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Posted on 02 January 2017 By Stephen King

## `Read Book á Skeleton Crew ì eBook or Kindle ePUB free

`Read Book õ Skeleton Crew Ã In This Brilliant Collection Of Stories, Stephen King Takes Readers Down Paths That Only He Could Imagine A Supermarket Becomes The Place

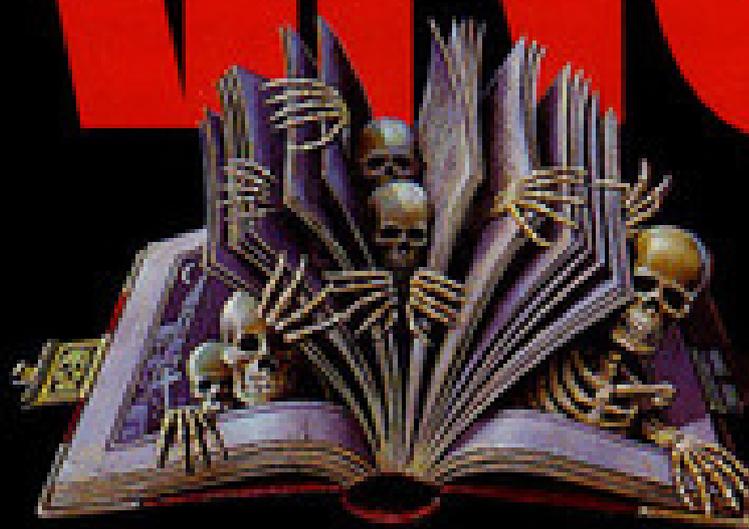
Where Humanity Makes Its Last Stand Against Destruction A Trip To The Attic Becomes A Journey To Hell A Woman Driver Finds A Scary Shortcut To Paradise An Idyllic Lake Harbors A Bottomless Evil And A Desert Island Is The Scene Of The Most Terrifying Struggle For Survival Ever Waged







# STEPHEN KING



SKELETON CREW

finished *Skeleton Crew* with tears in my eyes I thought I'd read *The Reach* the story that closes out this collection before, but I guess I hadn't It was an entirely new experience for me, and it packed quite the emotional wallop As I write this review I'm still trying to mentally recover from that one, so pardon me if my thoughts are a little scattered My *Fornit* died, and I'm stuck doing the job myself By the time this collection was published in 1985, Stephen King was a bona fide literary rock star His fame was gargantuan, beaten in size only by his addiction to dope and alcohol According to the man himself, his study was the site of nightly parties for one, where the beer flowed and nose candy was always available Yeah, King wasn't in a great state of mind for most of the eighties He warns the reader in this book's introduction that the act of writing short stories hadn't gotten easier for him over the years instead, it had gotten harder Novel deadlines made it difficult to carve out time for shorter tales, and everything the man put into his Word Processor of the Gods wanted to be six hundred pages in length If this reviewer is being honest, that's painfully apparent with this collection A handful of the tales presented here should've never made it off the cutting room floor and several others could have been trimmed a bit Most of what the reader is presented with is great hence the four stars, but King overwrites like crazy here That's my problem with a lot of his output from this decade excess verbosity After the reliably folksy, mood setting introduction to this collection from Sai King himself, things get rolling with *The Mist*, the first but not last story in *Skeleton Crew* about ordinary people stranded and facing likely death, due to out of this world circumstances *The Mist* is a novella, and I always enjoy every word of it Yeah, King overwrites in several places in this book but this story ain't one of 'em I have quite the fear of mist, thanks to this story Other favorites of mine include *The Ballad Of The Flexible Bullet*, a delightfully paranoid story King could have never written before or after cocaine *The Raft*, which was my very favorite in this collection for a long time *The Monkey*, a story that doesn't get as much love as it deserves *The Reach*, the previously mentioned story that moved me to tears *The Jaunt*, which, for my money, contains King's most haunting story ending yet and *Cain Rose Up*, a story that other reviewers like to rag on but I can't help but dig All that said, there are several stories here that should have gotten canned Here *There Be Tygers* makes no sense and is downright gimmicky the two *Milkman* stories also don't make much sense and go nowhere *Uncle Otto's Truck*, a story about you guessed it a haunted truck, feels worn out and old King has touched on this theme so many times in his career I also don't like *For Owen* at all, and *Paranoid A Chant* should have been folded into *The Ballad Of The Flexible Bullet* where it belongs It's a shame this collection is somewhat weighed down by so many DOA entries, because there are several genuine classics here This one just isn't very consistent, and if that's what you're looking for might I recommend *Night Shift* or *Just After Sunset* All in all, this is very much a collection worth checking out It was released during King's classic period, so of course it's worth a purchase The theme of external isolation and humanity's will to save itself is done really well in *The Mist*, *Beachworld*, *Survivor Type*, and *The Raft* I

also like this book's Do you love motif it makes this collection hang together much better than it probably should This is definitely a strong read, and I will come back to my favorites for years to come King connections I tried to take actual notes for this one, as I knew there are connections to the King universe all over the place I know I missed some, but here's what I caught while reading Sorry my notes are a little scattered

