

(Ebook pdf) The Complete Stephen King Encyclopedia: The Definitive Guide to the Works of America's Master of Horror

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Stephen J. Spignesi

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Stephen J. Spignesi : The Complete Stephen King Encyclopedia: The Definitive Guide to the Works of America's Master of Horror before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Complete Stephen King Encyclopedia: The Definitive Guide to the Works of America's Master of Horror:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not REALLY an encyclopedia...By Bryant Burnette...more like a doorstop. Now, don't get me wrong, the portion of the book that is a functional encyclopedia is thorough. And I suppose that such a thing is useful for King scholars, or for intensely devoted fans who fancy themselves King scholars. However, the book is made twice as long as it ought to have been by a series of fairly pointless interviews with people like King's secretaries, King's brother Dave, King's childhood friend Chris Chesley, other people who have written books about King, and noted horror writers such as Richard Matheson and Robert R. McCammon. What's wrong with that, you ask? Well, nothing; all of these people, as well as the scads of others whom Spignesi puts in the hot seat for their fifteen minutes, no doubt have many interesting things to say. However, Spignesi has almost nothing of interest to ask. A typical line of questioning goes something like this:SPIGNESI: "Which one of the movies based on King's books is your favorite?"INTERVIEWEE: "Well, I don't know, I only saw a couple of them."SPIGNESI: "My favorite is 'The Dead Zone'. Did you see that one?"INTERVIEWEE: "Oh, yeah. It was pretty good, I guess."SPIGNESI: "Yeah, Cronenberg really captured the novel with that one."Seriously; he asks almost every person

he interviews about the movie of "The Dead Zone." I'll grant you that it's a good movie, but Spignesi comes off as being overly obsessed with that particular line of questioning. And, just for the record, the movie really DOESN'T capture the novel; it's good, but not that good. Most embarrassing by far is the interview with author Robert R. McCammon, who scarcely even knows Stephen King personally (that was the case upon the book's publication, at least). McCammon really has very little to say on the subject of King, owning up to not having read all that many of King's novels. Primarily, Spignesi seems to have interviewed McCammon so he could ask him why McCammon's novel "Swan Song" is so similar to King's "The Stand." A truly lousy interview with an author whose work cries out to be considered in a kinder light. And dare I mention the several poems about Stephen King written by Spignesi and other notorious Kingophiles? They are laughably bad, and would only ever have been published in this sort of vanity project, or by someone who needed very badly to fill up some pages. In short, this book is only for the hardest of die-hard King fans. And you guys would be better off using whatever money you would have spent on this turkey to instead buy copies of King's books to give out as presents to people who don't read him. Two stars for the thorough encyclopedia (current through about 1990); otherwise, a total dud. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Product By Jamie Bunch For the Stephen King obsessed like myself, this was an excellent buy at an even more excellent price. It is a wonderful research tool when trying to connect one book with another that takes place in the same location. Thank you for such an excellent product. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. a must for the King fan By Customer I love my King encyclopedia. It is a painstaking reference manual to every King character, story--including the astonishing ones Stephen King wrote when he was just a kid, and place mentioned in King's works. Spignesi isn't just a cataloger however. His own writing shows wit and charm. You will enjoy reading his descriptions of King's body of work. I just wish Mr. Spignesi would do an updated version to include King's latter stories and novels.

Now fans, researchers, and collectors can have easy access to all things King with this definitive sourcebook. This one-of-a-kind encyclopedia, now in paperback, features an exhaustive 18,000-entry concordance covering the people, places, and things mentioned in King's novels and stories, as well as helpful reference guides, sidebars, and never-before-available information. 50 photographs. 20 line drawings.