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940



Stephen King on religion

(imgur.com)
submitted 4 months ago by [berserker793](#)
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[\[-\] jesuspants](#) 17 points 4 months ago

Hold up, Stephen King isn't an atheist. Is he? I remember being annoyed with Desperation because it turned into a God-fest towards the end.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] LeBlar](#) 17 points 4 months ago

"Stephen was raised as a Methodist and attended church regularly in his youth. He no longer attends church, but he does believe in God and reads the Bible." From his website.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] trolloc1](#) 10 points 4 months ago

He's made some very evil religious people (the mist). Very tolerant and what most Christians should be.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] neverwhere9](#) 2 points 4 months ago

I'm not a fan of him, but he seems reasonable in that respect. Good for him.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] teamatreides](#) 10 points 4 months ago

You don't have to be an atheist to be put off by religious *freaks*, which some of the atheistic community unfortunately considers a representation for all religion around the world.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 2 points 4 months ago

this post was submitted on 24 Feb 2012

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Most of the main religions on the planet are freakish though.

Obviously, most religious people *today* don't behave like freaks, that's true. But the disparity you're talking about comes in because we, meaning Western society, have forced them into a little box where they aren't allowed to practice any of the more freakish parts of religion, and have to focus on the very, very few nice parts.

That's a good thing, and it's progress, but it didn't just happen by accident, and it definitely wasn't because of anything inherent to the religion. We had to actually pass laws and fight some very bloody battles to get them to stop owning slaves, setting people on fire and beating people to death with rocks.

permalink **parent**

[\[-\] teamatreides](#) 3 points 4 months ago

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a community for 4 years

Yeah, those Buddhists are fucking CRAZY, man.

There are some religions that are pretty fucking good. It's a person who gives a religion its reputation though, and people who point their finger at religion need to learn to point it a bit more at the person hiding behind the rhetoric and symbols, spouting ignorance in their eager excitement over the most minute experiences of supposed exaltation which they confuse for Enlightenment while they're being fed cookies in the direction someone wants them to move. I won't disagree that there are religions that support and want to do some pretty crazy shit, but it just feels a little presumptuous to claim most religions are guilty of this when most of us in this forum have a pretty heavily dosed exposure to a lot of the Western World.

"Religion," is just so broad. A statement about it makes so much assumptions when one is really only considering a pool of the actual total. I'd be less irked if it was "religious people who are *blank*," or "religious people who do *blank*," but sometimes people just say religion, like it's some tangible thing people have no fucking control over. Maybe I'm supposed to assume people are talking about something more Western-oriented, but that trivializes the need for detail when discussing religion. I feel like a lot of detail and fact oriented people are ignoring gobs of it in the face of their frustration over, and treatment received from, their religious counterparts.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago

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| Yeah, those Buddhists are fucking CRAZY, man.

I said "most", and was very careful to choose that word. Although, yes, some of the major tenets of Buddhism are still crazy. Though they have a much better track record than the Big Three.

Some Buddhists would not exactly fit the profile of "peaceful" and "nonviolent" either.

http://www.religiondispatches.org/books/2158/monks_with_guns:_discovering_bud

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zen_at_War

| There are some religions that are pretty fucking good. It's a person who gives a religion its reputation though, and people who point their finger at religion need to learn to point it a bit more at the person hiding behind the rhetoric and symbols, spouting ignorance in their eager excitement over the most minute experiences of supposed exaltation which they confuse for Enlightenment while they're being fed cookies in the direction someone wants them to move.

We can point fingers at both. It isn't either/or. People who follow the evil, shitty nonsense in the Bible should be held responsible for their own actions, but we can also criticize the source of the shitty directives.

?"Religion," is just so broad. A statement about it makes so much assumptions when one is really only considering a pool of the actual total. I'd be less irked if it was "religious people who are blank," or "religious people who do blank," but sometimes people just say religion, like it's some tangible thing people have no fucking control over.

You're doing the same thing by pretending that all Buddhists are non-violent and not crazy.

It's a generalization that holds true because it applies to the majority.

permalink parent

[\[-\] teamatreides](#) 2 points 4 months ago

| Though they have a much better track record than the Big Three.

| It's a generalization that holds true because it applies to the majority.

Thank you for understanding my comment on Buddhists :D

"It describes the influence of state policy on Japanese Buddhism, and particularly the influence of Zen philosophy on the Japanese military." This sounds like it looks at more than just Buddhism, and into things that *influenced* it to change? (Perhaps you had something in mind from when you read the book that is more specific with what you wanted to get across?) No Buddhist is going to start their path fully enlightened. Mistakes are inevitable and essential, just as humanity fucks up in it's general handling of religion throughout history . . . it is always around waiting to be used properly.

