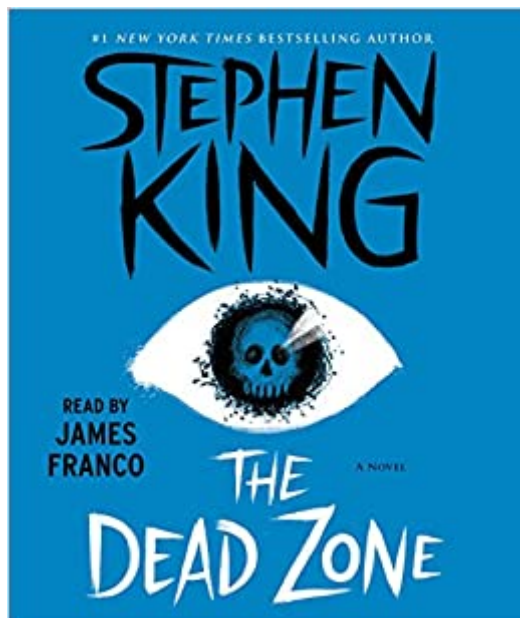


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The Dead Zone



Synopsis

Never before on audio! A #1 national bestseller about a man who wakes up from a five-year coma able to see people's futures and the terrible fate awaiting mankind in *The Dead Zone*—a "compulsive page-turner" (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution). Johnny Smith awakens from a five-year coma after his car accident and discovers that he can see people's futures and pasts when he touches them. Many consider his talent a gift; Johnny feels cursed. His fiancée married another man during his coma and people clamor for him to solve their problems. When Johnny has a disturbing vision after he shakes the hand of an ambitious and amoral politician, he must decide if he should take drastic action to change the future. *The Dead Zone* is a "faultlessly paced" continuously engrossing (Los Angeles Times) novel of second sight.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the *St. James Guide to Horror, Ghost & Gothic Writers*, Gary Westfahl predicts that "King has already earned himself a place in the history of literature.... At the very least, he will enjoy the status of a latter-day Anthony Trollope, an author respected for his popularity and social commentary.... More likely, he will be enshrined as the Charles Dickens of the late 20th century, the writer who perfectly reflected, encapsulated, and expressed the characteristic concerns of his era." If any of King's novels exemplifies his skill at portraying the concerns of his generation, it's *The Dead Zone* (1979). Although it contains a horrific subplot about a serial killer, it isn't strictly a horror novel. It's the story of an unassuming high school teacher, an Everyman, who suffers a gap in time--like a Rip

Van Winkle who blacks out during the years 1970-75--and thus becomes acutely conscious of the way that American society is rapidly changing. He wakes up as well with a gap in his brain, the "dead zone" of the title. The zone gives him crippling headaches, but also grants him second sight, a talent he doesn't want and is reluctant to use. The crux of the novel concerns whether he will use that talent to alter the course of history. The Dead Zone is a tight, well-crafted book. When asked in 1983 which of his novels so far was "the best," Stephen King answered, "The one that I think works the best is Dead Zone. It's the one that [has] the most story." --Fiona Webster --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Read this stunning novel and you will feel the hairs on the nape of your neck rise Time Out --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was one of my favorite Stephen King novels and the movie was excellent also. Imagine waking up from being in a coma for five years after a car accident and finding out the woman you love is married and has a child. Everything has changed for Johnny Smith. Imagine his horror when he finds out he can touch someone and see their future. Some people think he's blessed but Johnny doesn't want his "blessing." After saving the life of a rich man's child he was tutoring by telling him not to go on a trip, he becomes famous. He's inundated with requests to find missing people and help people which further burdens him. It's only after he touches a sleazy, cruel, amoral politician Greg Stillson that he feels like he has this gift for a reason. He sees the horror that Stillson would inflict on this country (and the world) should he become president of the United States and he tries to discredit him. When that doesn't work Johnny has to make a decision about that to do. I'm not going to give away the ending but the book is well worth your time and made me cry. This book isn't really the typical horror novel Stephen King normally writes but to me it's something that could happen and a true horror. I sometimes wonder if Mr. King had a crystal ball and could see into the future and see what we have going on in our country right now. And yes, I do believe some people can "see" the future or what a person can or will do. And I also think it would be horrifying to be able to touch someone and "see" into their minds and see their future. This was a masterpiece of a book and I highly recommend it.

I saw the movie over two decades past. Decided to read the books I saw the movies of where I previously thought why read it if I saw it on screen? Of course the books offer so much more substance than the movies. Yet, I'm a huge fan of Christopher Walken and Martin Sheen so this is not to imply that the movie wasn't entertaining. This book is about a young man named Johnny, a high school teacher, who survives a fatal car crash only to wake up with incredible psychic abilities. However, the car crash recovered Johnny's psychic abilities first occurred briefly after he fell, hitting his head at the age of five. Johnny, a good, loving and caring man awakes after four years in a coma. He awakes in a body once strong and lean, now broken. The world has changed. Frightened, in pain and heartbroken, he begins the process of recovery. After touching staff members at the hospital, he learns of his gift of sight into the past and future. As word gets out, he is embraced as a hero while being cast as a fraud by others. All he wants is to live in peace. He does not care to be famous nor does he want to make money off of human sorrows. He is a humble, funny guy who loves to teach. However, life is more complicated and Johnny realizes fulfilling his calling means sacrificing his own future. One day, after shaking the hand of an ambitious political wolf, his life course sets and he journeys to save the world from the horrors shown to him that afternoon. Sad, endearing and emotional, this novel tells of human goodness and sacrifice a young man makes to ensure the continuity of life.

I am currently reading this book right now, I have the movie and it is one of the best movies I have ever seen from a Stephen King book. I am a King fan, some of his books are out there, while others like this one are excellent. If you are not a King fan I think you will like the book, give it a try. I would recommend this book to any King fan. For those that are skeptical, trust me this book keeps your interest and it is not your typical King novel. THX, Kris L. CocKayne

I'm not sure why I've given this 4 stars. King's reputation? The fact that I normally enjoy his books, late to them though I am? there's a half decent story somewhere in this, but..... I found it structurally dissatisfying, the whole somewhat spoilt by character storylines dealt with too early, and too randomly to fit within the whole book. I always go along with King's foray into the unknown in order to accept the storyline, disregarding my personal beliefs. And this book was no different, only I didn't buy his approach to reveals and character portrayals, as they were ordered in the story. It was uneven, and heavy handed. But should I dare criticise? And at this late stage. Yes, it WAS the least satisfying King story that I've read to date, but the John Smith main character was well set and meaningful. As I've hinted, it was the unfolding of the story that perplexed me, that relating to one

character simply not blended sufficiently well into the whole. It didn't fit. His role was of no substance to what went before, when at last we arrived at his relevance. So, disappointed? Yes. This time round.

The Dead Zone, which I first read back in late 1979, and have read into double digits over the years, was a novel I really wanted to hear as an audiobook. I drive a lot for pleasure from one end of the country to the other. Side to side and top to bottom. So having a nice book to listen to is something I look forward to when I'm on the road. Unfortunately, this is not a book that I will be listening to while I travel to Michigan in July. How much do I dislike this? I stopped listening after disc 1 and told my wife to donate it to Goodwill. That is something I never do with books, music or audiobooks. There is no connection between the narrator and the reader. No link between the narrator and the story. Just words on the edge of mumbling with great disinterest. My hopes were high. And then my hopes were dashed.

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