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Posted on 03 September 2018 By Richard Bachman

|READ EBOOK ? The Running Man ? eBooks or Kindle ePUB free

I ended up reading this book in one day Fast paced action pack book that will keep you on adrenaline Would recommend Well now..This was not what I expected AT ALL.THE

RUNNING MAN is not only different from the movie with Arnold Schwarzenegger but has a much deeper storyline and greater sense of desperation and hopelessness among the very interesting characters. THE RUNNING MAN is still a TV Reality Show broadcast on the Free Veet that survives by ratings and is still corrupt in its methods of revealing less than the truth to further incite wrong doing by the participants and gain a greater audience. THE RUNNING MAN contestant hopefuls, as our Ben Richards are all miserable, hungry and filled with despair knowing the only way left to survive in their dark world is to qualify for the game of death and outrun the hunters for as many days as possible to earn the much needed New Dollars for their families. This intense and suspenseful sci fi thriller does have a few graphically expressed gross out moments that are hard to stomach but is filled with crazy good non stop action all the way and worth the read. After The Most Dangerous Game, there was The Running Man. Before The Hunger Games, there was The Running Man. After 1984, there was The Running Man. Before reality TV, there was The Running Man. This is a disturbing and enthralling cautionary tale predicted by our fore fathers, seen in new dystopian novels, and becoming all too real in this age of political turmoil, social media, and reality overload. One of King's early novels under his Pseudonym Richard Bachman, he mentions in the foreward that it has a darker tone that he tended to use when writing as Bachman. The foreward is a very interesting addition to the story and was updated from the foreward included in the original Bachman Books which is where I first read this story. Oh, and that jogs another memory. Not only did I read this in the original Bachman Books, it was the first Stephen King book I ever read. I was probably 12 at the time likely too young to be reading this, but, hey, I did it anyway. I had seen the movie The Running Man, which, while it is not much like the book is, in my opinion, a fantastically campy and entertaining 80s action flick. Some people think it is awful. I think King even believes that but I am not ashamed to say that I loved it. Anyway, I knew my dad was into Stephen King and had all his books up to that point so I figured that I should give it a go. I was not disappointed at the time and I was not disappointed this time either. If you like cautionary dystopian tales, I think you have to read this. There is just too much going on here for dystopian fans that you do yourself a disservice if you do not read it. Relentless. Stephen King's 1982 novel, published under the pen name of his darker alter ego Richard Bachman, describes a feral dystopian landscape where over population, under employment, financial segregation of society along cultural and class lines and woefully deficient in fundamental healthcare has led to an almost Roman decadence of survival games and cheap entertainment for the pitiful masses. King's malnourished and desperate Ben Richards is nothing like the character played by Arnold Schwarzenegger in the 1987 Paul Michael Glaser film. King's protagonist signs up for the games to get money to assist his family when pneumonia threatens the life of his infant child. Told with an inevitable countdown to the brutal end, King portrays Richard's plight as he is a contestant on The Running Man, a nationally viewed show where the hunted has to stay alive as long as possible to earn money. All the while he is pursued by professional

hunters and his whereabouts are televised in a surreal man hunt, carnivalesque in its absurdity. Published 26 years before Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*, there is no flash or Hollywood style heroism, King depicts an ugly, frantic fight to live in a world made brutal and dreadfully harsh.

#1 BESTSELLER

STEPHEN KING

WRITING AS RICHARD BACHMAN

THE RUNNING MAN

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR,
"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BACHMAN"



