





**Stephen King** is an American author of contemporary horror, supernatural fiction, suspense, science fiction, and fantasy.

- His books have sold more than **350 million** copies, many of which have been adapted into feature films, miniseries, television shows, and comic books.
- King has published **54** novels and six non-fiction books. He has written nearly **200** short stories, most of which have been collected in book collections.

#### **Some awards:**

- 2005 - Horror Award for Best Adaptation
- 2004 - Deutscher Phantastik Preis for International Author of the Year
- 2002 - Bram Stoker Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2004 - World Fantasy Award for Lifetime Achievement
- 1995 - USC Scriptor Award
- 1992 – Fantafestival Award for Best Screenplay
- 1981 - British Fantasy Society Special Award



# Early Life

- Author Stephen Edwin King was born on September 21, 1947, in Portland, Maine. His parents, Donald and Nellie Ruth Pillsbury King, split up when he was very young, and he and his brother David divided their time between Indiana and Connecticut for several years. King later moved back to Maine with his mother and brother. There he graduated from Lisbon Falls High School in 1966.





# Education

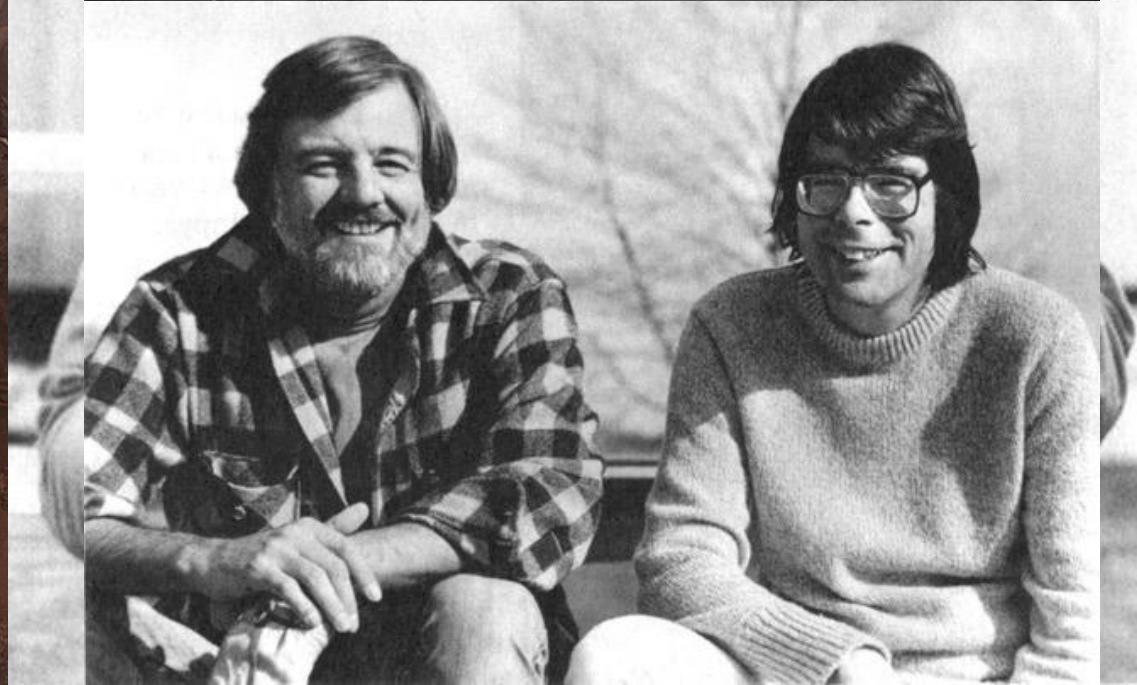
- King stayed close to home for college, attending the University of Maine at Orono. There he wrote for the school's newspaper and served in its student government. While in school, King published his first short story, which appeared in *Startling Mystery Stories*. After graduating with a degree in English in 1970, he tried to find a position as a teacher but had no luck at first. King took a job in a laundry and continued to write stories in his spare time until late 1971, when he began working as an English educator at Hampden Academy. It was that year that he also married fellow writer Tabitha Spruce.





