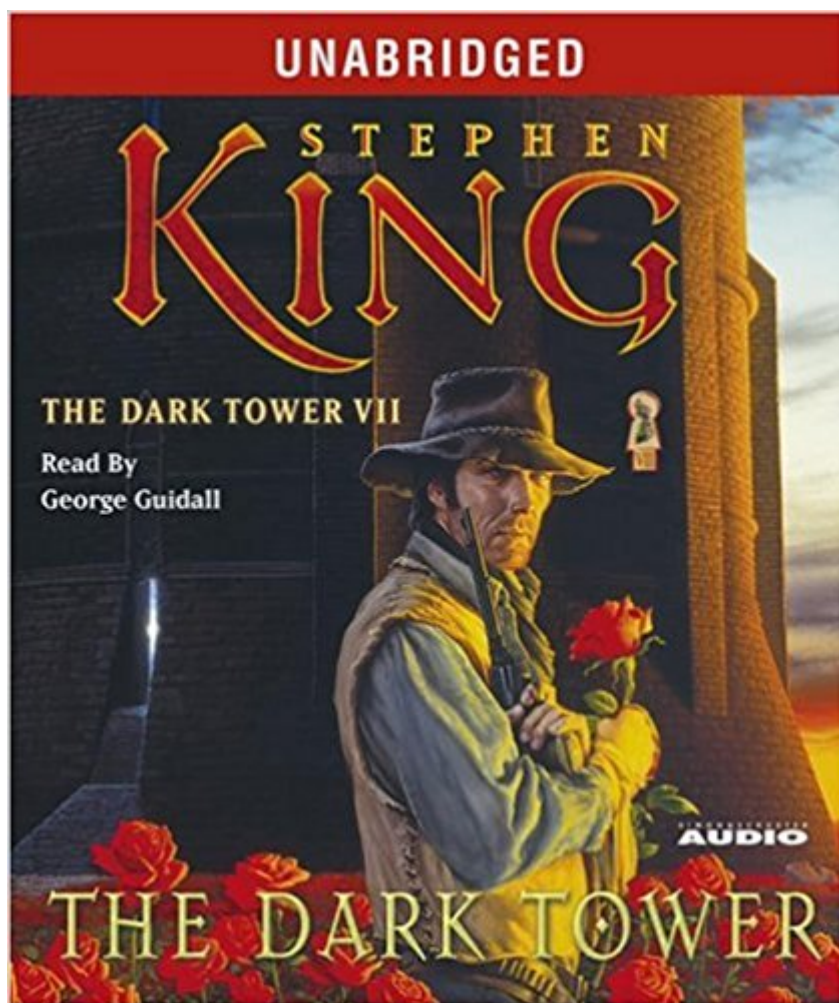


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The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower



Synopsis

Now a major motion picture starring Matthew McConaughey and Idris Elba All good things must come to end. Constant Listener, and not even Stephen King can write a story that goes on forever. The tale of Ronald Deschain's relentless quest for the Dark Tower has, the author fears, sorely tried the patience of those who have followed it from its earliest chapters. But attend to it a while longer, if it pleases you, for this volume is the last, and often the last things are best. Roland's ka-tet remains intact, though scattered over wheres and whens. Susannah-Mia has been carried from the Dixie Pig (in the summer of 1999) to a birthing room -- really a chamber of horrors - in Thunderclap's Fedic Station; Jake and Father Callahan, with Oy between them, have entered the restaurant on Lex and 61st with weapons drawn, little knowing how numerous and noxious are their foes. Roland and Eddie are with John Cullum in Maine, in 1977, looking for the site on Turtleback Lane where "walk-ins" have been often seen. They want desperately to get back to the others, to Susannah especially, and yet they have come to realize that the world they need to escape is the only one that matters. Thus the audiobook opens, like a door to the uttermost reaches of Stephen King's imagination. You've come this far. Come a little father. Come all the way. The sound you hear may be the slamming of the door behind you. Welcome to The Dark Tower.