The Mist P 94 David Clayton, our main character, thinks of a character as looking like a crazy gunslinger in an existential comedy It is theorized that The Shop is at least partially responsible for the mist I could totally see that I'm not sure if this is a connection or not, but when David and a few others make the courageous trek to the pharmacy next door, they encounter an otherworldly presence that takes the shape of a spider though they know it's something Any relation to IT Totally possible, as that book was published the following year

Mrs Todd's Shortcut It takes place in Castle Rock, home of several King novels and short stories.P 182 Joe Camber of Cujo is mentioned.P 186 Haven gets a shout out The Man Who Would Not Shake Hands This one could be seen as a spiritual successor to The Breathing Method, even going so far as to reference that earlier novella It revolves around the same, strange story telling club that we first met in Different Seasons Nona It takes place in Castle Rock, firmly placing it in the same universe as Mrs Todd's Shortcut as well as several other King stories.The narrator of Nona mentions once getting messed up by Ace Merrill, the local baddie an antagonist in The Body and Needful Things.The narrator lets the reader know he grew up in Harlow, Maine the setting of N and Revival.P 347 Vern Tessio of The Body gets a brief mention Cool Uncle Otto's Truck Both Derry and Castle Rock play an important role in this one Gramma P 421 Cora Simard and Henrietta Dodd are mentioned George, the protagonist in Gramma, listens to one of the ladies phone conversations on a party line Cora's daughter, Rhonda, was a student of Ewen High School and was among Carrie White's tormentors Henrietta Dodd was the mother of Frank Dodd, as seen in The Dead Zone and mentioned in various other Castle Rock stories.Joe Camber gets another mention This story takes place near Castle Rock in 1977 ish I think , so before the major events of Carrie and Cujo Hmm Favorite story The Ballad Of The Flexible Bullet Least favorite story Big Wheels A Tale Of The Laundry Game Milkman 2 Favorite quote I sit on the bench in front of Bell's Market and think about Homer Buckland and about the beautiful girl who leaned over to open his door when he come down that path with the full red gasoline can in his right hand she looked like a girl of no than sixteen, a girl on her learner's permit, and her beauty was terrible, but I believe it would no longer kill the man it turned itself on for a moment her eyes lit on me, I was not killed, although a part of me died at her feet from Mrs Todd's Shortcut Up next It's everything you ever were afraid of It's IT. You can find this review and at Novel Notions Stephen King is such a master storyteller I've come to love him over the past few years, and I now count him among my favorite authors I have to agree with the masses, however King tends to fall flat when it comes to endings Thankfully, that's not really an issue when it comes to short stories They're not supposed to really end, which

I think is a huge boon in King's favor. As with *Night Shift*, the first of King's short story collections I read, *Skeleton Crew* was chockfull of the interesting, terrifying, and uncomfortable. While not every story was a resounding success, there were far more hits among these twenty-two installments than there were misses, and a handful of these stories will be staying with me for a good long while. The first selection in this collection is one of King's novellas, *The Mist*, my review of which you can read [here](#). Beyond that, the stories that resonated the most with me were *The Monkey*, *The Jaunt*, *Word Processor of the Gods*, *Nona*, *Survivor Type*, *The Ballad of the Flexible Bullet*, *Gramma*, and *The Reach*. All of these stories I would have rated anywhere from 4 to 5 stars, which I think is a pretty high percentage for a short story collection. Some of these stories were scary, while others were merely uncomfortable. Only one story actually gave me nightmares, and that was a tale of self-cannibalism that included not a single supernatural element. It was absolutely horrifying. Then there's *The Reach*, which was a poignant way to close out the collection. Also, there were a handful of *Castle Rock* stories, which is always fun to come across if you're one of King's Constant Readers, which I'm beginning to consider myself. One thing that I think King should steer clear of though is poetry. There were two poems in this collection and they just didn't land. If you've never read Stephen King and would like to give his work a try, I cannot suggest highly enough picking up one of his short story collections. You'll get a taste for his style, and there's something about King's storytelling in short form that I find a good deal scarier than some of his novels. Whether he's spinning a tale that spans a dozen pages or than a thousand, King is undoubtedly the master of the horror genre, at least in my eyes. Long live the King!

