



The Mist

Stephen King

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It's a hot, lazy day, perfect for a cookout, until you see those strange dark clouds. Suddenly a violent storm sweeps across the lake and ends as abruptly and unexpectedly as it had begun. Then comes the mist...creeping slowly, inexorably into town, where it settles and waits, trapping you in the supermarket with dozens of others, cut off from your families and the world. The mist is alive, seething with unearthly sounds and movements. What unleashed this terror? Was it the Arrowhead Project---the top secret government operation that everyone has noticed but no one quite understands? And what happens when the provisions have run out and you're forced to make your escape, edging blindly through the dim light?

The Mist Details

Date : Published October 2nd 2007 by Signet (first published 1980)

ISBN : 9780451223296

Author : Stephen King

Format : Paperback 230 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Thriller, Fantasy, Science Fiction

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From Reader Review The Mist for online ebook

Erin ? *Proud Book Hoarder* says

I saw the movie; I hated the movie. Just now getting to the novella, I'm relieved that it's better and isn't cursed with the horrible celluloid ending.

One of the best perks is I didn't have to listen to as much detail spiel from that religious woman, who goes down as one of the most annoying characters in horror movie history.

The characters are fine - child is cute and convincing, the MC strong enough although he does distract himself with carnal cravings, and there's the fun disbonding groups do when they face trouble together.

Creepy mist is creepy - there are some nightmarish monsters out there, especially horrible for those like me who detest spiders. As awful as the other creatures were, I'd take them any day over the horrible spiders in this story. *shudder*

It flies by pretty quickly, not only because it's a novella but because it's not weighed down with excessive prose. It sticks to the point and sets the creepy ambience well.

It's not perfect just because I was only half interested in the storyline (I already knew it going in), but it's a horror novella worth reading, especially this time of the year.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

I don't know, I liked the movie more than the book on this one. Although, when I had the book on tape a million years ago it about scared me to death with all of the sound effects! I think I would like to get a narrated version of it again!

It's been a really long time since I saw the movie but I just remember that it freaked me clean out and the book . . . not so much. I'm not sure if it was because the things in the mist were more surreal seeing them than imagining them. I don't know, who cares! I still love Mr. King's books. Well, most of them!

I also remember after this I never wanted to go out in the fog again!!!!!!

SR says

21W.758 - based on first 20 pages, if I didn't have to read this I'd've already returned it to the freaking library.

admittedly only 25% into it:

So this is my first King novel. I've read one short story by him which I liked.

Does he *always* foreshadow with a sledgehammer? And is it *him* being all snark-snark-me-big-strong-man-protect-small-hot-wife, or is it the narrator? Because I can't tell, but I know I want to punch the narrator any time he says anything about his wife or any other women - it's all got this snobby air of protective superiority, and it's *skeevying me out*.

Also, five-year-olds do not talk like that. Seriously, they don't. Nor does everyone say each other's names in dialogue all the time - they sound like a crowd of news anchors. "I don't know, Norton, let's go to Steff with the weather." Blah.

end:

SO LAME. CLOUD FULL OF DINOSAURS. SO. LAME.

So I understand that King is all into the Everyman as Hero thing - characters are easy to relate to (or they're supposed to be; I found it hard to relate to sexist upper-middle-class-white-male artist), their thoughts are all narrated and up-front, narration itself is in plain English, nothing fancy. Except that makes it *so boring* - plain, bland sentence structure, littered with cliches, utterly toneless.

Another apparent trademark is the Juxtaposition of Everyday Details And Anecdotes In Midst Of Horrifying Experience thing - and he flubs it here. We'll be getting up to some monster attack and there is some semblance of tension and then it just *flatlines* as the narrator pauses to describe the action with some simile that takes three times as many words as it needs to. Or there'll be some emotionally-fraught scene of potential character growth and the narrator will be off and running with some story about his hot wife and the futility of art. And I DID NOT CARE.

That was the worst thing about this - King *really wanted me to care* about these characters, and he kept throwing in details to manipulate me into liking them, and it was *so obvious*. At the end I was left with Billy, and he was boring, too.

I viscerally hated the narrator by page 125 (emphasis mine): "If I were her husband and **proprietor** of those green eyes and that full figure, I might not travel so much."

PROPRIETOR. EXCUSE MY RAGE, BUT WHAT. THE FUCK. IS THAT.

At that point, I was like, yeah, whatever, you could totally get eaten right now and I would not even care.

So yes: lame-ass plot (THE MIST WAS COMING) with half-assed non-explanation (ARROWHEAD PROJECT. MAYBE) and awful characters (I AM MAN, HEAR ME MAN) that tried to manipulate me into liking them (LOOK I'M HUMAN LOOK HOW HUMAN I AM HERE'S A STORY FROM MY HUMAN LIFE) couched in hideously boring prose.