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Customer Reviews

At one point in this final book of the Dark Tower series, the character Stephen King (added to the plot in Song of Susannah) looks back at the preceding pages and says "when this last book is

published, the readers are going to be just wild." And he's not kidding. After a journey through seven books and over 20 years, King's Constant Readers finally have the conclusion they've been both eagerly awaiting and silently dreading. The tension in the Dark Tower series has built steadily from the beginning and, like in the best of King's novels, explodes into a violent, heart-tugging climax as Roland and his ka-tet finally near their goal. The body count in The Dark Tower is high. The gunslingers come out shooting and face a host of enemies, including low men, mutants, vampires, Roland's hideous quasi-offspring Mordred, and the fearsome Crimson King himself. King pushes the gross-out factor at times--Roland's lesson on tanning (no, not sun tanning) is brutal--but the magic of the series remains strong and readers will feel the pull of the Tower as strongly as ever as the story draws to a close. During this sentimental journey, King ties up loose ends left hanging from the 15 non-series novels and stories that are deeply entwined in the fabric of Mid-World through characters like Randall Flagg (The Stand and others) or Father Callahan ('Salem's Lot). When it finally arrives, the long awaited conclusion will leave King's myriad fans satisfied but wishing there were still more to come. In King's memoir On Writing, he tells of an old woman who wrote him after reading the early books in the Dark Tower series. She was dying, she said, and didn't expect to see the end of Roland's quest. Could King tell her? Does he reach the Tower? Does he save it? Sadly, King said he did not know himself, that the story was creating itself as it went along. Wherever that woman is now (the clearing at the end of the path, perhaps?), let's hope she has a copy of The Dark Tower. Surely she would agree it's been worth the wait. --Benjamin Reese

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A pilgrimage that began with one lone man's quest to save multiple worlds from chaos and destruction unfolds into a tale of epic proportions. While King saw some criticism for the slow pace of 1982's The Gunslinger, the book that launched this series, The Drawing of the Three (Book II, 1987), reeled in readers with its fantastical allure. And those who have faithfully journeyed alongside Roland, Eddie, Susannah, Jake and Oy ever since will find their loyalty toward the series' creator richly rewarded. The tangled web of the tower's multiple worlds has manifested itself in many of King's other worksâ " The Stand (1978), Insomnia (1994) and Hearts in Atlantis (1999), to name a few. As one character explains here, "From the spring of 1970, when he typed the line The man in black fled across the desert, and the gunslinger followed... very few of the things Stephen King wrote were 'just stories.' He may not believe that; we do." King, in fact, intertwines his own life story deeper and deeper into the tale of Roland and his surrogate family of gunslingers, and, in this final installment, playfully and seductively suggests that it might not be the author who drives the story,

but rather the fictional characters that control the author. This philosophical exploration of free will and destiny may surprise those who have viewed King as a prolific pop-fiction dispenser. But a closer look at the brilliant complexity of his Dark Tower world should explain why this bestselling author has finally been recognized for his contribution to the contemporary literary canon. With the conclusion of this tale, ostensibly the last published work of his career, King has certainly reached the top of his game. And as for who or what resides at the top of the tower... The many readers dying to know will have to start at the beginning and work their way up. 12 color illus. by Michael Whelan. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Marvel put this hardcover together Great! It's a nicely done dust cover that slips off to reveal a beautiful brown leather looking (not leather tho as far as I know) hard cover. 5 out of 5 stars for that. The art work is great, although most sections are backgroundless, so you get a different feel for the environments that the story should be depicting, most of the backgrounds are just smokey looking and changes the whole feel for the story (as compared to Stephen Kings written story, which this volume covers Rolands Story of his past that he told his companions/ka-tet in the book Wizzard and Glass book 4 of the Dark Tower series.) so for art I would give it 4 out of 5 stars, it's amazingly done but I just don't like how it changes the environments by not having backgrounds. Now, the biggest problem with this that I found, which is the only reason I gave it 3 stars, was Robin Furth RUINS the whole story line. A lot of people say she knows more about Dark Tower than Stephen King himself, she wrote a great commentary for the novel series, but I wish she would of been kept off of this project for Gunslinger Born. She changes key parts of the story, she changes character personalities for the worst, she just over all ruins the story (which was drawn out, and slow to start in the novel, but over all a great story in the Novel Wizzard and Glass by Stephen King) And aside from what ruinous changes Robbins Furth made to the story, Marvel cut it too short, they gave this story basically the same length as they gave the extremely short story of the battle of tull, found in the first book the Gunslinger by Stephen King. This story arc of gunslinger born deserved at least 5 volumes preferably 6 with 30-32 issues in order to fully tell the story with all its aspects of mystery suspense and it's large catalog of characters, as well as the love story aspect involved in this. Everything is rushed and massive parts of the story are skipped over. For the story I give it 2 out of 5 stars. (almost went with 1 star :-/). But over all, I am glad I bought it, and also glad I bought the omnibus set as well as the next volume The Long Road Home, and I still plan on collecting the rest of this series. I plan to buy the rest of the volumes as well as the second Omnibus

