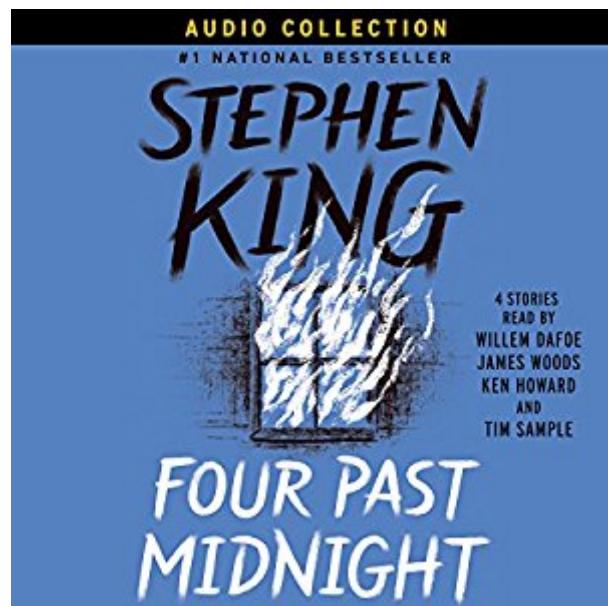


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Four Past Midnight



Synopsis

Four chiller novellas set to keep listeners awake long after bedtime. One Past Midnight: "The Langoliers" takes a red-eye flight from LA to Boston into a most unfriendly sky. Only 11 passengers survive, but landing in an eerily empty world makes them wish they hadn't. Something's waiting for them, you see. Two Past Midnight: "Secret Window, Secret Garden" enters the suddenly strange life of writer Mort Rainey, recently divorced, depressed, and alone on the shore of Tashmore Lake. Alone, that is, until a figure named John Shooter arrives, pointing an accusing finger. Three Past Midnight: "The Library Policeman" is set in Junction City, Iowa, an unlikely place for evil to be hiding. But for small businessman Sam Peebles, who thinks he may be losing his mind, another enemy is hiding there as well - the truth. If he can find it in time, he might stand a chance. Four Past Midnight: "The Sun Dog", a menacing black dog, appears in every Polaroid picture that 15-year-old Kevin Delevan takes with his new birthday gift - with each following photograph beckoning him to the supernatural. Old Pop Merrill, Castle Rock's sharpest trader, wants to crash the party for profit, but the Sun Dog, a creature that shouldn't exist at all, is a very dangerous investment.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Four Past MidnightBy Stephen KingGenre: HorrorI'm not really a fan of short story anthologies. So why buy a short story anthology? Wasn't paying attention and bought it thinking it was one story. Don't get me wrong. I love Stephen King. He is one of only four writers I would call my favorites. So, even after I realized my mistake, I read the book. FOUR PAST

MIDNIGHT is a collection of four short stories written by the incomparable Stephen King. Story number 1, THE LANGOLIERS, I've read before and seen the movie. It's great! It's a scrape-your-fingernails-along-the-arm-of-your-chair kind of story. A real white knuckler, if there ever was one. Strange roly-poly, furry, nothing-but-teeth demon creatures are eating the world and all those left in it! I love it. Story number 2, SECRET WINDOW, SECRET GARDEN, is about fiction writer Mort Rainey whose wife is a cheat, whose life is a mess and whose idyllic get-away turns out to be a really bad place to be when a stranger named Shooter shows up and accuses him of plagiarism. To prove to Mort that he's not fooling around, Shooter kills Mort's dog with a screwdriver and then uses that same tool to make Swiss Cheese out of another man's brain. This guy is seriously crazy and Mort's not too far from being the same. It's an okay story but left me feeling kind of sigh. Do you know what I mean? This one fell flat for me. Story number 3, THE LIBRARY POLICEMAN, is just weird. Sam borrows books from the local public library (not realizing when he walked through the doors he stepped back into the 60's and was met there by a truly demonic librarian). When the books come due, he's confronted by the Library Policeman who brings back some horrific memories from Sam's past and some brand-new horror to deal with. This one was more exciting for me than SECRET WINDOW but, still, not what I would consider King's best. Story number 4, THE SUN DOG, is true STEPHEN KING HORROR. Young Kevin gets a polaroid camera for his birthday. His first shot though a family picture doesn't develop. What does is a picture of a dog walking by a fence. Kevin tries again, and again and again. Every picture is of the same dog. Kevin soon realizes when he takes in the scope of all the pictures together that the dog is moving along the fence and getting closer and closer to the cameraman him! Before long, the dog will attack and the true terror begins! Some of the characters in Sun Dog will appear later in Needful Things one of King's most horrifying stories. I loved Sun Dog and when I was through with FOUR PAST MIDNIGHT I was still hungry for the scare so I re-read Needful Things! Not bad for an anthology after all!

Stephen King is one of my all-time favorite authors and this was one of my favorite compilations which I'd read not long after it was published in hardback. Years later, I still really enjoyed how King's take on time travel and using air travel to demonstrate it was brilliant. After rereading "Secret Window" and "The Library Policeman", I actually found that I liked them more than I did when I read them previously. The twist at the end of "Secret Window" was great. I've never seen the movie

adaptation and now I'm curious to see how it translates onto film. "The Library Policeman" was a good combination of monsters and playing on old childhood fears. The only story out of the four that I still didn't warm up to was the last, "The Sun Dog". It isn't that it's poorly written, it's just that the story doesn't appeal to me...judge for yourself though.

Lately I have been reading a lot of Stephen King's collections and this one kind of fell flat. The Langoliers really builds and I was so into it, but the ending is kind of corny and unbelievable for such an extraordinary circumstance that the characters experience. I may be kind of biased about Secret Window, Secret Garden because I saw the movie before reading the story. I think the bulk of the story is much better than the movie, but SPOILER ALERT!!!!!! the ending is way different in the story and it just left me a little disappointed. The Library Policeman was almost comical the entire time (until the twist is revealed and then you are just horrified). BTW - there is a pretty graphic child rape scene in this story so reader beware!! Sun Dog was a very well told story, but the story itself was just kind of flat. I would definitely recommend any of King's other short story collections. Full Dark, No Stars and Skeleton Crew have been my favorites so far!!

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.

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