# King of Thrills and Chills

- In 1973, King sold his first novel, *Carrie*, the tale of a tormented teen who gets revenge on her peers. The book became a huge success after it was published the following year, allowing him to devote himself to writing full time. It was later adapted for the big screen with Sissy Spacek as the title character. More popular novels soon followed, including *Salem's Lot* (1975), *The Shining* (1977), *Firestarter* (1980), *Cujo* (1981) and *IT* (1986).
- While making novels about vicious, rabid dogs and sewer-dwelling monsters—as seen in *Cujo* and *IT*, respectively—King published several books as Richard Bachman. Four early novels—*Rage* (1977), *The Long Walk* (1979), *Roadwork* (1981) and *The Running Man* (1982)—were published under the moniker because of King's concern that the public wouldn't accept more than one book from an author within a year.





# Television and Film Adaptations

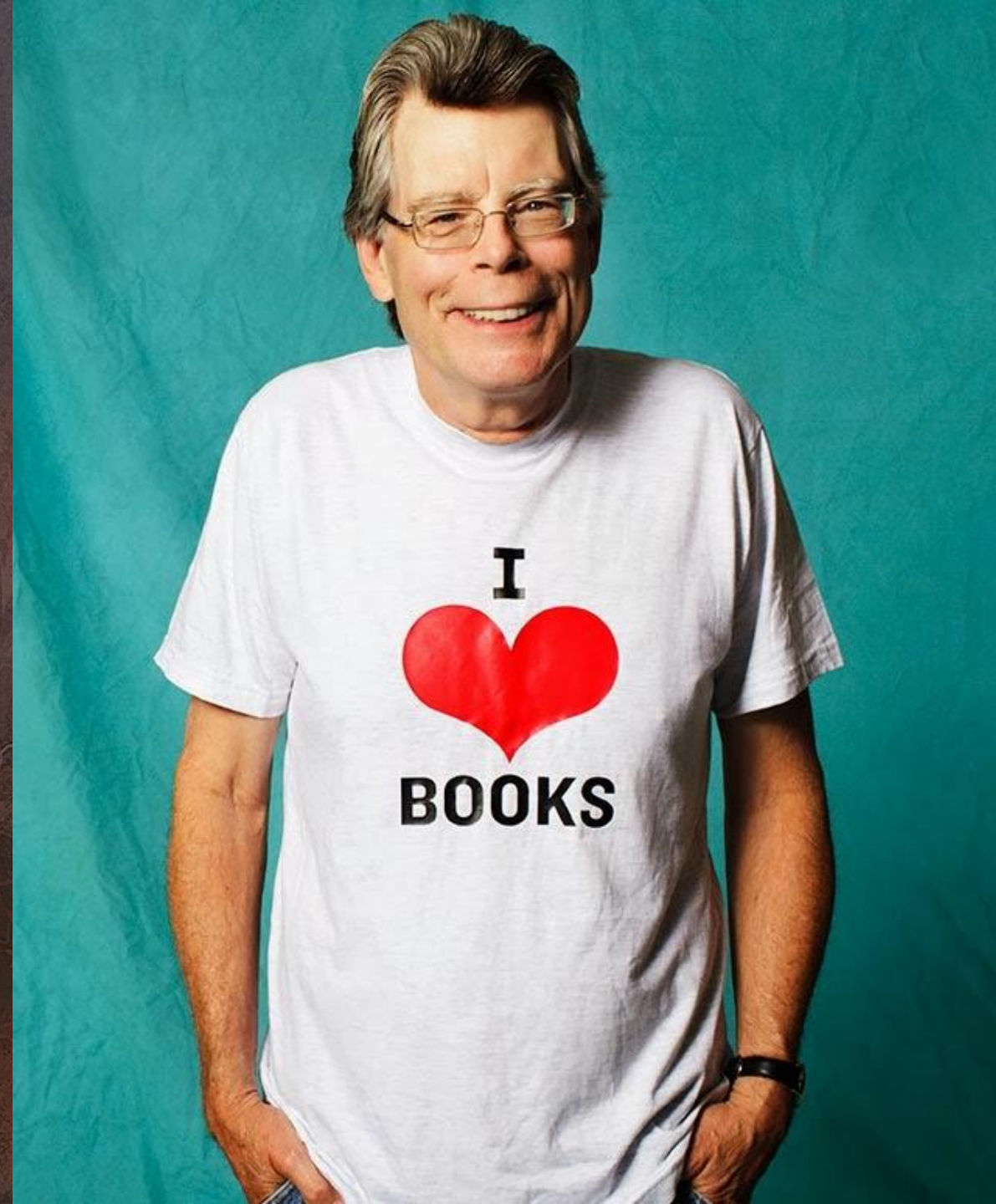
- Although many of King's works were made into film or TV adaptations—*Cujo* and *Firestarter* were released for the big screen in 1983 and '84 respectively, while *It* debuted as a miniseries in 1990—the film *The Shining*, released in 1980 and starring Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall, became a renowned horror thriller that has stood the test of time.
- For a good portion of his career, King wrote novels and stories at a breakneck speed. He published several books per year for much of the 1980s and '90s. His compelling, thrilling tales have continued to be used as the basis of numerous films for the big and small screens. Actress Kathy Bates and actor James Caan starred in the critically and commercially successful adaptation of *Misery* in 1990, with Bates winning an Oscar for her performance as the psychotic Annie Wilkes.
- Four years later, *The Shawshank Redemption*, starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman and based on one of his stories, became another acclaimed outing with multiple Oscar nominations. King's 1978 novel *The Stand* became a 1994 miniseries with Molly Ringwald and Gary Sinise in the lead, while the mid-'90s serialized outing *The Green Mile* was turned into a 1999 prison-based film starring Tom Hanks and Michael Clarke Duncan.





