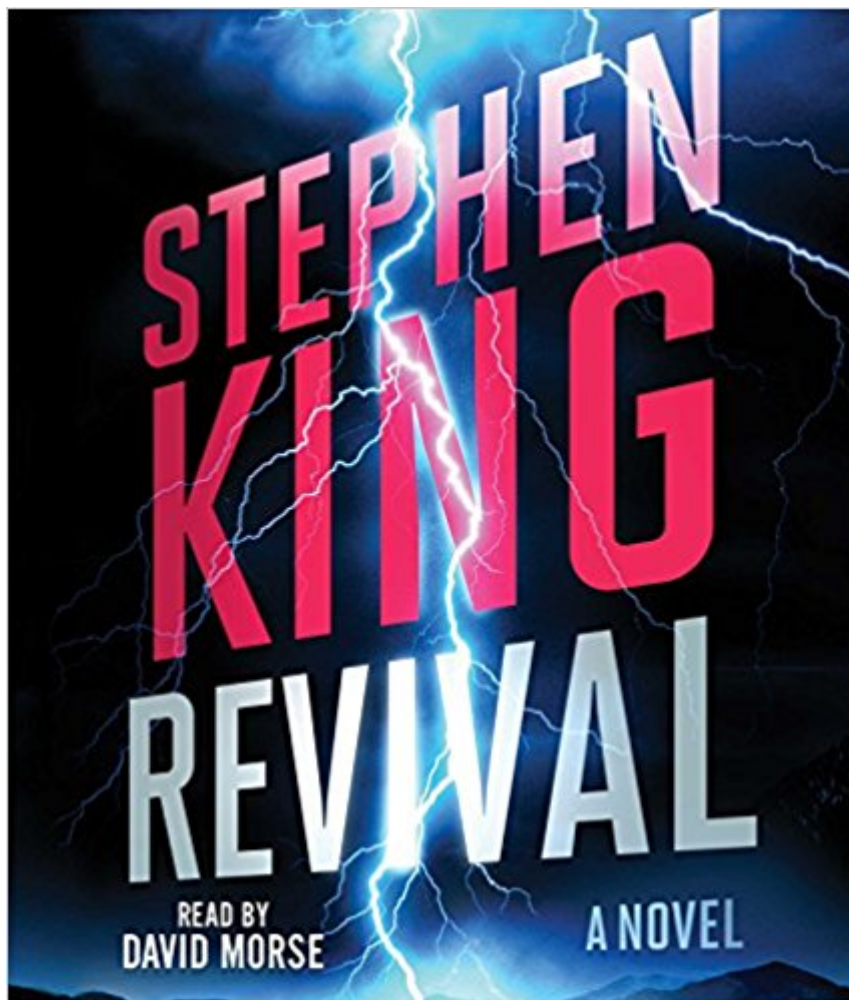


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Revival: A Novel



Synopsis

A dark and electrifying novel about addiction, fanaticism, and what might exist on the other side of life. In a small New England town, over half a century ago, a shadow falls over a small boy playing with his toy soldiers. Jamie Morton looks up to see a striking man, the new minister. Charles Jacobs, along with his beautiful wife, will transform the local church. The men and boys are all a bit in love with Mrs. Jacobs; the women and girls feel the same about Reverend Jacobs—including Jamie's mother and beloved sister, Claire. With Jamie, the Reverend shares a deeper bond based on a secret obsession. When tragedy strikes the Jacobs family, this charismatic preacher curses God, mocks all religious belief, and is banished from the shocked town. Jamie has demons of his own. Wed to his guitar from the age of thirteen, he plays in bands across the country, living the nomadic lifestyle of bar-band rock and roll while fleeing from his family's horrific loss. In his mid-thirties—addicted to heroin, stranded, desperate—Jamie meets Charles Jacobs again, with profound consequences for both men. Their bond becomes a pact beyond even the Devil's devising, and Jamie discovers that revival has many meanings. This rich and disturbing novel spans five decades on its way to the most terrifying conclusion Stephen King has ever written. It's a masterpiece from King, in the great American tradition of Frank Norris, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Edgar Allan Poe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, November 2014: How does Stephen King do it? In book after book, writing long (Under the Dome, 11/22/63) or short (Joyland) he manages, nearly always, to tell a

