stationary Bike* was just lackluster and wouldn't even scare a nervous two year old.

Solid storytelling. I have to disagree with those that didn't like (better yet, love) this short story. Stephen King is at his best here. For those who loved, *The Long Walk*, I think this story is a sure-win to entertain. It kept my attention and made me feel like I was actually riding on Richard Sifkitz kick-pegs. Do it again, Stevie!

All of Stephen King's books are great but I thought this was to be a new item and it was used and not in very good packaging. After just looking at the discs I see that disc one is fairly scratched. I have not listened to it yet but hope it is clear.

I read "Stationary Bike" a few years back in a "From the Borderlands" anthology and I'm having a difficult time believing they actually went the audio-book route with this one. The hallmark of good fiction is that you care, sometimes deeply, about the characters. Near the end, if Sifkitz (the main character) he'd been beaten to death by "the workers" I wouldn't have been all that fussed. While it certainly wasn't as bad as Carol Berg's first "Bridges of D'Arnath" book, where I was actually hoping she'd kill off the main characters, the only thing one can muster for Sifkitz is mild concern and even that in short supply. Truth be told I don't blame SK for this, all writers write a lot of [...] over the years in their quest to write good stuff. The problem is that SK is gold, everything he writes sells and sells a lot. People have joked that if he published his grocery list it would become a best seller... I'm not sure about that, but it appears this his publishers are about ready to ask him for it anyway.

When Richard Sifkitz, commercial artist and chronic snacker, goes to the doctor he gets a lecture on his poor eating habits. The doctor compares Sifkitz's lipid system to an overworked road crew that seriously needs a break. This inspires Sifkitz to draw a painting of four tired workmen on a road, and to further paint a mural of the road on the wall in front of his stationary bike. It all makes for a charming and effective mental stimulus to exercise...that is, until the workmen become all too real for Sifkitz, and all too angry! Overall, I must say that I enjoyed this audiobook. Sifkitz was an

interesting character, if somewhat underdeveloped, but that is often the case with a short story like this. The most interesting thing, though, is the situation. I really enjoyed Sifkitzâ™s seeming descent into madness, as the mental world of his road and his crew becomes all too real. So, yes, I thought this was a pretty good story, quite interesting and quite suspenseful. A little underdeveloped? Yeah, but nonetheless I enjoyed it.

Stephen King has always been known for the strange & this story is no exception. I started listening to Stationary bike doing workouts on my elliptical. Not to ruin the story let me just say I am very glad it's an elliptical I'm riding and not a stationary bike! A must read for Stephen King fans.

What can I say? I LOVE Stephen King! I'm an avid collector of his books and love to read... yet, something seemed appealing about having a book read to me so I gave in and purchased my first audio book. I ended up enjoying it quite a bit. Besides being a captivating story (Stephen King almost always weaves a great tale anyway) and being narrated very well, it was really convenient too. There were so many things I could do while listening that I couldn't have while reading or watching a tv show. I liked walking around hands free with my headphones on while washing dishes, riding the stationary bike (how appropriate and ironic lol) and even folding laundry while being immersed in the tale. I also loved driving to town...passing the miles away while listening to the tale and wondering what was going to happen next. Most of all, I loved lying my head down at night with my eyes shut while visualizing my own characters features in the story as I listened to the narrators soothing voice. While I still enjoy personally reading a good book from time to time, I've decided to let someone else read to me again via audiobook haha and the author will of course be my favorite writer Stephen King.

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