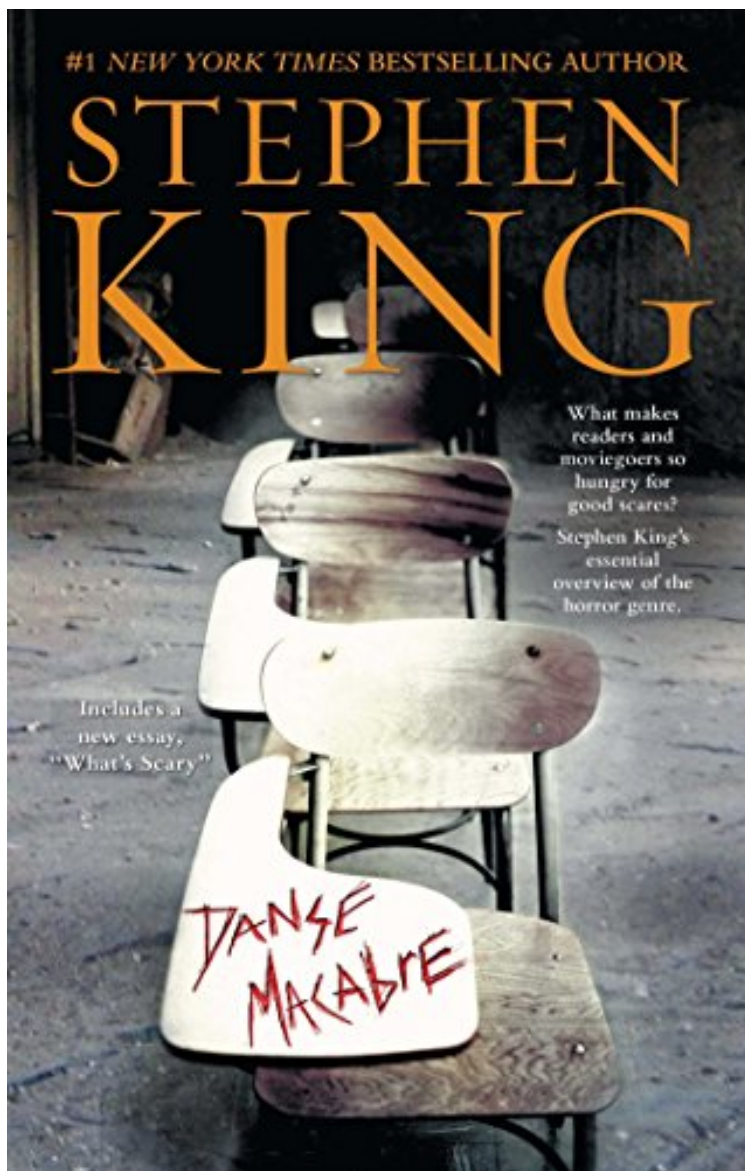


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Danse Macabre

Stephen King

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Stephen King : Danse Macabre before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Danse Macabre:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant look at horror By M. Steelman I've read this book a half-dozen times and have always found something new. Or, at least, a new way of looking at something. I've read many of these books, seen most of the films and TV shows. King's analysis of the horror genre is based on a deep love and

admiration of said genre and it shows. If you're looking for new things to read or watch -- and some commentary on why you might enjoy it -- you can't go wrong with using this book as a guide. Enjoy the dance.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Always learn from the best...By Dyanek2000If you want to know how something works, ask an expert. Stephen King's style, wit and imagination have captured millions of readers over the last few decades. And although he has a background in education, King makes his book both educational and entertaining, by using examples from his life and childhood, by discussing the old movies and fiction, as well as pulling it into the 20th century. Do realize that this book covers limited territory - up to around 1985 or so - which seems appropriate. After that, the ability to use CGI effects has made movies less appealing to those who love the old style horror. King takes the reader on a walk down a darkling path toward an understanding of why horror is art, and why it is necessary to our enjoyment of life. I've re-read this book every 5 years or so, and every time I find something more in it. Highly recommended.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great Genre StudyBy Stefan YatesThis book length essay on the horror genre turned out to be much more entertaining than I expected. Even when writing a nonfiction genre-study, King cannot avoid being King. His goofy sense of humor, absolute frankness, and the occasional crass comment made me feel more like I was having a beer with the guy and discussing books than sitting in a lecture hall. King fans who want to hear where he gets his inspirations from and what authors/films he has taken enjoyment from will get a lot out of this book.A word of caution however, if you hate spoilers, you WILL hate this book. King goes in depth in discussing several movies and books that he feels have had major influence upon the genre and he doesn't hold back from describing major plot points or endings. If you think that you might have the urge to read older sci-fi, fantasy, or horror and don't want to have any spoilers, this is not the book for you.