# Later Work

- King continues to create and be involved in provocative projects. He has worked directly in television, writing for series like *Kingdom Hospital* and *Under the Dome*, with the latter based on his 2009 novel. In 2011 he published *11/22/63*, a novel involving time travel as part of an effort to stop the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. King also wrote *Joyland* (2013), a pulp-fiction style thriller that takes readers on a journey to uncovering who's behind an unsolved murder. And he surprised audiences by releasing *Doctor Sleep* (2013), a sequel to *The Shining*, with *Sleep* hitting No. 1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list.



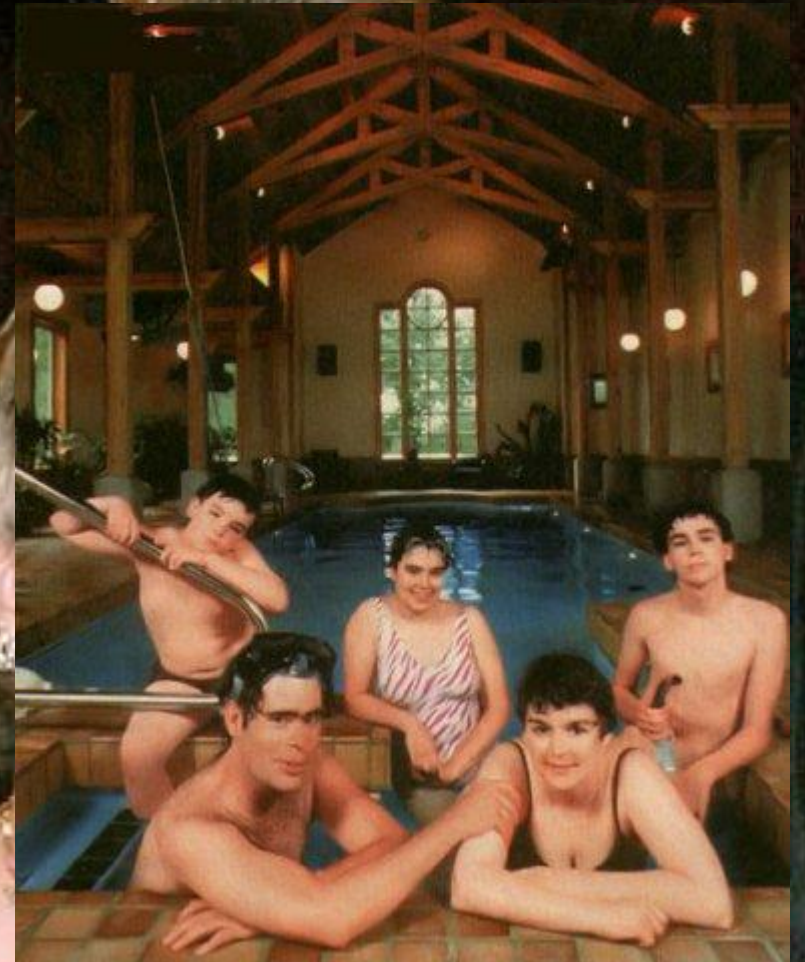


# Personal Life

- King and his novelist wife divide their time between Florida and Maine. They have three children: Naomi Rachel, a reverend; Joseph Hillstrom, who writes under the pen name Joe Hill and is a lauded horror-fiction writer in his own right; and Owen Phillip, whose first collection of stories was published in 2005.