There are generalizations that some atheists use as their foundation, is what I'm fearful of. Religion without deities has a lot to offer when it comes to the world, and to dress religion in the reputation of the people that follow it ignores part of the schematic of the relationship between religion and the individual - and those individuals are the ones who wrote the doctrines, so why judge religion based on a man's writing? People who see these generalizations may attribute more truth to the statement than is actually intended - to ignore where the generalizations come from could eventually cause some people to not consider them generalizations at all.

permalink parent

[\[-\] Ho-Bean](#) 22 points 4 months ago

Personally, it doesn't matter to me if he's an atheist or not. The man is a great writer regardless.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] xCaffeineQueen](#) 2 points 4 months ago

The Green Mile will always be my favorite book... I cried so many times reading that. I've never been let down by any of his other books either. A great writer indeed.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Penleg](#) 6 points 4 months ago*

I didn't think he was, because The Stand is a christian novel. it's good none the less, but it gets really preachy towards the end.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] auralgasm](#) 14 points 4 months ago

I've defended The Stand here before, but since it's one of my favorite books, I'm compelled to do it again. The Stand is not representative of King's idea of Christianity. He specifically calls it a "tale of dark Christianity" in the introduction to the unabridged version. Within the book characters often talk about why God would inflict so many horrors upon them. The book is about what would happen if God existed and decided to go Old Testament on the world. There's a plague, the main characters are put through as much as Job (and most of them are dead by the end, some forced to sacrifice themselves in brutal ways), there are visionary dreams and prophets. The final showdown between the good guys and the bad guy results in the death of every single person in the area, including the little children. I strongly doubt that this is how King views his religion; it seems to me that he just wanted to tell an Old Testament style tale set in the current day like all his works. In his other novels, fundamentalists are portrayed uniformly negatively. There are crazy fundies in Cell and The Mist, and the whole plot of Needful Things revolves around a conflict between Catholics and Protestants that ends up destroying an entire town.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] candystripedlegs](#) 2 points 4 months ago

don't forget 'carrie'

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Berdiie](#) 3 points 4 months ago

I was re-reading his book of short stories *Just After Sunset* and it had this at the end in regards to his notes on his story "Willa";

"As to the story itself ... one of the great things about fantasy is that it gives writers a chance to explore what might (or might not) happen after we shuffle off this mortal coil. There are two tales of that sort in *Just After Sunset* (the other is "*The New York Times* at Special Bargain Rates"). I was raised as a perfectly conventional Methodist, and although I rejected organized religion and most of its hard and fast assertions long ago, I hold to the main idea, which is that we survive death in some fashion or other. It's hard for me to believe that such complicated and occasionally wonderful beings are in the end simply wasted, tossed away like litter on the roadside. (Probably I just don't want to believe it.) What that survival might be like, though ... I'll just have to wait and find out. My best guess is that we might be confused, and not very willing to accept our new state. My best hope is that love survives even death (I'm a romantic, so fucking sue me). If so, it might be a bewildered love ... and a little bit sad." - Stephen King.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] thejoysoftroutrout](#) 2 points 4 months ago

That's why I'm a little confused by this quote of his, since he is actually a pretty religious guy. "Desperation" was the ultimate deus ex machina novel too, with the "machine god" literally being God.

He also admits to believing in psychic powers and other humbug so I don't think he's the leading authority on logic and reason.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] berserker793](#) [\[S\]](#) 3 points 4 months ago

He is slightly religious but he still believes we can't all be about religion we have to worship on our own time and not let religion cloud our judgement.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Beaglepower](#) 3 points 4 months ago

His non-fiction "On Writing" gives some really good insight into Stephen King's history, thinking and life. It's partly how to write and partly autobiography, since one of the main points is that your ideas and writing should come from something in your own life, even if it's just a seed.

Every time I read a new King novel, I pretend that I'm in an alternate universe where he wasn't killed by that pickup truck. We came really close to losing a great writer and all of the work he's produced since. It's like if Buddy Holly hadn't died in the plane crash or Jimi Hendrix hadn't choked on his own vomit (or maybe someone else's, since you can't "dust for vomit".)

I know I'm in fanboi mode, but I think people will be reading Stephen King a century from now.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] KatStratFever93](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I agree with you - also, *On Writing* is one of my favourite books... on... writing... ठ_ठ

Stephen King will definitely be remembered as one of the greatest writers of all time. I think his books may even be regarded as classics one day. **fingers crossed**

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Cocaine is a hell of a drug.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] zak-R](#) 1 point 4 months ago

It's a quote from *The Stand*, so it may or may not be an opinion that he personally believes.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] candystripedlegs](#) 1 point 4 months ago

it's not exactly a quote from him, but a quote from a character in 'the stand' who is a skeptic.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ShowMeUrrGenitals](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Yeah, and Stephen King was disappointed with *The Shining* because it was originally about ghosts and the supernatural, but Stanley Kubrick was such an atheist that he changed it to all be in Jack Torrance's head.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] candystripedlegs](#) 1 point 4 months ago

what? do you have a source for that, because if king said that he must not have seen the movie. the movie showed the kid and the wife seeing shit in the hotel too.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ShowMeUrrGenitals](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Unfortunately wiki is my only source. "Parts of the film are chilling, charged with a relentlessly claustrophobic terror, but others fall flat. Not that religion has to be involved in horror, but a visceral skeptic such as Kubrick just couldn't grasp the sheer inhuman evil of The Overlook Hotel. So he looked, instead, for evil in the characters and made the film into a domestic tragedy with only vaguely supernatural overtones. That was the basic flaw: because he couldn't believe, he couldn't make the film believable to others. What's basically wrong with Kubrick's version of The Shining is that it's a film by a man who thinks too much and feels too little; and that's why, for all its virtuoso effects, it never gets you by the throat and hangs on the way real horror should."

