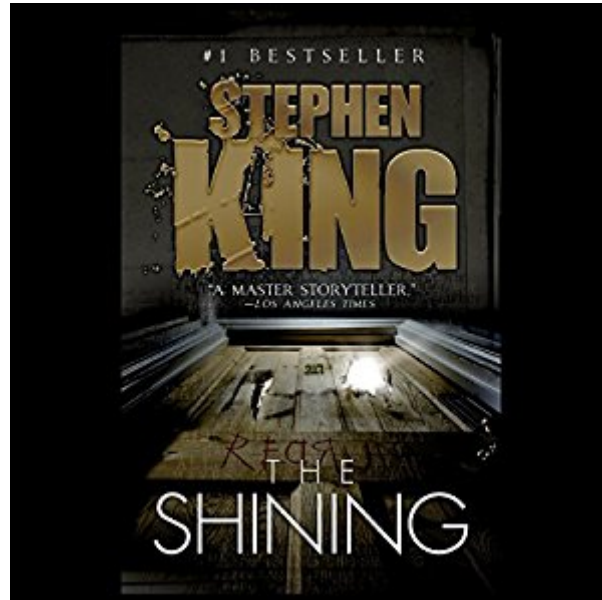




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The Shining



Synopsis

Jack Torrance's new job at the Overlook Hotel is the perfect chance for a fresh start. As the off-season caretaker at the atmospheric old hotel, he'll have plenty of time to spend reconnecting with his family and working on his writing. But as the harsh winter weather sets in, the idyllic location feels ever more remote...and more sinister. And the only one to notice the strange and terrible forces gathering around the Overlook is Danny Torrance, a uniquely gifted five-year-old.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Shining is one of the best horror stories that I have ever read. It is Stephen King at his finest. I read this book about 25 years ago and it terrified me, and of course I have also seen the movie with Jack Nicholson a bunch of times over the years since reading the book. When I found out that Stephen King was publishing a sequel to The Shining this year, I wanted to prepare, so I dove back into re-reading The Shining and found that there was much that I did not recall about the book's intricacies regarding plot and characters, and tons of things that were very different from the movie, which had become ingrained into my mind as the mainstay over the years. To be honest, re-reading The Shining terrified me all over again in 2016 and it was so awesome – I experienced a truly freaked-out, page turning, frightened, jumping-at-shadows-late-at-night-in-my-own home horror-lover's bliss! I am still trying to pinpoint which characters and moments in the book scared me the most and I can't do it because there were so many. What a ride! I can honestly attest to the old cliché that the book is way better than the movie. If you've never read The Shining, you are in for

a real treat. If you are considering re-reading *The Shining*, please do so, by all means, I promise you will not be disappointed!

Redrum. It must be one of those words that can send an instant chill along your spine, especially said aloud by a five year old child, first wonderingly, then grimly, and, at last, with an adult understanding. If you think you know darkness, think again. The scariest monsters are not the ones that look ugly and brandish their claws, attempting to make us into a tasty breakfast. The scariest monsters are the ones that live inside us. That part that is capable of hurting people, hurting those we love. This is the real hair-raising stuff, this is the stuff of nightmares. This is what THE SHINING is about, about facing a deeply rooted horror of ourselves, of what we are capable, in the creepiest corners of our soul. Where does it come from? What does it feed on? How does one understand it? How does one get rid of it? Is it possible to get rid of it? Perhaps it has to be there, always, to counterbalance our other side, our loving side, the one that we are proud of and like to parade to family and friends, like to look upon in the mirror? Can one answer these questions? Stephen King tried, and I admire him for it. THE SHINING only looks like a horror story on the surface, but it's a story about pain we all go through, a story about search and doubt, and, ultimately, a story about yearning for love. Jack Torrance is out of work again. He's got issues, he's got issues big time, drinking issues, but he is over them. He thinks he's over them. He really wants to believe that. And he gets a job, thank God, he gets a job, as a hotel caretaker. The hotel happens to be a spectacular establishment by the name of Outlook tucked away in Colorado mountains and virtually unreachable during winter months. You can perhaps imagine the rest. That's right. A man, his wife, and their 5 year old son, Danny, get snowed in, in a gigantic empty building that echoes of the past, only those are not simple echoes. Danny possesses a special talent, "the shine", as the hotel's cook Hallorann calls it, when they meet upon Danny's arrival and Hallorann's departure. Danny sees things, Danny hears things, and those are terrible things. They are frightening and real, but Danny doesn't want to ruin the peace between his Mommy and Daddy, who, at last, are on the path of reuniting, of finding love for each other again. Only Danny should tell them, because the hotel is stirring, slowly, and everything seems to be leading to a disaster, leaving the cut off from the world family in mortal danger. What else can I say? It's brilliant. Simply brilliant. I will probably reread this book many times, to pick up on a new nuance or story layer each time I dip my head into the horror of THE SHINING.

• The Shining, Stephen King's third published novel (1977), continues to

shine-on as the benchmark for the horror genre, and as a literary masterpiece of the 20th century. The book follows, Jack Torrance, as he takes on the position as winter caretaker for the Overlook Hotel. Jack is accompanied by his family and in particular his son, Danny, who has psychic abilities which are referred to as "the shining." With Danny's "shining" working in spooky overtime, it soon becomes apparent that malevolent and supernatural forces are at work in the hotel. The location for the story (the hotel) comes to personify evil by taking on human-like qualities, which is a trait of the modern gothic novel. King is known for his multi-dimensional characters, and as a reader, you can't help but empathise with the Torrance family. Jack's backstory and his struggles with alcoholism play a pivotal part in his steady descent into madness. A number of clever literary devices are employed to intensify emotion; such as the metaphoric "boiler" in the basement (building pressure), and the "howling wind and snow" from outside the hotel. King is also the master of foreshadowing; who will ever forget "Redrum" planted into the story like some hidden gem. Some of the scenes are just unforgettable too, like the "animal topiary;" and you might develop a phobia of bathrooms after reading the "room 217" scene. I enjoyed this book not only because it is a ripping good yarn but also because of the perfect symmetry of its story structure. King is to be admired for his story telling prowess and the intricate way in which he deftly interweaves both characters and sub-plots into a rich tapestry.

This is one of those popularized works that is hard to read without imagining the characters created within Stanley Kubrick's reimagining of the Shining - assuming you've seen it, of course. In spite of having one's vision or version tainted, King's work stands on its own as vivid. His paintbrush for painting scenes always ends up relating characters to the East Coast but his vision of Colorado is a bold and beautiful one. And with that beauty, there is the suspected horror that comes with the package deal of a King novel. The characters in the Shining are well rounded, feasible and just a few degrees away from what real monsters are - drinking problems, anger issues, mental health deterioration and the real world cases of an idiomatic term for a claustrophobic reaction cabin fever and isolation. What makes this so horrific is the plausibility of these characters - those they gave you life and now want to take it away from you. This is worth a read - and it is read best by kindlelight in the dark.

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