Fail all around, basically. I'll enjoy having a rant about this.

Rebecca McNutt says

The Mist is so much more than just horror. It's a short story and yet, like its fantastic 2007 feature film, it's probably one of the best studies of how humans act when all the little comforts of everyday life are ripped away from them. To quote Ollie from the book, "as a species we're fundamentally insane. Throw us all into a room together and we start picking sides and dreaming up ways to kill one another." Indeed, the biggest threat to David Drayton and his small group of friends trapped in a supermarket is not the violent monsters or the hordes of insects, but instead a religious fanatic, a group of small town rednecks and of course, those who deny that there is even anything in the mist at all.

Karl says

This slip cased hardcover book is numbered 458 of 500 and is signed by artist Herbert Brandmeier on the title page.

Nebel is the German word for fog. This is the First World Hard cover separate edition of the book, which I purchased at Forbidden Planet book shop, while on a business trip to London, England in 1986.

Shortly after publication, Mr. King had customs officials destroy most copies for copyright infringement. It was first published as the first and longest story of the 1980 horror anthology *Dark Forces*. A slightly edited version was included in King's 1985 collection *Skeleton Crew*.

Trish says

Starting off this year's October (horror month) with a classic author for when you want to shiver: Stephen King.

I already know the story because I watched the movie adaptation many moons ago so I knew I would like it. The story is that after a massive storm the titular mist closes in on a community in Maine, but it is no ordinary mist and with it come unspeakable horrors, trapping a number of people in a supermarket.

Stephen King managed to make the supermarket very chilly and claustrophobic, giving this novella a wonderfully haunting atmosphere. The characters were somewhat authentic. I say somewhat because a certain yellow-clad old lady was almost too over the top (on the other hand, I've seen some American preachers in tents and weird congregations that would be utterly unthinkable here so maybe my European mind just doesn't allow to take it seriously). And as usual, the story is an exploration of the human mind and heart more than it is a story about monsters (unless we call the humans monsters, then we'd be right).

What didn't sit right with me at all was (view spoiler). Moreover, much like the author, I think the mind-fuck at the end of the movie was better than the ending of the novella (although this ending wasn't too bad either). It's funny, actually. I would have expected this kind of ending to be typically Hollywood and the movie's ending to be typically King.

There were three very powerful realizations in this story, two of which I have already mentioned in my status updates: the horrible things that we imagine can happen to our loved ones, people following even the most bat-shit-insane person if they offer them the solution (no matter how unrealistic) to a bad situation, and finally when (view spoiler) - extremely haunting.

Anyone looking for an atmospheric and creepy read will get exactly that (plus a character study that drives you up the walls but that is pretty "standard" King ;P).

Mario says

My 100th read book this year. And also, a damn good one. King surely knows how to write characters you want to strangle, and then feel happy about it.

Even though I really liked the book I need to say one thing. Since I've seen the movie before I read the book, I gotta say that, even though ending of the book was interesting, ending of the movie was done so much better and it literally left me speechless.

But never mind that, I couldn't give this book any less than 5 stars, because I honestly think that it deserves every single star. From page 1 it grabbed my attention and it didn't let go 'till I turned the last page. King is the king (ha-ha!) at writing stories that you can't stop reading, and with every book of his that I read, I gain more respect for the man.

Elizabeth Sagan says

I used to fantasize about a zombie apocalypse after watching The Walking Dead. I used to fantasize about winning the Hunger Games after watching the movies/reading the books. I used to fantasize about alien invasions after watching alien movies.

*

Now I'm glad none of that happened because I wouldn't have survived even an hour. Thanks, but no thanks.

*

Though I can't deny, the novel has a certain appeal. What would I do? So I fantasized again. I imagined myself being there, alone or with certain people. The supermarket had or had not supplies of certain stuff. In every scenario I knew how to fire a gun, because doh!, why would I daydream myself in an apocalyptic scenario not knowing how to do fire a gun?

Evelyn (devours and digests words) says

As a species we're fundamentally insane. Put more than two of us in a room, we pick sides and start dreaming up reasons to kill one another. Why do you think we invented politics and religion?

The Mist is a novella mainly about survival and it is a terrifying one at that. Because how do one fight off something like the mist and the creatures that came with it?

David and his young son Billy happened to be one of a few survivors holing up in a supermarket with more than 80 other people. For his son's sake, David has to decide whether to stay inside (where resources and companions are plentiful) or to go outside (where Death is a high risk) and seek a way to find help. But inside the supermarket, people are starting to get unhinged. They're picking sides, rallying - their survival instincts turning them into something desperate and ferocious.

The Mist served as a huge reminder for me. We now walk the grounds in superiority with our civilized minds and manners - top of the food chain. But stripped of all kinds of senses or safety and our primal sides surfaced like a clawing animal.