and also hope they turn the 3rd set in this series, drawing of the 3, into another omnibus. If your a collector of Stephen King, or just Dark Tower it's nice to have. So far I've only read this volume and should be getting my Omnibus and the next volume tomorrow in the mail, I'm excited for that as well as the rest of the story in the Second Omnibus and it's volumes. I hope the story's following Gunslinger Born is better than this one, and I expect they will be, because their telling smaller stories in the volumes after this one. I know Marvel did an excellent series when they did the Stand (but Robin Furth wasn't a part of that lol).

Stephen King is a favorite author of mine and this entire series showed him exploring and stretching his writing abilities as the narrative progressed. Usually I tend to think of author's in niche genres and to read these as King went about working layers into his story was an absolute pleasure. A few times I balked at choices he made to progress the story and I believe it was because his choices were original. He blended genres. His references were blatant and subtle. He wrote in a late 1900's timeline through it all. He wrote the story hand over fist and it was interesting to read his almost weary accounting in the afterwords of fans hounding him about the plot book after book. I was sucked in by King's efforts to bring us a multi-verse filled with all the adventures and all the characters he cast. Sucked in enough to buy books two at a time because I didn't want to stop reading. What he accomplished was amazing and this is a series I will definitely re-read after my siblings finish them. If you are on the fence about dropping a few bucks for these books, know that they are worth every penny.

I'm not a Stephen King fan, only because I don't like the genre. But, these books are completely different. The Dark Tower series is incredible and addictive. It is our generation's Lord of the Rings. Book One is slow going. But, after that, the books just keep getting better. The story takes so many amazing turns. It draws the reader in and holds them. I read the entire series back-to-back. And, now that I'm done, all I can say is...Wow! I will be reading these again in a couple of years.

I really liked the story/ journey an awful lot. The characters, plot, plot twists, and even the way it melded real life, other Stephen King books/ stories and Stephen King himself. What I didn't like was the cruel ending. I didn't need a happy ending, but this ending is even worse than Roland not ever reaching the Tower. By retuning him to the point in his life that the author has with no memory of the journey, he's destined to repeat the decisions, mistakes both good and bad and so will each character he encounters/encountered. Truly cruel and without mercy. The writer could have at least

returned him to. Baby, boy, or adolescent. I don't plan on recommending the Dark Tower series. If asked, I'll say I enjoyed the journey. If asked to recommend reading it, I'll tell them you choose, and "reader" beware".

After, a year of almost non-stop reading the 7 Dark Tower books, I finished #7 yesterday. What a journey! There were tears, there was laughter, there was adventure, there was tenderness, love, heroism and villainy, and, of course, no surprise in Stephen King yarns, there were many surprises. I lived with the ka-tet. It will be hard to no longer be a part of it. Life without the pursuit of the Dark Tower? I suppose I have no choice. If you haven't read them, I envy you the adventure that awaits you. Make the commitment, dive in. You will not regret it.

A decent book to end the story arc. Better than Song of Susannah, but not as good as Wolves (or the first four books for that matter). Most likely, you will not be happy/satisfied with the original ending Sai King provided for this book. His publisher required he add a 'second ending', which King dares you to ignore. To honor the authors wishes, I have done just that, but I will go back and read that second ending the day King leaves the path and steps into the clearing.

I have just finished the entire Dark Tower series, and this last book was the best! I am already missing Roland, Eddie, Jake, Suzannah and of course, Oy. It was a great adventure and let's hope Stephen King will someday write a continuation of this great adventure!

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