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Cell: A Novel



Synopsis

The next call you take could be your last in this terrifying #1 New York Times bestseller by Stephen King—soon to be a major motion picture starring Samuel L. Jackson and John Cusack and now available from Encore for a great value! Where were you on October 1 at 3:03 p.m.? Graphic artist Clay Riddell was in the heart of Boston on that brilliant autumn afternoon when hell was unleashed before his eyes. Without warning, carnage and chaos reigned. Ordinary people fell victim to the basest, most animalistic destruction. And the apocalypse began with the ring of a cell phone—

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Customer Reviews

Witness Stephen King's triumphant, blood-spattered return to the genre that made him famous. *Cell*, the king of horror's homage to zombie films (the book is dedicated in part to George A. Romero) is his goriest, most horrific novel in years, not to mention the most intensely paced. Casting aside his love of elaborate character and town histories and penchant for delayed gratification, King yanks readers off their feet within the first few pages; dragging them into the fray and offering no chance catch their breath until the very last page. In *Cell* King taps into readers' fears of technological warfare and terrorism. Mobile phones deliver the apocalypse to millions of unsuspecting humans by wiping their brains of any humanity, leaving only aggressive and destructive impulses behind. Those without cell phones, like illustrator Clayton Riddell and his small band of "normies," must fight for survival, and their journey to find Clayton's estranged wife and young son rockets the book toward resolution. Fans that have followed King from the beginning will recognize and appreciate *Cell* as a departure—King's writing has not been so pure of heart and free of hang-ups in years (wrapping up

his phenomenal Dark Tower series and receiving a medal from the National Book Foundation doesn't hurt either). "Retirement" clearly suits King, and lucky for us, having nothing left to prove frees him up to write frenzied, juiced-up horror-thrillers like *Cell*. --Daphne Durham --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

What if a pulse sent out through cell phones turned every person using one of them into a zombie-like killing machine? That's what happens on page six of King's latest, a glib, technophobic but compelling look at the end of civilizationâ or at what may turn into a new, extreme, telepathically enforced fascism. Those who are not on a call at the time of the pulse (and who don't reach for their phones to find out what is going on) remain "normies." One such is Clayton Riddell, an illustrator from Kent Pond, Maine, who has just sold some work in Boston when the pulse hits. Clay's single-minded attempt to get back to Maine, where his estranged wife, Sharon, and young son, Johnny-Gee, may or may not have been turned into "phoners" (as those who have had their brains wiped by the pulse come to be called) comprises the rest of the plot. King's imagining of what is more or less post-Armageddon Boston is rich, and the sociological asides made by his characters along the wayâ "Clay travels at first with two other refugeesâ "are jaunty and witty. The novel's three long set pieces are all pretty gory, but not gratuitously so, and the book holds together in signature King style. Fans will be satisfied and will look forward to the next King release, *Lisey's Story*, slated for October. (Jan. 24) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Stephen King is one of my all time favorite authors and I was really excited that he was going to try his hand at the Zombie genre. The idea and concept was good, yet the final outcome was very disappointing. If your are a true diehard zombie apocalypse fan, you will be highly and severely disappointed. I was really hoping that *Cell* was going to be a mixture of the *Stand* and the *Walking Dead*, but I was wrong. A gave this book two stars because I was still compelled to find out how it would end. Great pulse pumping start, yet followed by a slow development. You be the judge.

SPOILERS BEWARE!A twist on a tired tale. Basically a more modern approach to zombie apocalypse / infection, through cell phones. If you're okay with that and the fact you aren't going to get much more explanation than, then give it a whirl. Fairly well written, paced, likeable characters for the most part, and interesting enough. If you can't get passed a cliff hanger ending though, don't even bother, cause you won't get neat and tidy. Overall, well told story that held me through its

entirety. And as for cliff hangers, it's one of the better bets, seeing as the rest of the story is good enough. Interested to see the screen adaptation when released. Marked improvement over Dr. Sleep in my opinion. Sorry Steven, but meant as compliment.

I found the application of Stephen King's prodigious writing talents to the zombie genre to be very interesting intellectually, and for the most part well-executed. Some may quibble with the choices made by some of the characters along the way, but I was gripped by the premise -- a pulse that "reboots" everyone on a cell phone and wipes clean their "hard drives" -- and driven by the fast-moving storyline. With the usual Boston and Maine locations, except filled with flesh-eating zombies, King proves with Cell that he's a pretty darn good writer no matter what genre he happens to find himself in.

I am absolutely not a fan of books that stop short. I know that Stephen King likes to leave his stories open ended, but quite frankly, if I wanted to use my imagination, I wouldn't need the book in the first place. I could just sit quietly and imagine a story, start to finish. With this book, there are too many unanswered questions at the end. I think it was mostly a page turner because the premise was exciting and it had the feel of a "whodunit" story. Unfortunately, we never find out who-dun-it or why or anything else for that matter. Spoiler: Cell phones emit a strange something or another that turns people into lunatics (maybe) or just erases their humanity (perhaps). The main characters are on a quest to find a child that may or may not have been hit by this whatever. During the course of their travels, they run into people afflicted by the phone event. These people are evolving (again...maybe) or were hit by a variation of the message/alien broadcast/terrorist attack/computer virus. In the end, and here's the BIG REVEAL....they find the kid. Thank goodness that question was answered for me. I didn't care about what caused this apocalyptic event, how it could have been caused, whether or not it was mutating and causing only partial crazy, whether or not it was temporary and the main characters were actually rampaging murderers or any of that stuff. I particularly didn't care if the phone people ever explained to the "normies" what was going on. I'm just glad that they found little Billy or whatever his name was. Thus, we don't find out why it happened, what caused it, whether or not there was a solution, what the scale of the damage was, who survives, or where they end up, which are all generally things I look for in end-of-the-world stories. (I should add that some of these questions that I had were "answered" by a 12 year old who was theorizing, though no definitive answers were ever given). All in all, the book reads like a movie synopsis. "In a world where nearly everyone goes crazy after using their cell phones, it's up to a handful of old school land line users to

stay alive long enough to rescue little Billy. The end".

Total blood fest. Very creative imagery and action scenes. Similiar to Simon Clark's 'Blood Crazy' in how a certain category of people transform almost instantaneously from average joes to insane killers and than form a sort of collective consciousness. Key difference is that instead of the adult population subjected to the transformation in Clark's novel, King imagines up a world in which all cell phone users go berserk. Also, cell zombies eventually develop telepathic capaabilities and it starts to get complicated there. Not to spoil anything, but suspense keeps going from start to and beyond the ending. Definitely recommend it to anyone even remotely interested in getting some modern day thrills and chills.

I didn't think that I could read this book all the way to the end. I have to much imagination and sometimes I can scare myself by saying "boo!" :) I am so glad I finished this novel. It had nail biting suspense that you will never get from watching a movie. I like my stories longer than a two hour movie time. I like to imagine characters for days. Hoping the best for them and their plight. The ending made me exclaim out loud, "WHAT!" then laugh.... liking the ending even more. Thanks SK

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