Long short review, this story left me badly shaken inside. It made me question all sorts of What if's. Questions that I never bothered to ask myself.

The story ended *hopefully* - whether David, his son and the others survive to live another day is entirely up to the readers to decide.

Pouting Always says

David and his son Billy go out to get grocery store to get supplies after a bad storm has hit town. Before leaving David had noticed a thick mist forming, and started to feel an apprehension building. Figuring it was nothing David and Billy went for supplies but end up sequestered inside the grocery store after someone comes in screaming about the things in the mist. The town is near a military base, where rumor has it nuclear testing is being conducted, and everyone in the store becomes unsure about how to proceed. Wondering about whether or not someone is coming to save them, decisions have to be made about the best course of action.

I recently read The Thing and hated it but this one went over much better. The suspense was built up much better here and I got pretty on edge waiting to see if they would all make it. I haven't seen any of the TV or movie adaptions of this though so I came in this without any idea about the plot line. I also did like how it left off but someone told me the movie ending is a lot better. I just sometimes feel like Stephen King seems to really take his time when writing and maybe he should try to cut down on the details not related to the scary shit happening which is what I want to read about you know.

Leo . says

Great book. The film was good too. The ripping of the veil and the monsters flood in. ??

Mia Nauca says

Una novela bastante corta de Stephen King que me gustó muchísimo, super entretenida y en algunos

momentos incluso me llevé a asustar.

Las primeras hojas son un poco lentas pero una vez que llegan al supermercado todo se vuelve un hermoso caos

Me gustó mucho el final personalmente, sé que hay gente que no le gusta pero a mi shi

Kostas Papadatos says

Μια περ?εργη ομ?χλη σκεπ?ζει το χτυπημ?νο απ? ?λα τα κακ? του κ?σμου Μ?ην και οι κ?τοικο? του δ?χονται επ?θεση απ? «χαριτωμ?να» ?ντα ?πως τερ?στιες αρ?χνες, ?ντομα με μ?γεθος Γκοτζ?λα, χταπ?δια της στερι?ς και ?λλα νηστ?σιμα τερατ?κια. Ωρα?ο βιβλ?ο, π?ρασε ευχ?ριστα η ?ρα.

Nazanin says

3.5 Misty Stars

The Mist was my first read by Stephen King. Well I loved the writing. It keeps you read it uninterrupted. Even though the idea of it wasn't new, it was something that I watched on movies, but the writing is in such a way that I couldn't get enough of it! but I hated its ending! I really didn't expect the author ends it like that! And by that I meant so open!

The story is about a man, named David, that after a hurricane with his son and his neighbor goes to a supermarket and leaves his wife at home. But when they are at the supermarket, there is a weird fog everywhere. Something is wrong with this fog! Something really creepy and scary!

The story is told in David's POV, 1st person. It's well-written and fast-paced. It's a stand-alone novel. All in all, I enjoyed it (except the ending) hope you like it more than me!

Sr3yas says

3.5 Stars

One of my friend's Dad used to throw a number of inspirational quotes all around to provide us with insight and direction to life and stuff. One of his favorites was: *Don't be afraid to go into the mist, be excited because you don't know where you will end up.*

Clearly, he never had a chance to read The Mist.

“ In the dream I could hear the rending crack and splinter of breaking trees as God stamped the woods into the shape of His footsteps. He was circling the lake, coming toward the Bridgton side, toward us, and all the houses and cottages and summer places were bursting into purple-white flame like lightning, and soon the smoke covered everything. The smoke covered everything like a mist.”

This dream belongs to David, our narrator/ family man who finds himself living in his own dreadful nightmare. It all began after a destructive storm and when a thick unnatural mist started rolling in. David and his young son Billy were in a crowded supermarket when the mist enveloped the building, effectively creating a prison for the people inside the market, guarded by things no man has ever seen.

How bad is it? Let's just say stepping out to the mist is equivalent to signing your own death sentence.

The Mist is an interesting novella with a very creepy premise. King plays with the horror of the unknown in the opening act and gradually raises the curtain to reveal the main attraction throughout the narration. It's a classic horror structure, and King does it quite well.

Unfortunately, I had watched the 2007 movie adaptation of the story many times while I was in uni. It was one of gang's favorite movie and we always had conversations which went like: *"Dude, remember The Mist's ending? That was crazy".* For me, the movie is the reason I'm rating this lower. While The Mist has a "Hitchcock" style ending (Not my words), the movie had a definite one, and in this case, I'll take the definite one.

Yet, The Mist is the glorious source material and it is really well written. One another thing King nails here is the mob mentality and the way people act under the pressure of horrors. If you're looking for a short SK story, this is the one to pick!

Afterthought

For some reason, I kept on thinking a scenario where The Mist finds its way to Derry during the reign of IT. Imagine you're running, and BOOM, IT comes out of the damn smoke.

That would be a killer tale.
