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# Bag Of Bones: A Novel



## Synopsis

From international bestseller Stephen King, a tale of grief, of love's enduring bonds, and the haunting secrets of the past—the inspiration for the A&E miniseries. Stephen King's most gripping and unforgettable novel, *Bag of Bones*, is a story of grief and a lost love's enduring bonds, of a new love haunted by the secrets of the past, of an innocent child caught in a terrible crossfire. Set in the Maine territory King has made mythic, *Bag of Bones* recounts the plight of forty-year-old bestselling novelist Mike Noonan, who is unable to stop grieving even four years after the sudden death of his wife, Jo, and who can no longer bear to face the blank screen of his word processor. Now his nights are plagued by vivid nightmares of the house by the lake. Despite these dreams, or perhaps because of them, Mike finally returns to Sara Laughs, the Noonans' isolated summer home. He finds his beloved Yankee town familiar on its surface, but much changed underneath—held in the grip of a powerful millionaire, Max Devore, who twists the very fabric of the community to his purpose: to take his three-year-old granddaughter away from her widowed young mother. As Mike is drawn into their struggle as he falls in love with both of them, he is also drawn into the mystery of Sara Laughs, now the site of ghostly visitations, ever-escalating nightmares, and the sudden recovery of his writing ability. What are the forces that have been unleashed here—and what do they want of Mike Noonan? As vivid and enthralling as King's most enduring works, *Bag of Bones* resonates with what Amy Tan calls “the witty and obsessive voice of King's powerful imagination.” It's no secret that King is our most mesmerizing storyteller. In *Bag of Bones*—described by Gloria Naylor as “a love story about the dark places within us all”—he proves to be one of our most moving.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very good but too long. His character development is fantastic as usual. The plot is good & the action is pretty fast. However, there is too much description of place, things, & unknown things. I read it a long time ago & this time, although I didn't remember a lot of it, I skipped quite a bit. It ended okay - it just took too long to get there.

King's earlier works terrified me so much that I developed chronic night terrors manifested in the form of sleep paralysis (you know, the kind where you feel like you're awake and in imminent mortal danger from some supernatural being -- often accompanied by feeling or sensing something crushing your chest -- and you try to struggle to move or cry out, but you're paralyzed, so you can't). So, I got rid of all my hardback King books (I know, it makes me nauseous, too), and abstained from reading anything by Stephen King for almost twenty years. When I did start reading the King of Horror again (turns out sleeping on your side prevents sleep paralysis -- who knew?), I was underwhelmed and disappointed with some of his works I had not yet devoured (i.e. *The Colorado Kid*, *Insomnia*, to name a few). I had also seen the miniseries treatment of this novel, and thought it sucked, so it was only after reading a number of positive reviews on that I purchased and began *BAG OF BONES*. I'm glad I gave it a chance. It's not the most frightening King novel I've ever read, but it kept my interest, and is a good yarn. It also seems to be one of King's more thoughtful works, openly exploring the rawness of grief, and the guilt and fear in moving forward, as well as the pain and heartbreak involved in finding love again. My only real problem with the story is that I just could not like the character of Sara, whom I know I was supposed to find intoxicating, entrancing and compelling. Instead, she seemed abrasive, uncouth, and combative. While I developed sympathy and felt compassion for what her character symbolized and suffered, I couldn't imagine wanting to

know her or hang out with her. Plus, she terrorized Mike. Not cool. I do not do plot summaries in my reviews, as I believe if you're reading the reviews, you probably have already gotten interested enough in the book to have read the editorial summary and synopsis. Suffice it to say, this is a book worth reading, and I recommend it to anyone who appreciates a good ghost story. Just remember: sleep on your side, not your back!

I loved this book! I decided to read this book since it was made into a movie on A&E. I am so glad I read it first because the chills I got from reading it might have been ruined had I seen the movie. This was not necessarily a horror novel like Christine, but it was creepy throughout. There were times I could feel chills run up my spine and the goose bumps start on my wrists and move up my arms. The book begins years after the death of Michael Noonan's wife and he is struggling to write a new novel. As a best-selling author he has several books in a safety deposit box which allows him to skate by as the writer's block sits heavy on his shoulders. During these years he begins to have these odd dreams calling him to back to his lake house. Something is stirring on TR-90 and the house is calling him back. Considering he fights with this decision for some time he ends up returning and the events that follow are suspenseful and creepy. There is so much I want to say about this book but I don't want to ruin a single surprise for anyone who hasn't read it. All I can say for certain is if you want a really good story with an amazing cast of characters this is the book for you. I can't wait to watch the movie and I hope it holds close to the book. It was so easy to get into this story and very hard to tear myself away from it. I slept less on nights I was reading this before bed. I just couldn't stop and it would take almost falling asleep in the book for me to put it down.

I have been reading Stephen King books since I was a little girl and he has never disappointed me until this book. The beginning of the book was good and kept you drawn in however, the middle and the end were completely disappointing. I am a HUGE fan of him and never would have thought that such a book could come from him. I would consider this, as Mike Noonan called scripts wrote in the writer's younger years, a trunk script. After talking to other readers who are fans of King as well, I found we all felt the same. This was not one of his best works, BUT every writer is allowed/will have one bad book in his career and/or lifetime. I still recommend Stephen King fans to read this book. Either way, good or bad, it's still a work of art from one of the greatest writers that has hit shelves.

I have never read a Stephen King novel before. It's astonishing, really. I'd read his book on writing, but never a novel. I stayed away, I think, because horror doesn't appeal to me--I don't really want to

have my pants scared off. But while Bag of Bones is definitely scary in parts, it probably doesn't qualify as horror. At any rate, I fell into it almost accidentally, and came up for air infrequently. It was quite good, and what excites me about this, of course, is that King has written about 17 gazillion other books, which are now looking rather inviting. Bag of Bones is a long read, but it never feels too long, even though there are parts that could probably have been left out. The world King creates here--an unincorporated area in western Main designated as TR-90 on maps and referred to as the TR by locals--is very real, and his characters became real to me as well. In short, bestselling author Michael Noonan moves back to the TR four years after his wife dies and finds that the place is packing some scary secrets. The locals know a lot more than they're letting on, particularly because they're living under the thumb of evil computer magnate Max Devore, an ugly old man who's out to work evil unto his last breath. The book left me with a couple questions (e.g., did the owl thing peter out or did I miss something?) but otherwise I'm pretty happy for the time I passed in its pages.--

Debra Hamel

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