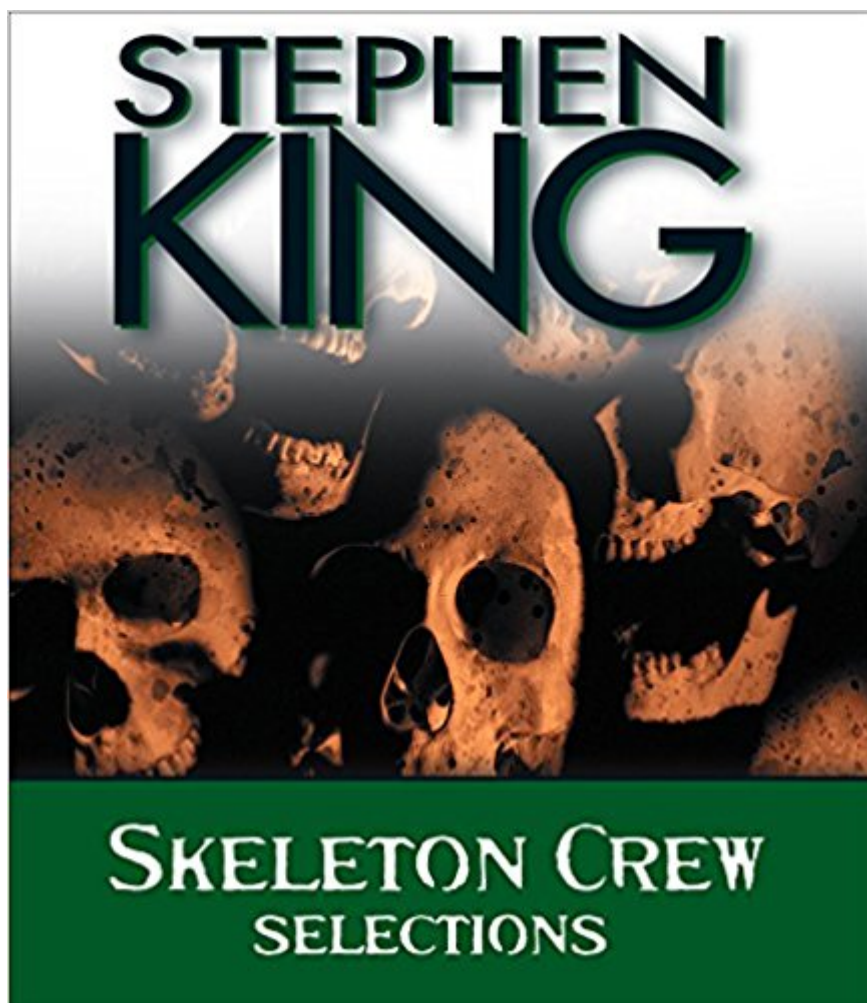


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# Skeleton Crew: Selections



## Synopsis

Four complete and unabridged selections from the electrifying bestseller read by a stellar group of narrators. *The Raft* is the unforgettable tale of an idyllic autumn swim suddenly transformed into an ordeal of unbridled horror. Read by Stephen King. *Mrs. Todd's Shortcut* is a story in which a middle-aged woman in a Mercedes roadster finds a terrifying pathway to paradise. Read by Dana Ivey. *The Monkey* - is it merely a child's wind-up toy, or an incarnation of the purest evil? Read by Matthew Broderick. *Grammar* is the story of a little boy left in charge of his sick grandmother, who's dying to give him a hug. . . . Read by Frances Sternhagen.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HighBridge Audio; Abridged edition (April 8, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1598878441

ISBN-13: 978-1598878448

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 18.3 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 361 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,857,793 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( K ) > King, Stephen #214 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #266 in Books > Books on CD > Horror