compelling story that is both entertaining and somehow profound, or at least thoughtful. His latest, *Revival*, is vintage King. It's the perfect mix of baby boomer nostalgia (think *Stand By Me*) as this guy remembers the 60s with details you usually can only find in photographs and good old American horror, the kind that was first elevated by such minor writers as, say, Poe and Hawthorne. The story here centers on a reverend who comes to a New England town, befriends and mentors a young boy, and then goes wild with grief when his family dies in an accident; he gives a blasphemous sermon and is, basically, run out of town. Cut to: a couple decades later, when the boy, now a junkie, meets up by chance with the disgraced clergyman, and they form another disturbing relationship. Reverend Jacobs, it turns out, was always more complicated than the stereotypical man of God as he is fascinated by electricity, by science and pretty demonic, too. How he and Jamie find and fight each other over their lifetimes is as shocking and inevitable as the explosive and, yes, horrorish, climax of the book. Never mind that King's prose can sometimes lapse into laughable cliché "like water through a sieve"? Really? There is absolutely no better storyteller than Stephen King, who keeps us up at night, with fear and fascination and admiration. Sara Nelson --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Spellbinding" King is a master at invoking the supernatural through the powerful emotions of his characters, and his depiction of Jacobs as a man unhinged by grief but driven by insatiable scientific curiosity is as believable as it is frightening. The novel's ending is one of King's best and stuns like lightning. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) "King continues to point out the unspeakably spooky weirdness that lies on the fringes of ordinary life. No one does psychological terror better than King. Another spine-tingling pleasure for his fans." (Kirkus Reviews) "King fans won't find anything to complain about here. At just over 400 pages it's one of his quicker reads and any hint of the supernatural is blended with tender moments that ground the characters. If this is your first King novel, it's not a bad choice. You don't need to know anything about his oeuvre coming in, and if you like the writing style, there are dozens of other King books you'll probably enjoy." (Associated Press) "King finds King writing with the infectious glee that has always been at the heart of his popular success. Older and wiser each time he writes, Mr. King has moved on from the physical fear that haunted him after he was struck by a van while out walking to a more metaphysical, universal terror. He writes about things so inevitable that he speaks to us all." (The New York Times) "Stephen King's

splendid new novel offers the atavistic pleasure of drawing closer to a campfire in the dark to hear a tale recounted by someone who knows exactly how to make every listener's flesh crawl." (Washington Post) "It is dark, disquieting and pretty horrifying, revealing a mind (the narrator's, for sure; King's, perhaps) searching for answers to life's age-old questions about life and death." (Minneapolis Star Tribune) "It is among King's very best | tender, moving and terrifying." (New York Daily News) "Worshippers at the Universal Church of Stephen King have a lot to rejoice about with his latest literary sermon. *Revival* is a dark and haunting tale about old-time religion and one man's search for a mythic secret electricity. At the same time it's an emotional and spectacular coming-of-age tale that spans 50 years of horrific tragedy and human redemption | *Revival* is often heartfelt, as characters deal with painful loss, and the author invests you wholly in the separate journeys of Jamie and Charlie as they arrive at their inevitable crossroads and a voltaic endgame. Say hallelujah, for the King has risen to the occasion once again." (USA Today) "This is King's darkest novel in quite a while | King retains his aw-shucks accessibility and writes about addiction and shattered bones with the insight of personal experience | It is a wrestling match between faith and science, and watching King throw himself into that eternal theological debate within the context of a horror novel is fascinating. This is the sort of book he couldn't have written when he was younger; it's the work of someone who has lived a long life and experienced its highs and lows." (Miami Herald) "It's a good, scary story, but it's so much more. Every page is a treasure trove of detail about daily life in America, in the 1960s or whatever decade King's story lights on. There are tiny stories within stories, and headlines, road signs, soapsuds, state fairs, storefronts | It's pure poetry." (Raleigh News and Observer) "Revival is easily his best work in years | fresh | an excellent, simply written story | filled with suspense and curiosity, it's a one-day read for King fans." (Boston Herald) "As with most of his work Mr. King excels at capturing the small moments of the real world, the things that are human and common to everyone. This is a world we all know and recognize. It makes the darkness that lies just beyond our perception seem more real as well." (Pittsburgh Post Gazette) "All of the elements that have made King the preeminent American horror author come alive in this ultra-creepy tale of love, loss, evil and electricity | Riveting." (Cleveland Plain Dealer) "Revival buzzes with allusions to horror classics | Revival gives familiar themes the relationship between science and religion, the fine line between grief and madness a new power. It's King

in electrifyingly fine form. (Tampa Bay Times) “As the Kingian references pile up, and become layered into the events of the fictional world, you fall deeper and deeper under the story’s spell, almost believing that Jamie’s nightmarish experiences actually happened. Reading Revival is experiencing a master storyteller having the time of his life. All of his favorite elements are at play in small town Maine, the supernatural, the evil genius, the obsessive addict, the power of belief to transform a life. It is fun to map it all out, to experience King’s mind at work. (New York Times Book Review) “A fresh adrenaline rush of terror from Stephen King. Maine, rock and roll, engaging characters and a pounding build to a grisly end. This is vintage King. (People) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Mr. King has gone back to his roots and written a horror novel up to par with many of his earlier works. There are moments of suspense, but much of the story revolves around Jamie Morton’s life. The book is written through the eyes of Jamie and covers five decades starting when he was six-years-old in 1962 and concludes in 2014. The other major character, Charles Jacobs, grows into his role as the main antagonist of the story. There is a reason for the likeable Pastor Jacobs devolving into a man with an obsession that rationalizes unethical actions. Instead of him being your run-of-the-mill bad guy, I felt sorry for him. There are women of interest in the story, but ‘Revival’ is a male-driven piece. It is about the intertwining of Jamie and Charles lives and how they intersect through the decades at opportune (actually, inopportune) times. Readers who are sensitive of religion being depicted in a negative light may want to avoid the book. The story is much like an Alfred Hitchcock movie and slowly builds to its climax. If you are hoping for lots of scary scenes then you will be sorely disappointed. However, you will be treated to a first-rate mystery and a wonderful variety of interesting people. As usual, Mr. King sprinkles his story with humor. I very much enjoyed ‘Revival.’ Jamie Morton’s progression through his childhood and into his late fifties kept me completely enthralled until the last page. Also, being a person who has lived his entire life in Maine, Mr. King’s depiction of being a kid in the rural part of our State during the 1960s and 70s made me nostalgic. I found the ending disturbing. The man sure knows how to give me the willies. If you are left with a warm fuzzy feeling at the end of the story, seek mental health treatment as fast as your demented little legs can carry you.