Before he gave us the one of a kind classic (The Wall Street Journal) memoir *On Writing*, Stephen King wrote a nonfiction masterpiece in *Danse Macabre*, one of the best books on American popular culture (Philadelphia Inquirer).From the author of dozens of #1 New York Times bestsellers and the creator of many unforgettable movies comes a vivid, intelligent, and nostalgic journey through three decades of horror as experienced through the eyes of the most popular writer in the genre. In 1981, years before he sat down to tackle *On Writing*, Stephen King decided to address the topic of what makes horror horrifying and what makes terror terrifying. Here, in ten brilliantly written chapters, King delivers one colorful observation after another about the great stories, books, and films that comprise the horror genre from *Frankenstein* and *Dracula* to *The Exorcist*, *The Twilight Zone*, and *Earth vs. The Flying Saucers*. With the insight and good humor his fans appreciated in *On Writing*, *Danse Macabre* is an enjoyably entertaining tour through Stephen King's beloved world of horror.

.com In the fall of 1978 (between *The Stand* and *The Dead Zone*), Stephen King taught a course at the University of Maine on "Themes in Supernatural Literature." As he writes in the foreword to this book, he was nervous at the prospect of "spending a lot of time in front of a lot of people talking about a subject in which I had previously only felt my way instinctively, like a blind man." The course apparently went well, and as with most teaching experiences, it was as instructive, if not more so, to the teacher as it was to the students. Thanks to a suggestion from his former editor at Doubleday, King decided to write *Danse Macabre* as a personal record of the thoughts about horror that he developed and refined as a result of that course. The outcome is an utterly charming book that reads as if King were sitting right there with you, shooting the breeze. He starts on October 4, 1957, when he was 10 years old, watching a Saturday matinee of *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*. Just as the saucers were mounting their attack on "Our Nation's Capital," the movie was suddenly turned off. The manager of the theater walked out onto the stage and announced, "The Russians have put a space satellite into orbit around the earth. They call it ... Sputnik." That's how the whole book goes: one simple, yet surprisingly pertinent, anecdote or observation after another. King covers the gamut of horror as he'd experienced it at that point in 1978 (a period of about 30 years): folk tales, literature, radio, good movies, junk movies, and the "glass teat". It's colorful, funny, and nostalgic--and also strikingly intelligent. --Fiona WebsterFrom Publishers WeeklyKing's 1987 disquisition on the nature, quality, and substance of the horror genre from 1950 to 1980 gains new life as an audiobook, and listeners will enjoy (and enjoy disagreeing with) King's conclusions and seeing which ones have held up. A new introduction features King revisiting his book and recent horror narratives. William Dufres narrates with a clear, easygoing tone that works well with King's playful and enthusiastic prose. Dufres keeps up with King's shifting tone and even attempts the occasional goofy impersonation when King's writing suggests it, such as the devious laugh of the Crypt Keeper. Though its breadth can be overwhelming, the book becomes a delight to listen to in the hands of Dufres's skillful performance and listeners will leave with an extensive list of must-see and must-read material. A Berkley paperback. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. The indisputable king of horror Time Absolutely fascinating The Sunday Times on *On Writing* A fascinating combination of autobiography and personal voyage through the books and films that have inspired this phenomenally successful author Publishing News on *On Writing* A writer of excellence The Sunday Times