## Customer Reviews

In the introduction to *Skeleton Crew* (1985), his second collection of stories, King pokes fun at his penchant for "literary elephantiasis," makes scatological jokes about his muse, confesses how much money he makes (gross and net), and tells a story about getting arrested one time when he was "suffused with the sort of towering, righteous rage that only drunk undergraduates can feel." He winds up with an invitation to a scary voyage: "Grab onto my arm now. Hold tight. We are going into a number of dark places, but I think I know the way." And he sure does. *Skeleton Crew* contains a superb short novel ("The Mist") that alone is worth the price of admission, plus two forgettable poems and 20 short stories on such themes as an evil toy monkey, a human-eating water slick, a machine that avenges murder, and unnatural creatures that inhabit the thick woods near Castle Rock, Maine. The short tales range from simply enjoyable to surprisingly good. In addition to "The Mist," the real standout is "The Reach," a beautifully subtle story about a great-grandmother who

was born on a small island off the coast of Maine and has lived there her whole life. She has never been across "the Reach," the body of water between island and mainland. This is the story that King fans give to their friends who don't read horror in order to show them how literate, how charming a storyteller he can be. Don't miss it. --Fiona Webster --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This hefty sampler of King's shorter works, from all stages of the horror master's career, demonstrates the range of his abilities. Some of the stories here rank among his best, and "even the less successful ones are fun," PW observed. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Read this back in the 80s when I was a teen and bought this copy for my teenaged daughter after I told her about the Children of the Corn. She loved Trucks, the story about the cleaners, and some of the stories I had forgotten, such as Lawnmower Man.

Great King stories. Most of what he writes is great, but I should say that I am a fan. This is one of the great ones and a must read if you are a fan or have not read as much King as some folks.

Reading Skeleton Crew slowly for over a year now, using it as a bridge between various other novels and such to help with my SK addiction, I can say Skeleton Crew serves as possibly the best sampling of Stephen King considering the diversity and length it gives, all for under \$10. The collection features a full novel, nineteen short stories, and even a couple poems to mix things up. One can see that this really does include so much of the best from SK when so many of these stories later ended up being adapted into TV show episodes or even movies. Some notables include...The headlining feature of Skeleton Crew is certainly The Mist, which stands as one of his fan favorites, and even though it's shorter than most of his novels, he's able to still deliver on a great balance between tension, action, and character-development better than most of his 700+page novels. This story alone almost makes it worth the price, yet it only takes up a quarter of the collection. As many other reviewers note, Cain Rose Up sticks out awkwardly as a too simple and too violent story of a school shooting. It feels like it should actually be the end of a much more complex and interesting story (like Rage). The Jaunt is probably my favorite out of the whole collection for it's delivery on a interesting idea, and the resulting payoff at the end, it's also cool to read one from SK that delves into some fun sci-fi aspects. This whole story can be read online for free, so if nothing else, at least do that. The premise for Word Processor of the Gods is awesome

enough, a homemade computer that is able to create anything into existence that is typed into it. However, I feel that this could've been made into something much bigger and better than it is, yet still stands as a good read. Nona felt the most like a SK story with a near excessive amount of characters that all felt like they should be part of a bigger story (which is why most of them later show up in other stories set in the same town). It still serves as a good read, especially if recently reading *Body or Hearts in Atlantis*. *The Ballad of the Flexible Bullet* takes some time to build up speed into a great disturbing yet subtly comedic story. It's one of the longer and last stories in the collection and along with *The Reach* it's a great note to end on. Overall, I would recommend this collection for any SK fan, as it features many of his most popular and memorable works (especially in terms of works that are not full novels) might even be the best place for a newcomer of Stephen King to start.

For lovers of the short form. For writers looking to perfect their craft. *Skeleton Crew* is a must read!! From scary to literary to an elegant hybrid of both, this collection speaks to all.

I read these stories back in the 1980's when book first released and purchased this one to re-read. Whatever one may say about Steven King's uneven writing from book to book, he is arguable better at the short story format than almost anyone writing today. When he is good, his characterizations are outstanding-he never fails to make you care about the people in his stories and most are well-drawn enough to be more than memorable. If you haven't read them I particularly recommend the novella "The Mist" and the incredible short stories "Nona", "The Reach" (King won awards for it), and "Mrs. Todd's Shortcut". A wide variety of plots and moods in these tales-CHECK IT OUT!

Read this book years ago, then discovered my grandson was a Stephen King fan. I purchased the book for him but I am rereading it and loving it.

If you like other short story compilations by Stephen King (*Nightmares and Dreamscapes*, *The Bachman Books*), you will probably like these stories too. SK without the long characterizations that he usually does in his novels. Contains "The Mist" which was made into a movie. I enjoy his short stories, but, I enjoy his novels more. I am currently reading "Under the Dome" and it is very good.

Another group of short stories to get me through the long and pain-filled nights. Each one different, but inexorably tied together. Like reading a novel, made up of vignettes. And yes, Stephen

King of the Night in the darkest hour before dawn | I love

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