I love the story. I wasn’t crazy about the climax, it wasn’t bad at all! Just wasn’t crazy about the revelations, could be an aversion though as it IS very intense and horrific. But, I do love the story. In

typical King fashion he builds the characters to the point where 1) you love them 2) you identify with them 3) you kind of become them. I have never met a Stephen King protagonist that I couldn't totally see some of myself in, whose shoes I could not step in to, whose situation I did not put myself in to. And he does this well with "Revival." For die hard King fans this book will be everything you want and need. For people who are new to Stephen King books you will want to go back and read many more. Really, if you like to read, and be swept away by your books, go back and start with vintage Stephen King. You have some great pleasures ahead of you. As an atheist/agnostic, (it varies for me,) I have to say that this book gave me a lot to think about and put into words some feelings I've not been able to collate before. I found myself saying "yes, yes that is what I think and feel." Don't worry, if you are a God fearing person, this book will not warp you. But if you have doubts, this book may actually help you one way or the other. Thank you Stephen King for being a force in my life for so many years. Thank you for introducing me to so many beloved and hated characters. Characters that will be with me until I die, or, maybe even after? Bwahahahaha

REVIVAL IS ARGUABLY ONE OF STEPHEN KING'S FINEST MOMENTS. Hugely emotional, the book is part memoir, part horror classic, part love story and partially pure literature. And yet it's still pure King. The book possesses the classic and phenomenally effective "King link" to the here, and the now that is the magical and mysterious ingredient contained in all of his works that grabs the reader on the opening page and doesn't let go until the end. A pure horror aficionado may well feel peeved at being made to wait until they reach the story's climax for the 'juicy bits'. A horror fan they may be; but a King fan learns many lessons from their master of the macabre; and they learn them very well. And one of these is patience. The characters are beautifully drawn, essentially, though it comes down to two major players in this fine literary game. The six year old Charles Jacobs, who meets and immediately befriends the town's brand new reverend, who is the story's second main character. It is fair to say 'something happens' to this much liked Man Of God right at the book's opening section, but that would be too much of a corny theft of Mr King's principal story telling tool. And yet it does, and it affects the Preacher Man deeply. SPOILERS prevent me from explaining myself here, but it's a shocking twist, and of course it's beautifully written and goes a long way to ensuring the reader finds themselves addicted to the story just like the classic King tales of the past. Stephen King is real. His books are real. His writing is real. There is a quote in page 26 of the kindle version which supports this claim and gifts the reader with the uneducated layman's view of the different denominations of modern day Christianity. And when Mr King moves from the everyday to the suppositions presented by the book, he doesn't leave his lyrical talents at home, either. I said

at the top of this review that the book is part romance, and its true. Its a beautiful coming of age story, with just a *hint* of sex thrown in to keep the reader interested. And when the relationship in question is finally consummated, it must be said that its portrayed with the maximum amount of class. The writing style used by Mr King, too, is worthy of great praise, presenting the story in pseudo journal form, breaking down relatively long chapters with shortish but highly readable sub-chapters. It takes a while for the true character of the book to become obvious, but when it does, the true value of the story jumps sky high. Revival by name, its also revival by nature. Mr King once said in his classic IT, "don't f*** with the infinite" and this moral also holds well if it is applied to the contents of REVIVAL. REVIVAL does not gift the reader with an overly happy ending. SPOILERS. The book is not funny. It is, however, an immensely satisfying, fascinating, horrific, slightly sexy, hugely enjoyable romp from the town of BLISSFUL DOMESTICITY to the village of TOTAL MADNESS. Constant Readers may well find themselves with tears of joy in their eyes as the book comes alive in their hands. I know i did, and they perfectly matched the grin of complete lunacy that crept across my face to keep them company. New residents of King manor may well wonder what the fuss is all about. But read on, and find themselves hooked they will. But how to explain the effect Sai King has on the world? Its simple. Something happens.

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