DOUBLEDAY

me give you the most important information you need before you read this book Do not read the forward by Stephen King before you read the story He spoils his own book s ending in it Yeah, that really sucked because I knew what would eventually happen and it was so suspenseful that it would have been awesome to be kept wondering if this poor shlub would actually make it But, even knowing what I unfortunately knew, I was still on the edge of my seat for the entire book That Stephen King always gets me He s the master.Okay, maybe I don t like him THIS much But, he s damn good.So, this book was written in the 1980 s and basically shows that SK was a psychic or something because he predicted reality television shows would rule the world by now Granted, they are a little brutal than what we have right now, but within the next few years, when the book is set, I m sure we ll have advanced to this level of evil entertainment.Here are the names of some of the reality shows that are popular Swim with CrocodilesFun GunsHow Hot can You Take it Dig your own Graveand Treadmill to Bucks you have to have a heart condition to play this one In some of these shows, you are just maimed or end up in a hospital, but the biggest show, Running Man , is the most popular The contestant in that one ends up dead But, hey, they rack up 100 for every hour they survive for their family, so unless dad is a selfish ass, he will do it for his family.Sometimes you just have to take one for the team.Our MC is on Running Man His goal is to stay alive as long as possible while there is a nationwide man hunt for him He s given money and a head start, and then there are hunters looking for him Viewers get 100 if they spot him and call in, and 1,000 if it leads to capture death The contestants are always portrayed as horrible criminals, so the public generally wants to see them killed and feel it is justified.The funny thing is that there was a real reality show that had this same premise, but without the killing part It wasn t very interesting to me Maybe if they had added in the killing I would have watched So, in other words, we are totally ready for this And, with our new president and most likely entry into our own dystopia, maybe it will be soon.It s either the Hunger Games or the Apes Maybe we can have another vote on which one we prefer Or, you can write in Ants.This book was non stop action and I really couldn t put it down You are rooting for him, but he s not likable You are disgusted by the society, and there is also a feeling of despair and depression It s not hopeful, but it s hard not to hope that he will somehow topple the powers that be If I hadn t been spoiled, I m not really sure how I would have handled the ending, but it was a helluva ending.Trigger warnings everything There is so much offensive crap in this book that you might not even want to try it if you are sensitive in any way There is racism, homophobia, offensive language, and gruesome violence. The future for Mr Ben Benjamin Richards is not grand, not bright in the year 2025 it s dreary, the economy has sunk the poor are poorer, the harsh government doesn t care they just want to rule Stephen King writing in 1982 under the pen name Richard Bachman in order to have unbridled freedom from his reputation makes this novel as hopeless as possible for the sake of the plot, a not very accurate forecast of coming events yet entertaining, it remains be warned however, a no holds barred of brutality and cruelty which dominates the action

Who knew the author has such venom Ben has a sick daughter maybe dying, Cathy and a plain looking wife Sheila, he is frequently fired for not being able to follow instructions by his superiors, full of hate to any in authority, consequently no money and living in a squalid slum the mother of the child walks the streets he only loves his little family Lately Richards has been glued to the television set viewing the most watched show on the air, The Running Man, big prizes for anyone that survives for 30 days while hunters try to eliminate the contestants they never fail Cathy needs medicine and the depressed father is willing to sacrifice himself for their well being After a long process the desperate gentleman admittedly stretching the term gets the job, an anti hero unlike the popular Scifi film, obviously with a much changed story line The anger against all the well off explodes and I am not writing about Mr Richards but the sleazy people who work for the government sponsored television program they pay the price Planes, numerous cars, hapless victims, and buildings evaporate as the eager hunters track down the fleeing fugitive all over the country, red liquid spills frequently The ending will surprise and bring back bad memories to many a similar occurrence happened in the recent past, Stephen King will in the succeeding years ease the throttle there was no choice he wanted to continually be read. The traveling contestant shows unusual cunning, escaping seemingly demoralizing situations and the audience begins to change their opinion of Ben, from criminal butcher to an icon The government does not tolerate this for long and the heavy hitters are brought in to finish the task of making Richards obsolete and be liquidated A novel which is quite different from the usual books from the famous author much pessimistic in atmosphere yet still a good read for some. |READ EBOOK ? The Running Man ? The Running Man Is Set Within A Dystopian Future In Which The Poor Are Seen By The Government As Worrisome Rodents Than Actual Human Beings The Protagonist Of The Running Man, Ben Richards, Is Quick To Realize This As He Watches His Daughter, Cathy, Grow Sick By The Day And Tread Closer And Closer To Death Desperate For Money To Pay Cathy S Medical Bills, Ben Enlists Himself In A True Reality Style Game Show Where The Objective Is To Merely Stay Alive When Ben Richards daughter gets pneumonia, he turns to the Network for help and becomes a contestant on the deadliest of reality shows, The Running Man Can Richards run long enough to earn the money for his daughter s medicine And what will he learn as he runs for his life for the amusement of the public watching The Running Man This is the best book made into a movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger I ve ever read Actually, apart from a couple character names, the dystopian setting, and the concept of a reality show where the contestants will likely die, it has very little resemblance to the Arnold flick. Richard Bachman really liked his dystopias, didn t he This one bears a startling resemblance to our current reality tv situation Funny, Bachman predicting the rise of reality tv decades before it came to pass. Ben Richards is an unemployed loser with a wife that occasionally turns tricks to make ends meet In order to make some money, he winds up on The Running Man, running for his life in a polluted world that s falling apart. The suspense in this thing builds