- Outside of writing, King is a music fan. He even sometimes plays guitar and sings in a band called Rock Bottom Reminders with fellow literary stars like [Dave Barry](#), [Barbara Kingsolver](#) and [Amy Tan](#). The group has performed a number of times over the years to raise money for charity.



Stepne





# What are the common themes in Stephen King books?

- 1) There are two elemental forces, the Purpose and the Random, which are constantly at war with each other; this battle affects all worlds and all lives.
- 2) Ordinary people, when they come together, can achieve extraordinary things against overwhelming odds.
- 3) The most important thing a person can do is make a stand for the ultimate good.
- 4) Everything in space and time is cyclical, and all events are fundamentally connected.
- 5) Creation is a powerful tool in service of the Purpose.
- 6) The innocent and uncorrupted are closest to the Purpose, which makes them unexpectedly powerful.
- 7) The greatest evil that people do is victimization of the weak by the strong.



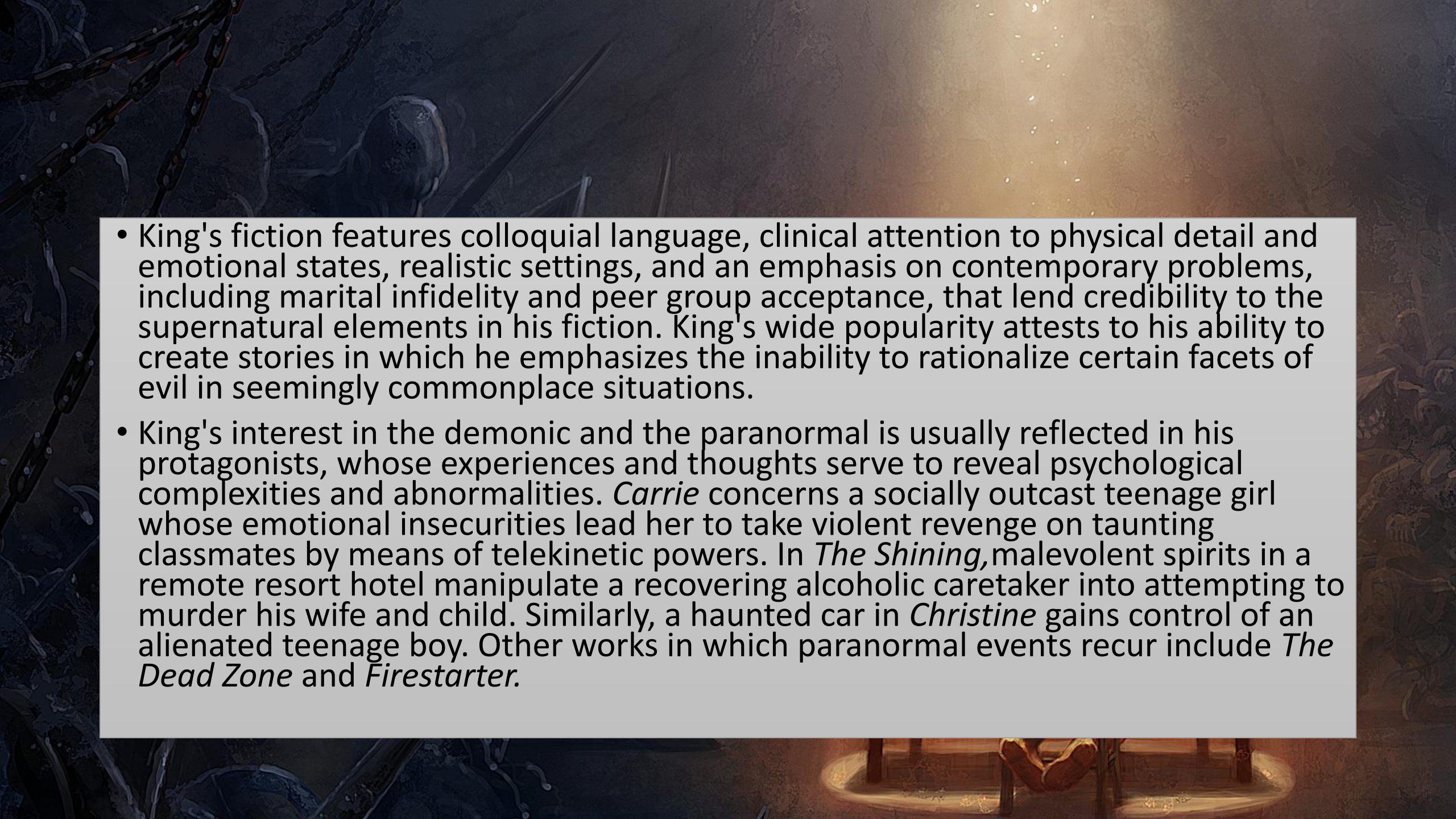
# What is considered to be Stephen King's magnum opus?

