Stephen King Books in Order

By Checklist.com

- [ ] Carrie

  A bullied teenager discovers a power that turns the pressures of school and home into something dangerous. King's first published novel combines intimate horror with reports and testimony about the events.

- [ ] 'Salem's Lot

  A writer returns to a small Maine town where an unsettling newcomer has bought the old Marsten House. A strong starting point for readers who want King's small-town characters and vampire horror together.

- [ ] The Shining

  An aspiring writer takes a winter caretaking job at the isolated Overlook Hotel with his wife and son. Read this before Doctor Sleep to meet Danny Torrance and understand the experiences that shape him.

- [ ] Rage

  A high-school classroom becomes the setting for a hostage crisis and a disturbing confrontation between students. Originally published as Richard Bachman, this is one of King's early, compact psychological novels.

- [ ] Night Shift

  Twenty stories range from everyday objects turning threatening to encounters with something far older. Includes Children of the Corn, The Boogeyman and Jerusalem's Lot, a useful companion to the novel 'Salem's Lot.

- [ ] The Stand

  After a devastating epidemic, scattered survivors begin forming new communities under the influence of opposing visions. Either the original or expanded edition counts as this novel; the expanded version adds substantial character and story material.

- [ ] The Long Walk

  Teenage competitors must keep walking under brutal rules in an endurance contest watched by the public. This Richard Bachman novel builds tension through conversation, exhaustion and the relationships between the walkers.

- [ ] The Dead Zone

  A man awakens from a long coma with an ability to glimpse the past and future through touch. Its central dilemma is what someone should do with knowledge that could change other people's lives.

- [ ] Firestarter

  A father and daughter flee the government agency connected to the experiments that changed their lives. Charlie's ability to start fires makes this both a pursuit thriller and a story about protecting a child.

- [ ] Roadwork

  A planned road extension threatens a man's house and workplace, pushing his resistance into obsession. Published as Richard Bachman, this is a grounded story of grief and upheaval rather than supernatural horror.

- [ ] Danse Macabre

  King examines horror in books, film, television and radio, explaining the fears and techniques that make it work. Useful alongside the fiction if you want to understand his influences and find other horror writers to explore.

- [ ] Cujo

  A normally gentle Saint Bernard contracts rabies as several troubled lives converge in a Maine town. The horror comes from a recognizably ordinary situation becoming a trap.

- [ ] The Running Man

  A desperate contestant enters a televised pursuit in which surviving means staying ahead of professional hunters. This Richard Bachman novel mixes a fast-moving chase with a harsh vision of entertainment and inequality.

- [ ] The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger

  Roland pursues the man in black across a strange, dying landscape in the opening Dark Tower novel. The original and revised editions occupy the same place in the series and count as one book here.

- [ ] Creepshow

  Five macabre tales become a graphic-book tribute to vintage horror comics, illustrated by Bernie Wrightson. This is the film tie-in comic book, a different reading format from King's prose collections.

- [ ] Different Seasons

  Four novellas include Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption and The Body, the source for Stand by Me. The collection is a useful entry point for readers interested in King's character-driven storytelling beyond supernatural horror.

- [ ] Christine

  A teenager's attachment to a battered Plymouth Fury changes his friendships and begins to look like possession. The car's restoration and its owner's transformation unfold together.

- [ ] Cycle of the Werewolf

  A werewolf stalks a small town through a calendar year, with each month bringing another episode. Bernie Wrightson's illustrations are part of this unusually compact, seasonally structured book.

- [ ] Pet Sematary

  A family's move near a busy road and a woodland burial ground leads to a story about grief and the wish to reverse loss. Best approached with little plot knowledge; its emotional stakes are as important as its supernatural premise.

- [ ] The Talisman

  Twelve-year-old Jack Sawyer crosses America and a parallel world while searching for a way to save his mother. Co-written with Peter Straub, it begins the trilogy continued by Black House and Other Worlds Than These.

- [ ] Thinner

  A lawyer starts losing weight relentlessly after a fatal accident and an encounter with a travelling family. Published as Richard Bachman, the novel turns a seemingly welcome change into a frightening pursuit of an answer.

- [ ] The Eyes of the Dragon

  A prince, a royal succession and a scheming magician drive this fairy-tale fantasy. It also introduces connections familiar to Dark Tower readers, while working as a self-contained story.

- [ ] Skeleton Crew

  A wide-ranging collection anchored by The Mist, alongside stories such as The Raft and The Jaunt. Read the collection once to track those works together rather than counting their separate editions again.

- [ ] IT

  A group of childhood friends confronts a recurring evil in Derry, with the story moving between childhood and adulthood. Its long form makes room for the town's history, friendship and the different ways memories return.

