

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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Full Dark, No Stars By Stephen King Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #18304 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-11-09
- Released on: 2010-11-09
- Format: Kindle eBook

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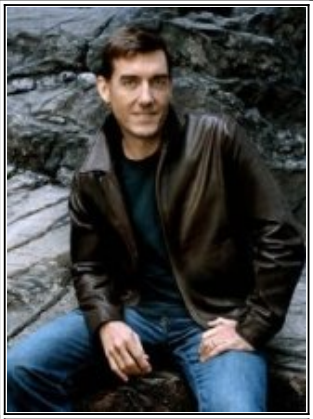
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Editorial Review

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 believesthat 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:

Patrick Sherman:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Full Dark, No Stars. Try to face the book Full Dark, No Stars as your pal. It means that it can to be your friend when you experience alone and beside that of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

William Todaro:

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