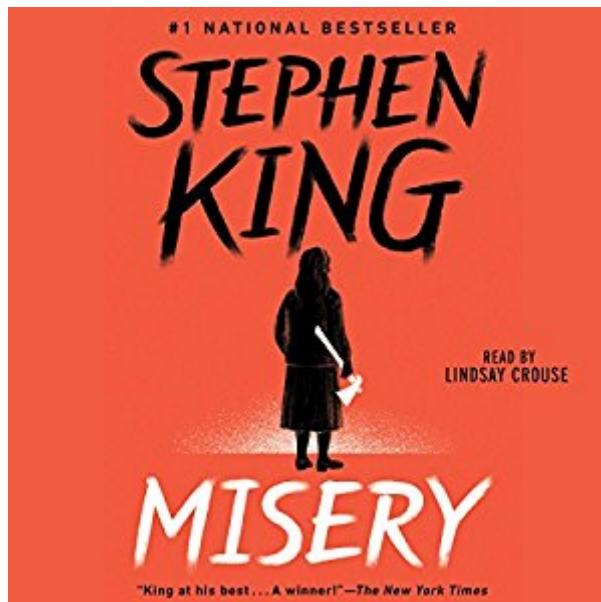


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Misery



Synopsis

The number-one national best seller about a famous novelist held hostage by his "number-one fan" and suffering a frightening case of writer's block - that could prove fatal. One of "Stephen King's best...genuinely scary" (USA Today). Paul Sheldon is a best-selling novelist who has finally met his number-one fan. Her name is Annie Wilkes, and she is more than a rabid reader - she is Paul's nurse, tending his shattered body after an automobile accident. But she is also furious that the author has killed off her favorite character in his latest book. Annie becomes his captor, keeping him prisoner in her isolated house. Annie wants Paul to write a book that brings *Misery* back to life - just for her. She has a lot of ways to spur him on. One is a needle. Another is an axe. And if they don't work, she can get really nasty. "Terrifying" (San Francisco Chronicle), "dazzlingly well-written" (The Indianapolis Star), and "truly gripping" (Publishers Weekly), *Misery* is "classic Stephen King...full of twists and turns and mounting suspense" (The Boston Globe).

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 12 hours 15 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 1, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B019FQXLLO

Best Sellers Rank: #48 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Horror #126

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > TV, Movie, Video Game Adaptations #508

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror

Customer Reviews

This was my first Stephen King novel. I must admit that it will not be my last. After seeing the film, I picked up the book and was startled to see how the story is even more detailed and gruesome and frightening than the film. The humor in the film was necessary for audience sales. The book is more true to life and detailed in human feeling and experience. King has an uncanny way of getting you into the heads of the characters and their emotions. I was terrified by Annie Wilkes and petrified for Paul Sheldon. It is not a light-hearted book and will have you trapped throughout. The imagery is

visceral and the writing crisp. Be ready to be terrified and entertained.

I purchased *Misery* to study Mr. King's writing technique, after being charmed, enlightened, and encouraged by his *On Writing*. My plan was to study rather than read, but I was pulled in and only sometimes would I remember to reflect on the craft. Sometimes the scenes crept slowly and the voice felt pretentious, but only because the protagonist was a drugged writer-so it was appropriate to character. Tools (Chekhov's Guns) are masterfully weaved into scenes and I was delighted to find those elements coming into play to solve his problem at the end. This also shows what a character needs and wants at the beginning of the story, and what he'll give up to get what he wants in the end. It was a great example of Show, Don't Tell with character development, which I've been trying to work on in my own writing.

Misery, the first fiction I read by King or Stevie as I like to call him, that is in fact the nickname he calls himself in one of the best books I ever read: *On Writing*. *Misery* was intense. I could not put it down and if this says something about King's connection with his "constant reader" then I am hooked. It was also my first horror book and I have to say, for horror, I laughed a whole lot more than necessary perhaps at all the dark comedy and horror happening to Paul Sheldon, the lead character. The book can be confusing in that there's a novel within the novel as he re-writes *Misery's Return for Annie Wilkes* and for the most part, I was concerned only with the Paul Sheldon and Annie Wilkes novel. The story is intense, there's a lot of gory stuff, but I enjoyed it a whole lot more than I thought I would. I see so much of Steve King in Paul Sheldon, not only because I read his semi-bio/semi-writing book, but because he said so himself about *Misery*. At times, I was even consuming Paul Sheldon the fictional character with Steven King the actual character, since both are best-selling authors with a dark sense of humor and a crazy obsessive relationship with their craft. One thing is for sure: You will never ever forget Annie Wilkes. Or good old Paul Sheldon for that matter and what's better than reading stuff that will stick with you for a long while? This is a book that will make you lose sleep and focus, give you laughs and giggles but the kind that you would have when someone else is going through a funny sort of hell, and of course, a good taste of Stephen King, the master of fiction himself. (Well, him and George R.R. Martin!)

This book is NOT for the faint of heart. Anyone who knows Stephen King knows that the movies sometimes don't do his books justice. I have nothing bad to say on the big-screen adaptation of this book; but the book itself, is excruciatingly more gruesome and its charts are even MORE complex.

If your heart sorrowed over the poor guy's fate in the movie, it'll be splattered on the ground and exploded into smithereens well before you're done with the guy in this actual tale of the worst case scenario of....The Number One Fan. There's a couple of sexual references and plenty of language including heavy profanation of God's Name (it's Stephen King....so...); if you can get past that, this is what made King what he is today.

This is a fantastic book and I hate to give it anything less than five stars, but I also feel that I should warn potential buyers of the KINDLE version only. I have both the physical copy and the Kindle version (I'm weird, whatever). The physical copy has a different font for the Misery Chastain chapters with the Ns, and eventually Es and Ts (I think) filled in by hand. Not only does the Kindle version not reflect this even with mini pictures (booooo!), it is a horrid amalgamation of typos. The handwritten N becomes "n." or "r.". "Misery" for some reason becomes "Miser". Brings a whole different meaning to the book, don't it? There are also numerous typos scattered throughout the normal parts of the Kindle version which do not appear in the physical copy. Being well after the return date of my Kindle version, I'm forced to deal with it. And by "deal with it", I mean go back to my physical copy, something I shouldn't have to do. Does anyone know of anything we can do? Strongly worded e-mails? Angry faces? Intense frowning at our Kindles? If this has been fixed, then yaye! If not, you have been warned.

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