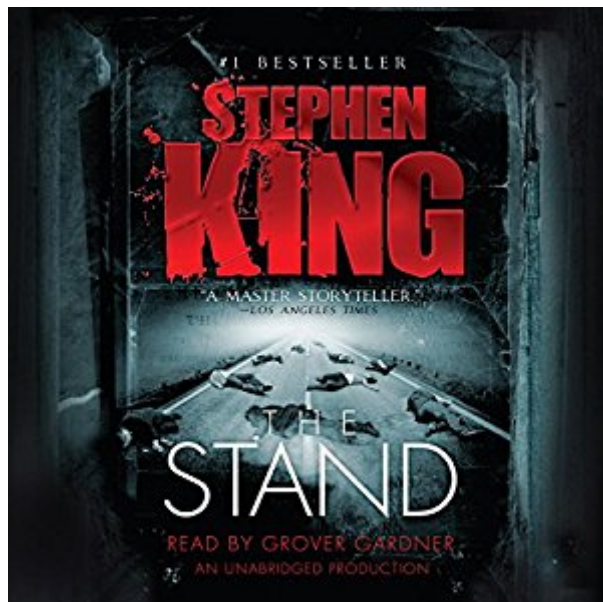


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# The Stand



## Synopsis

This is the way the world ends: with a nanosecond of computer error in a Defense Department laboratory and a million casual contacts that form the links in a chain letter of death. And here is the bleak new world of the day after: a world stripped of its institutions and emptied of 99 percent of its people. A world in which a handful of panicky survivors choose sides - or are chosen. A world in which good rides on the frail shoulders of the 108-year-old Mother Abigail - and the worst nightmares of evil are embodied in a man with a lethal smile and unspeakable powers: Randall Flagg, the dark man. In 1978 Stephen King published *The Stand*, the novel that is now considered to be one of his finest works. But as it was first published, *The Stand* was incomplete, since more than 150,000 words had been cut from the original manuscript. Now Stephen King's apocalyptic vision of a world blasted by plague and embroiled in an elemental struggle between good and evil has been restored to its entirety. *The Stand: The Complete and Uncut Edition* includes more than 500 pages of material previously deleted, along with new material that King added as he reworked the manuscript for a new generation. It gives us new characters and endows familiar ones with new depths. It has a new beginning and a new ending. What emerges is a gripping work with the scope and moral complexity of a true epic. For hundreds of thousands of fans who read or listened to *The Stand* in its original version and wanted more, this new edition is Stephen King's gift. And those who are hearing *The Stand* for the first time will discover a triumphant and eerily plausible work of the imagination that takes on the issues that will determine our survival.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 47 hours and 52 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: February 14, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0078XQQIC

Best Sellers Rank: #5 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Horror #6

in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Post-Apocalyptic #12 in Books >

Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction

## Customer Reviews

I've been a Stephen King fan for 40 years. The Stand is and will remain my favorite of his books. I like all of them but I love a select few and The Stand is at the top of the list. If you are already a King fan and you haven't read The Stand, you'll love this book. The overall theme is Biblically related and he sticks close to details in well known Biblical stories. But, don't get me wrong, this is not "Christian Fiction". This is the best of Sci-Fi/Horror you'll find in King's books. The characters are fully developed and totally interesting. The dystopian story is compelling and believable. If you are a fan, since this is one of his earlier works, you'll see familiar types of characters, ie..Randy Flagg and Tom Collin. If you're a new King reader, you will get to know the characters and you'll care about them. This isn't a read in one sitting book. Rather, it is a day after day reading that you'll enjoy and hate to put down. Though some may say King is extremely verbose, I think his detailed telling of the story connects the reader to the characters like very few authors are able to do. This is my sixth reading of the book and the first time I listened to the audio book. It was just as good this time as the last. With a hour long ride to work and back, my time in the car seemed shorter because of the quality of the reader and the quality of the story. I won't give away anything, I'll only say take your time and enjoy the ride with King's epic. I loved every word.

