

Full Dark, No Stars

By Stephen King

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The acclaimed #1 *New York Times* and undisputed King of Horror Stephen King delivers five unforgettable short works, two of which will soon be adapted for film, and which *Booklist* called “raw looks at the limits of greed, revenge, and self-deception.” Like *Different Seasons* and *Four Past Midnight*, which generated such enduring hit films as *The Shawshank Redemption* and *Stand by Me*, *Full Dark, No Stars* proves Stephen King a master of the long story form.

“I believe there is another man inside every man, a stranger...” writes Wilfred Leland James in the early pages of the riveting confession that makes up “1922,” the first in this pitch-black quartet of mesmerizing tales from Stephen King. For James, that stranger is awakened when his wife Arlette proposes selling off the family homestead and moving to Omaha, setting in motion a gruesome train of murder and madness.

In “Big Driver,” soon to be a major Lifetime movie starring Maria Bello, a cozy-mystery writer named Tess encounters the stranger is along a back road in Massachusetts when she takes a shortcut home after a book club engagement. Violated and left for dead, Tess plots a revenge that will bring her face to face with another stranger: the one inside herself.

“Fair Extension,” the shortest of these tales, is perhaps the nastiest and certainly the funniest. Making a deal with the devil not only saves Harry Streeter from a fatal cancer but provides rich recompense for a lifetime of resentment.

In the last of the tales, soon to be a major motion picture, Darcy Anderson’s husband of more than twenty years is away on one of his business trips and his unsuspecting wife looks for batteries in the garage. Her toe knocks up against a box under a worktable and she discovers the stranger inside her husband. It’s a horrifying discovery, rendered with bristling intensity, and it definitively ends “A Good Marriage.”

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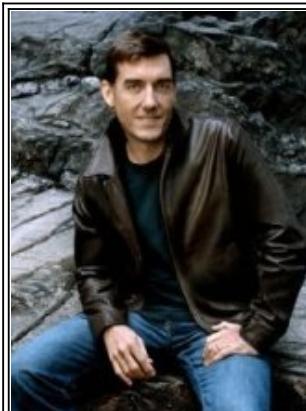
Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month, November 2010: When a master of horror and heebie-jeebies like Stephen King calls his book *Full Dark, No Stars*, you know you're in for a treat--that is, if your idea of a good time is spent curled up in a ball wondering why-oh-why you started reading after dark. King fans (and those who have always wanted to give him a shot) will devour this collection of campfire tales where marriages sway under the weight of pitch-black secrets, greed and guilt poison and fester, and the only thing you can count on is that "there are always worse things waiting." *Full Dark, No Stars* features four one-sitting yarns showcasing King at his gritty, gruesome, giddy best, so be sure to check under the bed before getting started. --*Daphne Durham*

Amazon Exclusive: Justin Cronin, Suzanne Collins, Margaret Atwood, and T.C. Boyle Review

Stephen King's *Full Dark, No Stars*



"King is Poe's modern heir, and no writer has a richer sense of the dark rooms in the human psyche and fiction's singular power to capture them."

Read more of Justin Cronin's review of "1922"



"Fast-paced and beautifully plotted, 'Big Driver' pulls you into Tess's fragmented mind and holds you hostage until the story concludes."

Read more of Suzanne Collins's review of "Big Driver"



"It wouldn't be Stephen King if somebody's messily bleeding neck did not sprout a huge white knob. As it were."

Read more of Margaret Atwood's review of "A Good Marriage"



"[King's] very ordinary-looking devil has no use for human souls, which, in these enervated times, 'have become poor and transparent things.'"

Read more of T.C. Boyle's review of "Fair Extension"

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Eerie twists of fate drive the four longish stories in King's first collection since *Just After Sunset* (2008). In "1922," a farmer murders his wife to retain the family land she hopes to sell, then watches his life unravel hideously as the consequences of the killing suggest a near-supernatural revenge. "Big

Driver" tells of an otherwise ordinary woman who discovers her extraordinary capacity for retribution after she is raped and left for dead. "A Good Marriage" explores the aftermath of a wife's discovery of her milquetoast husband's sinister secret life, while "Fair Extension," the book's most disturbing story, follows the relationship between a man and the best friend on whom he preternaturally shifts all his bad luck and misfortune. As in *Different Seasons* (1982), King takes a mostly nonfantastic approach to grim themes. Now, as then, these tales show how a skilled storyteller with a good tale to tell can make unsettling fiction compulsively readable. (Nov.) (c)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review King begins his afterword by stating, "The stories in this book are harsh." The man ain't whistlin' Dixie. Returning to the novella—possibly his brightest canvas—King provides four raw looks at the limits of greed, revenge, and self-deception. The first, "1922," is an outright masterpiece and takes the form of the written confession of one Wilf James. Back in 1922, see, Wilf killed his wife to prevent her selling off part of the farm, but tossing her corpse down the well didn't exactly stop her. It's Poe meets Creepshow by way of Steinbeck and carries the bleak, nearly romantic doom of an old folk ballad about murderin' done wrong. A pair of the remaining tales feature female protagonists considering hiding others' crimes: "Big Driver" is a rape-revenge tale about a writer of cozy mysteries who ends up in the uncoziest of situations, while "A Good Marriage" stars a wife whose husband of 27 years turns out to be hiding an unimaginable secret. Though the shortest story by far, "Fair Extension" is no slouch, submitting for your approval one Mr. Elvid (get it?), who is out to shine a little light on our blackest urges. Rarely has King gone this dark, but to say there are no stars here is crazy. High-Demand Backstory: King has gone on record saying he believes that American readers should pay more attention to the virtues of short fiction; and if anyone can get reluctant short-story and novella readers into the swing, he certainly can with this book. -- Daniel Kraus

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Diane Dean:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They may be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is definitely reading a book. Think about the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book once they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this Full Dark, No Stars.

Randell Easley:

Many people spending their time by playing outside having friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can really hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, getting everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Full Dark, No Stars which is finding the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's notice.

Charline Fendley:

On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. One of many books in the top checklist in your reading list is Full Dark, No Stars. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Joanna Weekley:

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