and builds as Richards gets deeper into the game Can he trust anyone How is the Network tracking him Will his daughter still be alive when the much needed money gets to her Things start falling apart for him near the end and the tension is almost unbearable Richards is a much deeper character than the Arnold version As his sense of desperation grows, one can't help but imagine him or herself in Richard's situation Like a lot of people, I think *The Running Man* is likely one of the parents of the *Hunger Games*, along with *The Long Walk*. That's pretty much all I can say It's a gripping, breezy read, far from the bloated gargantuan of Stephen King's Richard Bachman's later books 3.5 out of 5 stars. **WARNING** Do NOT read the author foreward It totally gives away a climactic ending Thanks to the GoodReads community for warning me I feel like I just ran a marathon with a heart condition As soon as I opened the book, I was swept up in the story and couldn't stop until the fiery, breathless end I don't say this often It takes a while for me to feel comfortable in a new book I like to feel things out, come to my own conclusions But Stephen King, in his insidiously masterful way, lured and cocooned me from the first page like spider pouncing on a hapless little moth stuck in a web

Plot Summary Our main character is Ben Richards He's an average Joe type of guy, eking out a life in a vastly dystopian future US of A In this version of our future, the disparity between the poor and rich is greater than ever The wealthy have access to luxury cars, groceries, and top notch medical care The poor well, you can imagine when we read Richards home situation his wife is a prostitute and the main breadwinner of the family, and his baby girl is bedridden with influenza because they can't afford legitimate medicine As his daughter's condition worsens, Richards enters himself in a live TV game show called *Running Man* For as long as he can survive, Richards will flee across the country and earn 100 New Bucks for every hour he is alive That is, if he can evade professional Hunters hired to track and kill him, and also disguise himself from the locals who are given money rewards if they report a sighting This concept should hearken to other familiar works of popular fiction And even another King novel with a similar concept, There are probably many that I haven't read or even heard about But at the same time, *THE RUNNING MAN* was, even to my *Hunger Gamed* out mind, an adrenalin rush In essence, *THE RUNNING MAN* is an example of pure action driven storytelling that is done in a compelling way You don't really get to understand why the world is the way it is, why the people enjoy watching human beings being treadmilled to death or being hunted like rats for a little cash, or why no one can muster up sympathy for children dying from cancer There's just not enough time to sit back and absorb the people and the environment When you think you can stop to breathe, someone shoots a gun or sirens blare in the background, and you're off and running again Granted, the characters Richards meets on the run are an interesting assortment of people But again, though I sympathized with them, I couldn't bring myself to care for them than resolving that burning question, what happens next view spoiler The one exception may be Bradley, but I felt satisfied enough to know he was alive and just on the run hide spoiler Yeeeeeeeah I don't know Not his best work I was

bored most of the time and I feel like a lot of things just worked out for the protagonist out of luck or simply because of our beloved plot device deus ex machina which is kind of funny because King talks about that in his book Misery. I actually liked the ending though, which he sucks at most of the time so that's good lol and I'll forever adore his writing style

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