The Stand was epic in its original form, and this edition, with expanded story lines and restored cuts lives up to the original. All of Stephen King's books are excellent, but this one is a parable for modern times of the age-old battle between good and evil. Read it again if you have read it before. And if you have never read it, be assured: this is a book you will never forget! I found myself cheering as favorite characters came into the story, and even though I knew the ending, I read faithfully onward through days and nights to the very end. I am not sure how many times I have read this book now--a dozen times? More? Yet, I know I will read it again in the future. It is not "The Good Book" but it is A Good Book, and a very good book, indeed! A+ +

The Stand is a book I first read in the early 90's, just when I started to realize that Stephen King was more than just the schlockmeister he was typecast-ed as by the media at that time. The nice thing about his books, especially this one, is his ability to describe. What I mean here is the ability to describe a wide variety of scenes, spanning the gamut of emotions between shame, love and chaos. Some may describe the build-up of the super-flu epidemic in the book as slow or tedious are missing out on important character traits and themes. To me, the most interesting part of the book is the dissolution of society once the flu takes hold. Yes, the scenes described are horrifying, but in my

minds eye, as I read them, they are fascinating and plausible. King's description of America disintegrating was gripping, making you think about what could happen should a similar plague hit the world in the future. The aftermath was interesting, with the main characters finding their place in the new world order and the conclusion fits the underlying theological current that runs through the book. This book is what convinced me to read the Dark Tower Saga; it further peaked my interest in King's other novels. For that alone, I love it. One of my favorites and well worth the read!

[Disclaimer: The Stand is the first book by Stephen King I've ever read, and I read it almost 40 years after it was first published.] So I have to say I have some mixed feelings about this epic. The fact that I finished a book that is over a thousand pages long is testament in itself to King's powers of storytelling, so it's important to acknowledge that right up front. I don't read a lot of books, especially ones as long as this apocalyptic beast. That said, I found the pacing and quality of the storytelling highly variable. Book One, dealing with the plague and its effects on the U.S., is spectacular. A true page-turner experience like when I was a kid, it starts out slow with everyone's humdrum lives with their humdrum problems (this gal's unexpectedly pregnant, this guy's a partier and a jerk) and builds slowly until the banality of our petty problems is laid bare in as stark a way imaginable. Great character development, great world building, great action. But then in Book Two, things slow way, way down. After assorted family roadtrips through the apocalypse everybody meets up and gets down to the hard business of rebuilding a community. Cool, right? Except that it's extraordinarily boring. See, there's not actually a lot of scarcity in post-plague America, what with all the canned and dried goods, abundance of game, and (because it's summer) pleasant weather. So reconstruction, as told by King, is about who gets to sit on which committee, and some not-very-compelling love triangles. All the characters we've grown to love go flat in this book, turning into pretty indistinguishable... well, administrators. They're not so much Good Guys or even struggling survivors, as much as they are amateur politicians dealing with floor motions, meeting minutes, and committee assignments. There is a narrative purpose to this, as it stands in contrast to the alternative Order being established by the evil Randal Flagg over the mountains, but gosh is it a snoozer. Things pick up in Book Three with the thankful reintroduction of somebody interesting (Flagg and his people) but all of a sudden things are veritably HURTLING to a conclusion. All the buildup over the last jillion pages is resolved in about 30 pages, and the climactic confrontation between good and evil feels almost like an afterthought. So, all the complaints aside - I read a 1400 book for the first time ever, I think, so clearly King's doing a lot right and for that alone The Stand deserves 4 stars. A final postscript on style: (1) There's a weird roadtrip fetish being indulged

throughout this book “ like King was retelling every family vacation he ever took, but in the apocalypse. I’ve never read a book with more references to Interstates. (2) If you write a 1400-page book in 2017, please don’t try to “update” it for 2030. I spent the whole journey with a sense of vertigo between what felt like a 1970s setting (the cars, the culture) with nominally 1990s dates and pop references.

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