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] candystripedlegs](#) 1 point 4 months ago

oh, he didn't say the movie showed it to be all in jack's head, which was the main problem i had with that statement. like i said before, his wife and kid see ghosts and other stuff at the hotel, and the kid has 'the shine', too, so kubric obviously didn't make it all in jack's head. i still like the book better though. thanks for the quote, i had never seen it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] cliché_novelty](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Really? I've never seen the film, but I read the book. and the impression I got was that it was just Jack going crazy, but the way he described his insanity was by making the entire place go crazy. Of course, there was a hint of a sixth sense by the 'shining', but I never got the impression of ghosts...

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago

He's definitely not an atheist, but I still loved Desperation because it's fiction. Religion belongs in fiction, cause that's what it is. I don't mind when fantastical stories involve God.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] BecauseOfGay](#) 1 point 4 months ago

He's not. The Stand has strong christian undertones, and is a tale of Good Versus evil inspired by the book of Revelations.

That doesn't mean he's a Zealot though. Clearly he is a rationally thinking dude

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Dyvyant](#) 45 points 4 months ago

One of my favorite authors <3 If any of you have an interest in King or even a passing interest in the craft of writing, I can't recommend his non fiction work "On Writing" enough.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Ho-Bean](#) 8 points 4 months ago

Easily one of my favorite books by King and one of the best books about writing you can read.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] kolr](#) 10 points 4 months ago

As a fellow King fan, thank you for the recommendation. I will acquire a copy post haste!

I haven't devoured many books like I devoured his Dark Tower series.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ian762](#) 5 points 4 months ago

If you haven't read full dark no stars, I would recommend it. If you can't afford it then pm me and I will send you mine.

It's 4 short stories, each one is *brilliant*

I think Stephan King is one of the best authors alive, but when it comes to short stories, in my humble (limited) opinion, he is the best.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] cschema](#) 3 points 4 months ago

I always enjoyed his short stories the most. The epics like *The Stand* and *The Dark Tower* are great, don't get me wrong... but those little shorts like *The Boogeyman* are great.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] WeakChopper](#) 2 points 4 months ago

I have to say that King seems to have the nicest fans. Ha.

I only very recently got into King's books when I was at a Good Will two weeks ago and decided to buy *Misery* on a lark because it was .50 cents. I didn't even think I would like it. I read it and the Kindle version of *The Shining* in less than two weeks and am now working my way through *The Stand*, which I have to admit I'm not liking too much.

But since buying *Misery* I've had two King fans I didn't know offer to give me books and now I see you offering someone else one.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] auralgasm](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Interesting...I like *The Shining*, but LOVE *The Stand*. However, I'm a huge fan of post-apocalyptic fiction so I guess it's a given. If you prefer the creepy cerebral horror of *The Shining* and *Misery* to the more grandiose setting of *The Stand*, you should check out *The Mist*.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] godlesspriest](#) 2 points 4 months ago

The Stand is my answer whenever people ask me what my favorite book of all time is

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] WeakChopper](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I decided to reply to this now that I've gotten a little further in the book. I am on chapter 41 of *The Stand* now and it's really picked up. The beginning sort of dragged. Now my only criticism of the book is I find some of his updates confusing and unnecessary. Like he edited the book to mention Madonna and *Nightmare on Elm Street* to make the book seem relevant to 1990, but then leaves such glaring, dated details like the rarity of color TVs, people preferring LPs and 45's over cassette tapes and typewriters.

I will look into *The Mist*. You mentioned liking post-apocalyptic fiction. That is a genre I actually usually love, so if you have any book suggests I'd love to hear them.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] DeanT765](#) 1 point 4 months ago

My favorite King book is actually *The Dark Half*, you should check it out.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] WeakChopper](#) 2 points 4 months ago

I will! Thanks.

Of the two books I've read so far I liked *The Shining* the best, though it made me laugh a little after I read the introduction to *The Stand*, because in it he talks briefly about the effect that movies have on books and he mentions trying to read *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* after watching the movie first and how most people would imagine Jack Nicholson in the book. That was what happened to me with *The Shining*. Ha. I read the whole picture seeing Jack Nicholson as Jack Torrance. But maybe he did that on purpose. Maybe he used *One Flew Over* as his example while actually thinking about *The Shining*.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Quid66](#) 1 point 4 months ago*

Agreed. King really shines with his novella works. 1922 from this collection is especially haunting.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Arock99](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Yeah 1922 is amazing. I would love to see that made into a movie.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [kolr](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I agree that his short stories are some of the best around.

Thanks for the offer, but I usually just run to the library every other month or so when I'm itching for a book. I will definitely put it on my "to read" list!

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [teamatreides](#) 3 points 4 months ago

You've *got* to check out It.