- [ ] The Dark Tower: The Drawing of the Three

  Roland encounters doors into other lives and worlds as his quest begins to take a new shape. Read after The Gunslinger; the people introduced here become central to the continuing journey.

- [ ] Misery

  A novelist survives a car crash only to find himself dependent on a devoted reader with very particular demands. The confined setting makes this an accessible choice for readers who prefer psychological suspense to supernatural horror.

- [ ] The Tommyknockers

  An object buried in the woods gives the residents of a Maine town extraordinary ideas and increasingly unsettling changes. The story combines alien discovery with King's interest in how a whole community can unravel.

- [ ] Nightmares in the Sky

  Photographs of gargoyles and architectural grotesques by f-stop Fitzgerald accompany King's text. This is an illustrated nonfiction volume to browse, rather than a novel or a short-story collection.

- [ ] The Dark Half

  A writer tries to retire the pseudonym behind his violent bestselling books, but the invented identity appears unwilling to disappear. The premise makes authorship itself the source of the novel's horror.

- [ ] Four Past Midnight

  Four substantial novellas include The Langoliers and Secret Window, Secret Garden. A good choice for readers who want longer, self-contained stories without committing to another full-length novel.

- [ ] The Dark Tower: The Waste Lands

  Roland's growing group continues toward the Tower through a world of ruined technology and unsettling encounters. The third novel follows The Drawing of the Three and carries several of its character threads forward.

- [ ] Needful Things

  A new shop seems to stock exactly what each Castle Rock customer wants, with unusual conditions attached to every sale. The novel rewards attention to the town's relationships as small bargains begin to connect.

- [ ] Gerald's Game

  A woman is left trapped in an isolated holiday house after an intimate game goes wrong. The immediate survival problem opens into a much more personal confrontation with memory and fear.

- [ ] Dolores Claiborne

  A Maine housekeeper tells her own story while answering questions about a suspicious death. The sustained first-person voice makes this a particularly distinctive King novel, with a connection to Gerald's Game for readers of both.

- [ ] Nightmares & Dreamscapes

  This collection brings together a broad range of shorter work, including Dolan's Cadillac, The Night Flier and Crouch End. Its variety makes it suitable for dipping in between longer novels.

- [ ] Insomnia

  An older Derry resident's worsening sleeplessness changes what he can see about the people around him. Readers following Dark Tower connections may appreciate the links, but the book has its own central characters and conflict.

- [ ] Rose Madder

  A woman leaves an abusive marriage and begins rebuilding her life, drawn to a mysterious painting. Her pursuit of safety develops alongside a supernatural world connected to the picture.

- [ ] The Green Mile

  A prison officer recalls events on a death-row block after an unusual prisoner arrives. The six original instalments and the collected edition are one novel and one completion here.

- [ ] Desperation

  Travellers are drawn into a remote Nevada town where a police officer's behaviour is only the beginning of the danger. Published alongside The Regulators, it reworks shared names and ideas into a different story.

- [ ] The Regulators

  A suburban street is overtaken by bizarre violence in this Richard Bachman novel. It is a companion to Desperation rather than its sequel, so either can be read first.

- [ ] The Dark Tower: Wizard and Glass

  The fourth Dark Tower book pauses the onward quest for an extended story from Roland's youth. It adds context to his present-day choices and relationships rather than starting a separate series.

- [ ] Bag of Bones

  A widowed novelist retreats to a lakeside home and becomes involved in a custody dispute and a haunting. The mystery connects his grief with the history of the place around him.

- [ ] Storm of the Century

  A blizzard isolates an island community just as a threatening stranger arrives with a demand. The published screenplay lets you read the dialogue and scene directions as a dramatic work rather than a conventional novel.

- [ ] The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon

  A young girl becomes separated from her family on a hike and tries to survive alone in the woods. Her love of baseball and her portable radio become important companions in a tightly focused survival story.

- [ ] Hearts in Atlantis

  Five interconnected pieces follow people shaped by the 1960s, moving from childhood into adult consequences. Low Men in Yellow Coats also offers a significant connection for Dark Tower readers.

- [ ] On Writing

  King combines a memoir of becoming a writer with practical discussion of language, storytelling and working habits. Read it for a personal account of the craft, whether you write yourself or simply want another perspective on his books.

- [ ] Secret Windows

  Essays, interviews and shorter pieces explore writing, reading and the development of a storyteller. Originally a Book-of-the-Month Club volume, it complements On Writing while including material in several forms.

- [ ] Dreamcatcher

  Four old friends reunite on a hunting trip and encounter something that threatens far more than their weekend. Their shared childhood history matters as the novel moves between personal bonds and a large-scale crisis.