There will be some of you that think three stars is kinda harsh for this collection. After all, it includes such amazing tales as *The Mist* and *The Jaunt*. It must be amazeballs, right? Not so much. Even the epically awesome stories in this collection need to be trimmed down. Most of them start slower than a Lars Von Trier movie, and over half of them never really pay off. There are some serious WTF stories within this collection that I didn't understand ten years ago and still do not understand today. In other words, the reread didn't help. That doesn't mean your experience will not be different. It does not mean you will not understand the Milkman stories or appreciate King's cute ass poem about anthropomorphized fruit that he wrote for his youngest son Owen. I understand why they are in this collection, but that doesn't mean I have to like them. Mostly, this collection is tedious. But, some of the time, if you can wade through the first uncounted pages of bullshit, you might find a scare or two, or a meaningful story surrounded by bloat. Here are my one-sentence reviews of each story. Feel free to discuss your favorites in the comment section.

*The Mist*: Five epically awesome stars for this tale of mist-borne monsters and flawed fathers. *Here There Be Tygers*: Three stars for this story about toileting tygers and tasty teachers. *The Monkey*: Two stars for this mostly mediocre, meandering monkey, because this one has never really scared me, but it sure has bored me. *Cain Rose Up*: Three confused stars because I don't know why this story is still in publication and *Rage* is not Mrs.

Todd's Shortcut Four stars for what could be the inspiration for Lisey's Story, because Boo ya Moon could very well be Mrs Todd's escape route The Jaunt Five stars for this tale that takes cues from The Langoliers The Wedding Gig Four stars for this story that fits the Hard Case Crimes series better than both The Colorado Kid and Joyland put together Paranoid A Chant I'm sure this piece is brilliant and I'm just too stupid to understand it, but yeah, one star The Raft All the stars Five, Six Ten a Hundred for what continues to be one of my favorite stories of all time The Word Processor of the Gods Gets three stars for being The Monkey's Paw with a happy ending The Man Who Would Not Shake Hands Finds three stars because the boys from 249B East 35th are still telling tales, even after Emlyn McCarron told them about The Breathing Method Beachworld Beachfront property this ain't, but one helluva four star story it is The Reaper's Image This three star story seems like the inspiration for that horrible Oculus movie Nona Gets four stars for being darkly dubious For Owen If I were King's kid I would expect something better than this two star cutesy crap from my old man Survivor Type While you'll never see Richard Pine on Food Network, his cooking gets five stars Uncle Otto's Truck Two stars for this done to death concept about a killer car Morning Deliveries Milkman 1One star for this outline of an idea for a possible short story Big Wheels A Tale of the Laundry Game Milkman 2If someone would like to explain this story and its predecessor to me, I might give it than one star Gramma Four stars for this creepy motherfucker because the beginning is slow as hell, but that ending shivers The Ballad of the Flexible Bullet This one starts even slower than Gramma but its payoff only raises it into three star territory The Reach Stephen King says he wants to be remembered for this four star beauty of a story, but he's done much better, at least in my opinion he has. In summation Skeleton Crew has a few gems, but is, overall, just okay Final Judgment I'd rather take a jaunt on a raft through the mist. There are two short stories that I read over and over The Mist has always been a favorite, and I can't believe how many people haven't read Survivor Type It's awesome I've lost three copies of this from lending it out Don't ask you can't borrow it o

## New Post

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

Dragonflight  
The Mists of Avalon  
Winnie-the-Pooh  
The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants  
The Little House Collection  
One for the Money  
Clockwork Angel  
Hush, Hush  
Artemis Fowl  
A Great and Terrible Beauty  
Master and Commander  
Fifty Shades of Grey  
Shadowland  
Graceling

## Recent Post

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone  
Twilight  
The Fellowship of the Ring  
The Hunger Games  
The Lightning Thief  
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo  
The Golden Compass  
A Game of Thrones  
Dead Until Dark  
City of Bones  
Outlander  
Anne of Green Gables  
Eragon  
Interview with the Vampire  
The Gunslinger  
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe  
The Bad Beginning  
Marked  
Divergent  
Dark Lover  
Uglies  
The Hobbit, or There and Back Again

Dune

The Host

Vampire Academy

Little Women

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