If you've already seen the movie, I'm not sure what it's like going from movie to book. I read the book first and couldn't last three minutes into the movie.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [kolr](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Read It. Loved It. Also watched the movie. Good not great, especially after having read the book.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [stanfan114](#) 2 points 4 months ago

For something more recent, King's "Duma Key" is a huge return to form.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [baldchap](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Wizard and Glass was ropery though, wasn't it? And the end of the whole saga - I know it couldn't have ended many ways (as I'm not sure SK himself fully understands the Dark Tower, which appears or is alluded to in many of his books), but it kind of let me down a bit.

What happens when the ending ends? What difference does the thing in the end make at the end of the end? (Trying not to spoil it for anyone reading it now)

There definitely needs to be more books focusing on the beams and the breakers and so on - I loved that concept. Everything's Eventual had a tiny link (Dinky was in the DT too), but I'd love to see more.

[Here's](#) a DT connections map (you might find a better one) and [list of connections](#) to his other work.

I'm quite a fan, or was in my younger days when he was more prolific. *Under The Dome* ended in a disappointing way too.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] SWAGTEAMALPHA](#) 4 points 4 months ago

That's the beauty of it. You don't know what difference the thing in the end will make, but it shows that Roland may not be completely doomed. It's a story with an ending that's sad, mind blowing, and hopeful. Personally it's my favorite book series by far, and I'd recommend it to anyone.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] mechasmartypants](#) 2 points 4 months ago

My problem isn't with the ending itself. It is with a series of events that happened *near* the end. It was with 1) Randall Flagg and the Crimson King. Awesome villains who deserved better. 2) The stupid Mary Sue artist character who [erases the Crimson King from existence. Lame, lame, LAME. See 1.](#) And Susannah Dean, easily the worst character in the ka-tet, [is the only one who gets a happy ending. Admittedly, she gets it for being sensible enough to get away from Rowland before it is too late. Following Rowland to the end of his journey will bring you nothing but ruin. That's just how it is.](#)

Still a spectacular series on the whole, though. If anything, its flaws are part of what make it so strong. If that makes any sense.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] the_other_brand](#) 3 points 4 months ago

First, [the artist character you spoke of was the whole subject of a Stephen King novel called Insomnia.](#)

Second, [King is an author known for giving his heroes bad endings. Giving the least deserving character the best ending should be no surprise.](#)

However, I do agree with you on the case of the Crimson King. He was never developed well enough in the novel except as a generic idea of chaos.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago*

First, [1] the artist character you spoke of was the whole subject of a Stephen King novel called *Insomnia*.

He was not "the whole subject" of *Insomnia*. The story at the end turned out to be about him in retrospect because the main characters were trying to avert a catastrophe, and he would have died in the catastrophe, which would have prevented him from serving a role in *The Dark Tower*. But we don't know that till like the very last pages of the book when it is explicitly spelled out by one of the characters.

He still was a "Mary Sue" with regard to the Dark Tower. He didn't serve any real purpose other than "well, I mentioned that this kid is important in another book so I have to squeeze him in somehow".

However, I do agree with you on the case of the Crimson King. He was never developed well enough in the novel except as a generic idea of chaos.

But worse, he *already had* a character -- Flagg -- that was a zillion times more well-developed as a main supervillain in the first 6 books (and even as the main villain in other books) and he chose to just have him unceremoniously eaten by a giant spider for no good reason, then have the spider that killed him die pitifully in the road for no good reason.

Then have the main villain be someone we didn't meet until the last couple of hundred pages of the story, posing no more threat to Roland other than lobbing some hand grenades from an elevated platform. For a guy who has basically singlehandedly destroyed everything in his path including unbelievably imaginative threats like being inside of a maniacal riddle-telling train moving at 200 mph, this was really a pathetic "final boss" for a great story.

The Dark Tower 1-5 was one of the best series I ever engrossed myself in, but seriously, GFY Steve.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] essenceoferlenmeyer](#) 2 points 4 months ago

To me, the whole reason Flagg died the way he did was such poetic justice. Throughout the DT series, and even in the Stand, you get an idea that Flagg is (as mother Abigail says) an "imp", or the right-hand of the Crimson King. He was egotistical, bigoted and thought he had more power than he did. For him to go out with more of a whimper than a bang fit so well to me. The CK, on the other hand, was a pervasive agent of chaos in numerous books (*Insomnia*, *Black House*, etc), and if any villain needed more fleshing out, a back story, *something*, it was him.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Yeah, not buying it, sorry. Show me a passage in *The Dark Tower* where anyone other than Flagg was set up as the main protagonist before near the end of the series.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] leon_zero](#) 1 point 4 months ago

It sort of fits the theme of evil being a "bumhug," doesn't it? Still, Walter/Flagg is one of my favorite literary characters, so I would have liked a more climactic end for him. Perhaps Roland's final journey (in which he finally gets it right and no longer has to repeat) will include a showdown with his oldest enemy.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] spikestoker](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I'm with you here. Flagg/Walter/etc is one of my favorite villains ever, a man of a thousand faces and twice as many names, spanning novels, time, and space.