- [ ] Black House

  An adult Jack Sawyer is drawn into a murder investigation that reaches beyond the ordinary world. Read The Talisman first for his background, then continue to Other Worlds Than These.

- [ ] Everything's Eventual

  Fourteen stories include 1408, Riding the Bullet and The Little Sisters of Eluria. The latter follows Roland before The Gunslinger, making it an optional Dark Tower companion within a broader collection.

- [ ] From A Buick 8

  A Pennsylvania police troop keeps a strange car hidden in a shed while a young man seeks answers about his late father. The story unfolds through recollections rather than a straightforward explanation of the vehicle's mysteries.

- [ ] The Dark Tower: Wolves of the Calla

  Roland and his companions arrive in a community facing a recurring threat to its children. The fifth main-series novel also brings in a character familiar to readers of 'Salem's Lot.

- [ ] The Dark Tower: Song of Susannah

  The sixth Dark Tower novel follows the group as events separate its members across worlds. It leads directly toward the final main-series volume, The Dark Tower.

- [ ] The Dark Tower

  The seventh main-series novel brings Roland's long quest to its conclusion. Read after Song of Susannah, and save discussions of the ending until you have reached it yourself.

- [ ] Faithful

  King and Stewart O'Nan follow the Boston Red Sox through their 2004 season in a shared record of being fans. The appeal lies in the observations and back-and-forth as much as the baseball results.

- [ ] The Colorado Kid

  Two experienced newspaper men tell a young journalist about an unresolved death on a Maine island. This compact mystery is especially interested in the questions a story leaves behind.

- [ ] Cell

  A mysterious event transmitted through mobile phones changes people abruptly, leaving survivors to find one another. A father's search for his son gives the large-scale catastrophe a personal direction.

- [ ] Lisey's Story

  The widow of a celebrated novelist sorts through his papers and the complicated memories of their marriage. The story moves between bereavement, threatening attention from outsiders and the private world her husband knew.

- [ ] Blaze

  A vulnerable man takes part in a kidnapping plan while remembering the experiences that shaped him. Published as Richard Bachman, it combines a crime plot with a close focus on its central character.

- [ ] Duma Key

  After a life-changing injury, a man moves to Florida and discovers a powerful ability to paint. The coastal setting and his new friendships frame a story about recovery, art and what the pictures might release.

- [ ] Just After Sunset

  Thirteen stories explore disturbing turns in ordinary lives, including N. and The Gingerbread Girl. The collection offers shorter reading sessions with a mixture of supernatural and psychological unease.

- [ ] Under the Dome

  An invisible barrier suddenly cuts a Maine town off from the outside world. The expanding cast reveals how existing rivalries, local power and practical shortages change life inside it.

- [ ] American Vampire Volume 1

  This graphic volume pairs an early American vampire story by King with a connected story by Scott Snyder, illustrated by Rafael Albuquerque. It collects the first five comic issues; later series volumes are separate creators' work.

- [ ] Full Dark, No Stars

  Four novellas follow people whose choices expose a darker side of everyday life. Includes 1922 and A Good Marriage, with a stronger emphasis on crime and moral consequences than on a shared fictional world.

- [ ] 11/22/63

  A teacher discovers a route into the past and attempts to prevent President Kennedy's assassination. The historical mission unfolds alongside a new life he begins building in another time.

- [ ] The Dark Tower: The Wind Through the Keyhole

  Roland tells a story from his youth during a pause in the group's travels. Published after the seven main books, it fits between Wizard and Glass and Wolves of the Calla, or can be enjoyed after the main sequence.

- [ ] Throttle

  A motorcycle club is pursued by a truck driver in this collaboration with Joe Hill. The story first appeared in 2009; this entry uses the 2012 standalone ebook and can also be read in Hill's Full Throttle collection.

- [ ] A Face in the Crowd

  A widower watching a baseball broadcast starts recognizing people in the stands who should not be there. This short collaboration with Stewart O'Nan is available as an ebook or audiobook.

- [ ] In the Tall Grass

  A brother and sister hear a child calling from a field and step into grass that is much harder to leave than to enter. Co-written with Joe Hill, it is also collected in Hill's Full Throttle.

- [ ] Guns

  A short nonfiction essay presents King's response to gun violence and the debate around it in the United States. It is a standalone Kindle Single rather than part of the fiction catalogue.

- [ ] Joyland

  A college student takes a summer job at an amusement park where an unsolved murder still haunts the staff. The coming-of-age story gives the mystery a warmer, more reflective setting than many of King's horror novels.

- [ ] Ghost Brothers of Darkland County

  A family's troubled past becomes the basis of a supernatural musical with a script by King and songs by John Mellencamp. The illustrated digital-book edition presents the libretto alongside the musical material.