- First, let's define the term - "a large and important work of art, music, or literature, esp. one regarded as the most important work of an artist or writer."

If we're talking about a single "work" as a single book, then it's obvious that the only choice in the history of King's works that qualifies is *The Stand*. It's an epic story of good v. evil in a post-apocalyptic world, played out by interesting and well-developed individual characters.

If, however, we're talking about a "work" as a collection of books, then there's no other option than King's *Dark Tower* series - an eight-volume story that lays, breaks, and rebuilds the foundation of the vast majority of King's overall works. This is the hub around which many of his other works spin, and the connections between worlds, stories, people, and narratives are compelling.



- 
- King's fiction features colloquial language, clinical attention to physical detail and emotional states, realistic settings, and an emphasis on contemporary problems, including marital infidelity and peer group acceptance, that lend credibility to the supernatural elements in his fiction. King's wide popularity attests to his ability to create stories in which he emphasizes the inability to rationalize certain facets of evil in seemingly commonplace situations.
  - King's interest in the demonic and the paranormal is usually reflected in his protagonists, whose experiences and thoughts serve to reveal psychological complexities and abnormalities. *Carrie* concerns a socially outcast teenage girl whose emotional insecurities lead her to take violent revenge on taunting classmates by means of telekinetic powers. In *The Shining*, malevolent spirits in a remote resort hotel manipulate a recovering alcoholic caretaker into attempting to murder his wife and child. Similarly, a haunted car in *Christine* gains control of an alienated teenage boy. Other works in which paranormal events recur include *The Dead Zone* and *Firestarter*.





d winters in Florida and the remainder of the year  
ell homes.

Naomi Rachel, Joe Hill and Owen Phillip, and four

ry, stands 6'4" and weighs about 200 pounds. He is  
thick, black hair, with a frost of white most  
noticeable in his beard, which he sometimes wears between the end of the World  
Series and the opening of baseball spring training in Florida. Occasionally he wears  
a moustache in other seasons. He has worn glasses since he was a child.

- Stephen and Tabitha provide scholarships for local high school students and contribute to many other local and national charities.
- Stephen is the 2003 recipient of *The National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters* and the 2014 National Medal of Arts.