Isn't there a passage at the end of The Gunslinger, when Roland and Walter hold palaver, that insinuates Walter has cast some sort of spell on Roland? I always thought this was the setup for Roland's fate at the conclusion of the series.

Given the final line, I think it's clear which big bad gets the last laugh...

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[continue this thread](#)

[\[-\] SWAGTEAMALPHA](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Yeah I agree the ending did feel like it got a bit rushed. I'm not saying it WAS intended but at least for me I feel like it adds a little bit to the story to imagine that that's just the way time moves closer to the tower.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Nah, I can't go with that. It was much better before the gaping flaws at the end. They ruined it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] LaheyDrinks](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Well there is going to be a new DT book coming out in April, so maybe we'll get some more light shed on some of these subjects.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] wanderer11](#) 1 point 4 months ago

There is? You just blew my mind.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] LaheyDrinks](#) 2 points 4 months ago

[here](#)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] wanderer11](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I can't wait :)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] kolr](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Yea, there were definitely parts of each book (especially into the later books in the series) that I felt were lackluster, but he had me so hooked from the first three that I couldn't let go. I probably need to read them all again...

Thanks for the connections map! When I started catching the connections, it was like getting hit with a ton of bricks!

By the way, I'm also a big Orson Scott Card fan, and Xenocide and Children of the Mind in the Ender series were disappointing. Despite the disappointment, I still enjoyed them and the following books got much better.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Berdiie](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Black House which is a sequel to *The Talisman* deals more with the Breakers and with a child who would be the strongest Breaker in existence.

I loved the ending of the Dark Tower. It's very hopeful to me. Roland seems to be repeating his journey, but each time he gets a little closer to doing it right. It's not just about reaching the Tower and stopping the Crimson King, but doing it the right way. He needs to show up with the horn and his full Ka-Tet. He'll keep repeating the journey over and over until he gets it right. It let him have the Horn back to fix that mistake he made, and so this time he'll get a bit closer. Perhaps he'll still put the Tower before his Ka-Tet again, but eventually he'll get it right and all will be well, all manner of things will be well.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Except that the entire Dark Tower story turned out to be caused by God.

And in the last book, logic went right out the window.

Hm, I guess he had a point.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] kolr](#) 3 points 4 months ago

It's fiction :) Great story is great. I felt like the ending was more of one of those "up for discussion" endings.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Bozzy35](#) 1 point 4 months ago

It doesn't ever really end up being about religion, just a vague concept of fate and one's place in the universe. Plus from the start you have a tower that contains all of space and time, so it is most certainly established as fantasy.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] three_dee](#) 1 point 4 months ago

It doesn't ever really end up being about religion, just a vague concept of fate and one's place in the universe.

I didn't say it was about "religion", I said it was about God.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gan_\(Stephen_King\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gan_(Stephen_King))

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] The_Seeker](#) 2 points 4 months ago

The ear troubles (and remedy) he had as a kid made me cringe.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] wanderer11](#) 1 point 4 months ago

This is yet another reason for me to like the wordslinger. I have read and reread the dark tower series and it is still my favorite thing.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Ragnrok](#) 1 point 4 months ago

As a King fan and an aspiring writer, downloading it now.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 0 points 4 months ago

I'm going to go ahead and offer my dissenting view here since no one else really has yet. On Writing is not a very good book.

Seriously, his advice is a fucking joke. He doesn't like outlining, saying the plot and character development should just come naturally on the spot as you go along. No, King, it should not. The result of this retarded thinking is you get long-winded 800 page pieces of shit churned out every year (see: everything King has written in the last decade), and random events that only tangentially relate to what was foreshadowed or even fail to fit into the mythos altogether (see "Wolves of the Calla," where the heroes, aided by women who use razor-edged frisbees, fight Doctor Doom robots wielding lightsabers and Harry Potter grenades...wtf).

And no adverbs? Don't write books with a theme in mind? It's outrageous. No writer should take his nonsense suggestions seriously. It sort of works for him, or at least it did with his earlier stuff that actually is good, but it's probably not good blanket advice to give to learning writers. I discourage people from reading it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [Berdiie](#) 1 point 4 months ago

It works for him and his son Joe Hill. It works for many other modern writers too. I believe I've read that Neil Gaiman doesn't outline most of his work. He might write down a few notes, but he lets the story take him where it will. I can go dig through my collection, but I do remember him speaking before how the stories have turned out differently than he expected because he didn't outline. There was an IAMA with a writer a few weeks ago who said that they didn't outline or plot, but just put some characters in a scenario and wanted to see what would happen.