- [ ] The Dark Man

  An illustrated book pairs King's early poem about a mysterious traveller with artwork by Glenn Chadbourne. The 2013 book edition is the item tracked here, rather than the poem's earlier magazine appearances.

- [ ] Doctor Sleep

  An adult Danny Torrance tries to build a steadier life while encountering a child with a powerful form of the shining. Reading The Shining first adds important context to his history and recovery.

- [ ] Mr. Mercedes

  A retired detective receives a message from the driver responsible for a deadly attack and begins pursuing him. This is the first Bill Hodges novel and the starting point for Holly Gibney's extended reading sequence.

- [ ] Revival

  A boy's encounter with a minister develops into a lifelong connection shaped by loss, music and unusual experiments. The novel spans decades, gradually bringing its questions about belief and obsession into focus.

- [ ] Finders Keepers

  A reader's obsession with a novelist and a stolen manuscript connects two generations of a crime story. The second Bill Hodges novel follows Mr. Mercedes and continues the team's relationships.

- [ ] The Bazaar of Bad Dreams

  Twenty shorter works come with King's introductions about how individual stories developed. Includes Blockade Billy and Mile 81, so their separate editions need not become extra completions.

- [ ] End of Watch

  Bill Hodges and his colleagues face disturbing new developments connected to their earlier investigation. Read after Mr. Mercedes and Finders Keepers to finish the trilogy before following Holly into The Outsider.

- [ ] Charlie the Choo-Choo

  An engineer and his train share an unusual friendship in a picture book credited to Beryl Evans, King's playful pen name for this project. Ned Dameron's illustrations connect the book with its appearance in the Dark Tower world.

- [ ] Gwendy's Button Box

  A stranger gives a young girl a mysterious box with tempting rewards and frightening possibilities. This novella, co-written with Richard Chizmar, opens Gwendy's story before Chizmar's Gwendy's Magic Feather and the joint finale.

- [ ] Sleeping Beauties

  Women who fall asleep become enclosed in strange cocoons, while one woman appears unaffected. King and Owen King explore the resulting crisis through the residents of a town and its women's prison.

- [ ] The Outsider

  A horrific crime appears to have compelling evidence pointing in incompatible directions. It begins its own investigation, but reading the Bill Hodges trilogy first preserves the background of a returning character.

- [ ] Elevation

  A man is steadily losing weight without changing appearance, while tensions with his neighbours test life in Castle Rock. This short novella takes a comparatively hopeful approach to an unexplained phenomenon.

- [ ] The Institute

  A gifted boy is taken to a secret institution where other children are being tested for unusual abilities. Their friendships and attempts to understand the adults' plans drive the story.

- [ ] If It Bleeds

  Four novellas include a new Holly Gibney investigation alongside Mr. Harrigan's Phone, The Life of Chuck and Rat. For Holly's sequence, read the title novella after The Outsider and before Holly.

- [ ] Later

  A boy who can see and speak to the dead discovers that the ability can draw him into adult problems. This compact crime-and-supernatural story is told through his recollection of growing up.

- [ ] Billy Summers

  A hired killer who wants to leave his profession accepts a job that requires him to adopt a new identity. Writing about his own past becomes part of a crime story concerned with trust and the possibility of change.

- [ ] Gwendy's Final Task

  Gwendy returns to the dangerous responsibility of the button box in the concluding novel co-written with Richard Chizmar. Read Gwendy's Button Box and Chizmar's Gwendy's Magic Feather first for the full personal history.

- [ ] Fairy Tale

  A teenager befriends an elderly neighbour and his dog, then discovers a passage into another world. Familiar fairy-tale ideas become the foundation of a long fantasy adventure with its own troubled kingdom.

- [ ] Holly

  Holly Gibney takes on a missing-person investigation while dealing with changes in her own life. For the fuller character journey, read the Bill Hodges trilogy, The Outsider and the title novella in If It Bleeds beforehand.

- [ ] You Like It Darker

  Twelve stories include the novella Danny Coughlin's Bad Dream and Rattlesnakes, which revisits a character from Cujo. Read Cujo first if you want to preserve that novel's surprises before the connected story.

- [ ] Never Flinch

  Holly Gibney is involved in cases concerning a threat of revenge and a campaign of harassment against a women's-rights activist. It follows Holly in the character's publication sequence.

- [ ] Hansel and Gretel

  King retells the fairy tale of two children lost in a dangerous forest, accompanied by Maurice Sendak's illustrations. This is a picture-book retelling, offering a very different reading experience from King's longer fiction.

- [ ] Other Worlds Than These

  Jack Sawyer returns in the final Talisman trilogy novel, with threats reaching across connected worlds. Read The Talisman and Black House first to follow his journey from its beginning.