Creating detailed outlines works for some people, J. K. Rowling is probably one of the best examples as she decided how the story would go from the first book to the seventh before she wrote more than the first, but it isn't the only way and it can be very effective to get rid of your outlines, strip out your adverbs, and let the story take you where it will.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Like any art, doing something on the spot can work sometimes, certainly. But I don't think it's reliable as a hard and fast rule. Even the best musicians/artists etc can't just wing it all the time. Improvisation, in my experience, requires more advanced skill (or natural talent) and is therefore not something you'd suggest to a general audience the way King seemed to do when I read his book.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [Berdiie](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I can see that, but it's definitely not the only message from the book. His message is that the first draft should be only about the characters experiencing the situation you've put them in. Get it on the paper. It's not done then, not even close. There are second, third, even fourth drafts where he'd go in and rework sections, flesh out characters, change things to be more in line with his idea of how they'd act (I believe an example from King is one of the police dispatchers in *From A Buick 8* stole some money from one of their co-workers in his first draft. He changed that quick because it didn't fit how the character would actually act after he wrote more of them.)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [wackylol](#) 9 points 4 months ago

Says the guy who wrote *The Stand*

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [X29](#) 4 points 4 months ago

That's where this quote came from

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] wackylol](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Really? Interesting.. I only watched the miniseries (it's on Netflix and pretty fun.. I think the Lost guys definitely watched it and it has the early 90s soap vibe like Twin Peaks with a ton of people you'd recognize like Lt. Dan, Rob Lowe, Molly Ringwald, the mean old hospital manager from Scrubs, the guy who talks for Patrick on Spongebob).

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] DrBrian](#) 6 points 4 months ago

The last portion of "The Gunslinger" is one of the best representations of how mind-blowing the thought of an infinite universe is that the average mind can understand (or not understand, as it really is.)

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Glassberg](#) 3 points 4 months ago

LET. THERE. BE. LIGHT.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] leon_zero](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I never could have sent that vision to your father. He would have come back drooling.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Glassberg](#) 2 points 4 months ago

In another thread I was talking about gay guys on advertisements, I just got really confused.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Njugguh](#) 3 points 4 months ago

I remember that part. I think if it were a movie, the lack of "action" for the average movie goer would be overshadowed by the mere awesomeness on how this could be achieved via CGI and good narrative.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] baldchap](#) 1 point 4 months ago

The Gunslinger or Dark Tower series as a whole? I can see this at the end of the saga, for sure!

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] DrBrian](#) 5 points 4 months ago

The Gunslinger in specific. When the Gunslinger catches up to the man in black and is put in a dream state by him. It starts off talking about imagining a fish in a pond... that is suddenly plucked out of water by a fisherman... how strange and vast the world suddenly must seem to this creature that couldn't originally see beyond the scope of the pond...

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Glassberg](#) 1 point 4 months ago

SPOILERS FOR "FROM A BUICK 8"

When the characters go through the gateway in the car, they come out in a hellscape that has purple grass. The gunslinger saw his world as an atom in a blade of purple grass. Just one more example of how that brilliant bastard tied all of his books together.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 4 months ago*

[deleted]

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] DrBrian](#) 7 points 4 months ago

Perhaps he's not any more logical. But knowing what I know about King (which, admittedly, isn't all that much) I wouldn't be surprised if part of his belief rests in keeping him open to possibility as a tool for his writing. For someone that consistently writes about the supernatural, parallel worlds, and superstition, it'd be a pretty big creativity killer to look at your work and believe that all you are doing is selling bullshit.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [colloquy](#) 2 points 4 months ago

I completely agree with you. He surrounds himself with atheist friends (Dave Barry, his wife, etc...) so I think his logical mind is atheist but he needs to remain creative.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 4 months ago

[\[deleted\]](#)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Everything you just posted is "mumbo jumbo". Psychedelics do not make someone spiritual; I could see how many "spiritual" people may be attracted to the use of psychedelics, but that is in no way evidence that one causes the other.

I have used psychedelics extensively and do not have a spiritual bone in my body.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 4 months ago*

[\[deleted\]](#)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 4 months ago

TL;DR: Ignorant/Stupid people shouldn't use drugs?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [tombodadin](#) 3 points 4 months ago

It's all about the Ka.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [DrBrian](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Ka-ka.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [xMvRx](#) 3 points 4 months ago

Whatcha thinkin' about? I dunno, horror I guess.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [_Born_To_Be_Mild_](#) 3 points 4 months ago

He also said the following:

I don't believe in any actual thinking God that marks the fall of every bird in Australia or every bug in India, a God that records all of our sins in a big golden book and judges us when we die - I don't want to believe in a God who would deliberately create bad people and then deliberately send them to roast in a hell He created-but I believe there has to be something.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [pieman3141](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Yep. His theist "something is out there" beliefs shine in a lot of his "side-DT" stories (as in, novels that aren't part of the DT series, but share a lot of connections). Needful Things is blatant, as well as Eyes of the Dragon, The Stand, and The Talisman. Hearts in Atlantis is also quite blatant about it too.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] NintnNova](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Not that it matters, but I thought Stephen King was a pretty strong Christian?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] davbryn](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Love Stephen King; hate his nails.

I mean it - sometimes I wonder what his furniture must look like. Scraped to shit. I'm pretty sure they airbrush his pictures too, since he must tear lines in his face for every itch he gets.

Brilliant storyteller. Poor nail management.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] queenmaeree](#) 2 points 4 months ago

He kinda looks like Jim Carrey to me.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] teamatreides](#) 2 points 4 months ago

| Stephen King on religious mania

FTFY

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] abuseguy](#) 2 points 4 months ago

I'm just finishing 11/23/62. Great read. I'll have to check out the newer collections of short stories.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Deudermont](#) 2 points 4 months ago

My favorite King book is definitely The Dome. Amazing book, check it out.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] lizard0f0z](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Yes. Yes. Yes. Definitely one of my favorite King books. Couldn't recommend this book more.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 2 points 4 months ago

And yet, Stephen King is actually quite religious.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] pedo_troll](#) 2 points 4 months ago

He looks like retarded Jim Carry.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] MeSeeNoCO2](#) 1 point 4 months ago

At least a smarter future generation of intelligent species will see the error of our ways.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 4 months ago

[deleted]

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Dolomighty](#) 2 points 4 months ago

I do believe, good sir, that you are chock full of shit. I knew this man personally years ago (he was my Little League coach in the 1980's) and I found him to be not only affable, but also very charitable toward my community. No down votes because you're entitled to your opinion, but I think you are mistaken

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] mxIntz](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Great writer and coolest guy. If you haven't watched Creepshow, check it out. King plays a the best country bumpkin and yells the memorable phrase: "meteor shit!".

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] MrGrike](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Quote from "The Stand"

SPOILERS

If I remember correctly, it was about a character who essentially went insane after being told by "The Dark Man" what to do. Also, he spent twenty minutes talking to a raven, thinking it was the Dark Man (Randall Flagg) himself.

Great book, highly recommended.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] the_deets](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Holy shit, Stephen King looks like Beans from Even Stevens.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Sarabi05](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Haha my first thought was of Jim Carrey as the Grinch

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ewilliam](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I think we need a new subreddit:

r/celebrityquotesaboutatheisminimageformforextrakarma

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] glucoseboy](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Logic AND responsibility can be shucked away. "I don't have anything to do with climate change or oil wars, or that homeless person in front of me.... It's all part of God's Plan."

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Netcob](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Actually, it's still logic. "The moon is made of cheese, therefore Stephen King has three heads" is still sound logic and a true statement. If you assume something false, you can imply whatever you want. But that's what he meant, I think.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Moral_Gutpunch](#) 1 point 4 months ago

That's not him on religion; that's him on religious mania.

There's a big difference between 'Hi, I believe in the teachings of Christ' and 'You can burn in Hell.' Mainly which one will invite you to their neighborhood barbecue.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] smm2194](#) 1 point 4 months ago

His nails are really long!

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] everybodylikesme](#) 1 point 4 months ago

So put on some Creedence and let's get high.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Cristal1337](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I have been wondering if those who "believe" in God actually just choose to remain ignorant because they are scared of reality. It might even be possible that they are too lazy to ask questions? They just want to live their little life for as long as they are happy. Protected by their limited view on the world, believing that what they don't know, doesn't hurt them. *In a way, ignorance is bliss and religion is the ultimate form of ignorance. Thus religion provides ultimate bliss.*

I noticed something similar with regards to politics. I get really passionate about my political ideals and find out that most people share my political ideals. However, when I try to get them motivated, they suddenly turn a blind eye to it, claiming that nothing is going to change anyway. Next thing they tell me that they don't really bother with politics and try to change the subject. People don't like the bitter truth. People just want to live happily even if other people are suffering. People choose to stay ignorant in order to remain happy. I think this problem is rooted deeper in human society than just religion. Religion is just a tool for people who would otherwise suffer from all the bad things in the world. Religion is there to control the public. Nevertheless, *I pity the fools who choose to remain ignorant. They will become tools of those who choose to enlighten themselves.*

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] lefatpunk](#) 1 point 4 months ago

He looks weird

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] sagex90](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Stephen King. Great author.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] thelakesouth](#) 1 point 4 months ago

"Steven King on *religious mania*"

FTFY

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] JherNifol](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I live in maine.. some-proudness.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] ginasaur](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I almost ran this man over in a rental car last summer.

Off topic, but I nearly forgot.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] lizard0f0z](#) 1 point 4 months ago

There's a story behind this right??

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] ginasaur](#) 1 point 4 months ago

We were on our way to a whale watch in Gloucester. He just stepped out in front of the car. He stared at us as he continued to limp across the street. He has a bad record with vehicles, you know.

I made a joke that we nearly killed Stephen King, thinking it was just his doppelganger, and my dad looked at me and said, "that really IS Stephen King!"

Whoops.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Twoblunts](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I could never stand his writing style. Personally I don't think he was capable of landing a plane, but the movies made out of his books are usually good. Well, Misery and The Shining at least. I don't know if there's another movie. But if they would make another, what was that one book where the demon would leave the kids body whenever he took a shit? It's been a good solid decade since I've read that one.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Berdiie](#) 2 points 4 months ago

The was *Dreamcatcher* with Mr. Grey the alien who loved to eat bacon and murder, but couldn't stand our bodily functions. The book is much better in my opinion. Shawshank Redemption and Green Mile are two other very well done movie renditions of his books.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Twoblunts](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Ah, I had forgotten about those two. Yea, Dreamcatcher was one of the few books I liked. I remember the other few I read but can't remember- One about a demon cop that locks up a bunch of people and some kid has to get naked and soap up to break out. <-- Good book
One about a dude or chick that finds some bitches diary in a lake <--Sucked

One where some guys are about to stop some terrorist thing but they fail and die. Last minute god's hand comes down from the sky and saves everything <-- Fuckin horrible.

And one about a dog going lockjaw on a dudes arm and he chops the dogs head off but it's still lockjawed on him and he spend the entire book with a dog biting onto his arm. Or maybe that was a Tom Robbins book. Was the still life with woodpecker? No, no that was about a bomber. I don't think that was Stephen King at all either way actually. It was a really good read though.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Berdiie](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Possessed cop was *Desperation*. You might also like *The Regulators* which is a "mirror" novel to *Desperation* written under King's pseudonym.

Diary in a lake sounds like it could be *Bag of Bones*.

Terrorists and God's Hand would probably be *The Stand*.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] EntreRios](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Sometimes Mr. King really looks like Bjork.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] nobinobi](#) 1 point 4 months ago

TIL Stephen King looks like The Grinch.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] thecerbs](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Love the Dark Tower Series!! Well Done Buddy!!

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Vaynor](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Creepier picture, please.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 1 point 4 months ago

There's no evidence that he said that.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] ok_you_win](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Are there any supernatural-horror authors that are atheist?

--

[permalink](#)[-] [xeroage](#) 1 point 4 months ago

The reason is simple. In mathematics you can also derive every answer from a false assumption.

[permalink](#)[-] [koavf](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Please don't submit an image that's just text. You can submit a self post with the same message.

[permalink](#)[-] [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 4 months ago

You know what would be cool? If king chose to wrote his own Holy book. Same basic format as all the other ones but by a far more talented author. I think he'd be able to make it fun and interesting to read.

[permalink](#)[-] [kberr](#) 2 points 4 months ago

Upvotes for Stephen King and Atheism!!!!

[permalink](#)[-] [Tombug](#) 0 points 4 months ago

Real mediocre writer that has never expressed any great ideas in his books (which is what real writing is about).

And true to form he takes a very old concept and just rehashes it.

[permalink](#)[-] [TheMediumPanda](#) 0 points 4 months ago

Saddest thing?: A religious fundie might actually see this as King's endorsement of religion. It's amazing how much can change depending on the eye of the beholder.

[permalink](#)[-] [adski01](#) 0 points 4 months ago

I find it quite sad that a supposed believer in God and reader of the bible could say that logic gets tossed out the window once the belief is in place. Logic can be used by Religious and non religious people alike to try and make sense of what they believe in this world. Logic is the formal systematic study of the principles of valid inference and correct reasoning. Valid reference and correct reasoning can be argued from both sides...

[permalink](#) [parent](#)[-] [PotterySucks](#) 0 points 4 months ago

I don't think he's talking about real life i think he's talking about his books. "oh, don't know how to end this one. i guess i'll have god come down and smite everything"

[permalink](#)[-] [Piotr555](#) 0 points 4 months ago

I was always under the impression that King was very religious.... Ever seen Desperation? HORRIBLE.

[permalink](#)[-] [lizard0f0z](#) 1 point 4 months ago

Ever READ Desperation? Fucking awesome until the God-fest at the end, but an enjoyable read all the same.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)[-] [Piotr555](#) 1 point 4 months ago

I'll have to admit, I don't think I've ever read Desperation. I'm sure it's an awesome read as are most of the novels and short stories I've read by him. I watched Desperation because it was in the five dollar movie bin. It was the worst pile of crap I've ever seen. In my personal opinion, Stephen King should never make movies. His "The Shining" adaption was very true to the book, however it did not leave a chill up my spine like the Stanley

Kubrick version. The book scared the hell out of me though ;-)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] unasimple](#) 0 points 4 months ago

Once the biological explanation of Jeremy Griffiths is understood both the scientific rationalistic view of life and the religious view are validated and become obsolete. The evolution of the conscious learning system(the mind) on top of an instinctive controlled species(our ape ancestor) created a necessary conflict. Essentially the mind in its search for cause and effect based understanding of the world upset or angered our cooperatively oriented(bonobo ape like) genetic orientation or what we experience as our conscience. This is original sin in biological terms. This journey of the human species ends with the finding of the understanding of the human condition: www.worldtransformation.com

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Truth_Revealed](#) 0 points 4 months ago

Funny he'd say that with all those illogical books on his conscience.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] SSJSwagger](#) 0 points 4 months ago

He has an "I'm watching you masturbate" face.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] A_terrible_comment](#) 0 points 4 months ago

no1 cares and IMPACT is gay

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] samesies](#) 0 points 4 months ago

HE'S A NOVELIST, WHAT DOES HE KNOW?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) -2 points 4 months ago

Stephen King is used to throwing things out the window, like his writing talent and self-respect when he wrote the last three Dark Tower books. Fuck this guy, he basically pissed on everyone who was a fan of the first four books, then had the effrontery to chastise them in the epilogue (those of you who have read the books know what I'm referring to). Even if what he says here is accurate, he is still a joke. Just making sure you all know.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] smoke_til_i_die](#) 0 points 4 months ago

This is a great quote, but King DID ruin The Dark Tower series, so fuck him and his broken leg.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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