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The Dark Tower I: The Gunslinger



Synopsis

Now a major motion picture starring Matthew McConaughey and Idris Elba. Now available for the first time as an Encore CD! A #1 national bestseller, *The Gunslinger* introduces audiences to one of Stephen King's most powerful creations, Roland of Gilead: *The Last Gunslinger*. He is a haunting figure, a loner on a spellbinding journey into good and evil. In his desolate world, which mirrors our own in frightening ways, Roland tracks The Man in Black, encounters an enticing woman named Alice, and begins a friendship with the boy from New York named Jake. Inspired in part by the Robert Browning narrative poem, "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," *The Gunslinger* is "a compelling whirlpool of a story that draws one irretrievable to its center" (Milwaukee Sentinel). It is "brilliant and fresh" and will leave you panting for more" (Booklist).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thirty-three years, a horrific and life-altering accident, and thousands of desperately rabid fans in the making, Stephen King's quest to complete his magnum opus rivals the quest of Roland and his band of gunslingers who inhabit the Dark Tower series. Loyal DT fans and new readers alike will appreciate this revised edition of *The Gunslinger*, which breathes new life into Roland of Gilead, and offers readers a "clearer start and slightly easier entry into Roland's world." King writes both a new introduction and foreword to this revised edition, and the ever-patient, ever-loyal "constant reader" is rewarded with secrets to the series's inception. That a "magic" ream of green paper and a Robert Browning poem, came together to reveal to King his "ka" is no real surprise (this is King after all),

but who would have thought that the squinty-eyed trio of Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef, and Eli Wallach would set the author on his true path to the Tower? While King credits Tolkien for inspiring the "quest and magic" that pervades the series, it was Sergio Leone's *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* that helped create the epic proportions and "almost absurdly majestic western backdrop" of Roland's world. To King, *The Gunslinger* demanded revision because once the series was complete it became obvious that "the beginning was out of sync with the ending." While the revision adds only 35 pages, *Dark Tower* purists will notice the changes to Allie's fate and Roland's interaction with Cort, Jake, and the Man in Black--all stellar scenes that will reignite the hunger for the rest of the series. Newcomers will appreciate the details and insight into Roland's life. The revised Roland of Gilead (nee Deschain) is embodied with more humanity--he loves, he pities, he regrets. What *DT* fans might miss is the same ambiguity and mystery of the original that gave the original its pulpy underground feel (back when King himself awaited word from Roland's world). --Daphne Durham

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King's (Pet Sematary, Audio Reviews, LJ 11/1/98) fantastical and allegorical "Dark Tower" series commenced in 1982 with the publication of *The Gunslinger*. Subsequent volumes have appeared about every five years thereafter. *The Gunslinger* introduces protagonist Roland as he pursues the Man in Black through bleak and tired landscapes in a world that has "moved on." Roland believes that the Man in Black knows and can be made to reveal the secrets of the Dark Tower, which is the ultimate goal of Roland's quest. *The Waste Lands* sees Roland and his fellow travelers continuing the quest for the Dark Tower. They journey through imaginative landscapes, over astounding obstacles, and meet with and confront a unique and fully drawn cast of characters, both human and nonhuman. Reader Frank Muller gives voice to the characters with a thoroughly engaging precision, accuracy, and great humanity and with an edge that drives the story onward and seems to amplify King's skill as an author. Highly recommended for all fiction collections. ?Kristen L. Smith, Loras Coll. Lib., Dubuque, IA Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The eight volumes of the *Dark Tower* series are the best fiction series I've ever read. It's hard to rate one book over another, but I'd give each one at least a 4 star rating and a 5 star rating for the series. The 2017 reading of the series is my second time through the series. The first read was in hardback and the second time through was on my Kindle Fire. I did not enjoy the movie that was recently released as it strayed so far from the books. Others I've talked to that have not read the

series or read parts of the series years ago enjoyed the movie.

I will admit, I was a bit let down by Stephen King's *Wizard and Glass*, and this was for two reasons: #1, I've heard many people say that it's one of King's best novels, and #2, it's the follow-up to the great *Waste Land*, the third book in the *Dark Tower* series. This book is the fourth entry to the *Dark Tower* series: if you have not read the first three books, this review/book won't really make a great deal of sense. If you are interested in the series, I would really recommend starting with the first book, *The Gunslinger*. So far, it's a great series if you enjoy fantasy/suspense/strange-fiction. *Wizard and Glass* serves as a detour -- it allows King to expand more on the gunslinger Roland's background. The book picks up immediately where *The Waste Land* left off. To recap, the third book of the series ends with a giant cliffhanger: the group of travelers are onboard a suicidal bullet train, and they must stump the train using riddles or else they will die also. So, the first moments of *Wizard and Glass* are onboard this bullet train and the subsequent game of riddles. It's extremely suspenseful, and very well done. Unfortunately for me though, these early moments were the highlight of the novel -- after the resolution of their predicament, *Wizard and Glass* slows down considerably. Early on, Roland decides he needs to get a story off of his chest, so he sits down Eddie, Susannah, Jake, and Oy, and tells them about the first and only love of his life: Susan Delgado. Most of the book is a flashback to this memory. The problem for me is that I'm more interested in the present-time issues of Roland: this story contains very little of the *Dark Tower*, Eddie (or the rest of the Ka-Tet) in favor for many of the characters that populated Roland's past. The story that makes up most of *Wizard and Glass* is good, but I just couldn't wait for Roland to move on and continue the search for the *Dark Tower*. This semi-standalone flashback is well crafted, intense, and it explains a lot of the reasons why Roland is the way Roland is. The style of the narrative though, is very different from what we've been exposed to so far: there's no doors to other dimensions, shifting times, giant mechanical bear-androids, etc... *Wizard and Glass* is much more reined-in and grounded in traditional fantasy styles. But what are you reading this review for? If you've made it to the end of *The Waste Land*, finishing there isn't an option! It's too big a cliffhanger and the story is too good -- you WANT to know what happens in the end. For me, this novel was a detour, and grinds Roland's quest to a near-halt, but this break is a mostly enjoyable one. You won't learn a ton about the *Dark Tower* or how to get there, but you will enjoy the ride. A word about the audiobook: the audio recording of *Wizard and Glass* is narrated by Frank Muller. He does a great job (similar to Roy Dotrice who narrates the *Song of Ice and Fire* books). The final listening time is about 24-hours long. Because this story is more grounded in a traditional narrative, it might make for

a better listen than some of the crazier moments in Drawing of the Three or The Waste Land (where you might have to backtrack to ensure what you're reading is indeed what you believe is going on). There's also a chapter from Book 5: Wolves of the Calla tacked on at the end to serve as a preview for the next installment of the Dark Tower series.

The Dark Tower IV : wizard and glass by Steven King, Wow what incredible ride that was! I was held captive in Roland's young life and loved every minute of it. That was fun, exciting, scary, and loving too. The relationships between Roland and his first ka-tet were palpable. I hope to never come across a thinny.

I've been reading King since a classmate allowed me to borrow her "Pet Cemetery " paperback when I was in the 7th grade. I had always loved to read, but I remember trying to devour every moment of that book before I had to move on past home room. Bless her heart, she remembers loaning it to me. I wanted nothing but to read. At recess, , at home. Ã Â ÂÂ Now I have kids and I work of course. I'm a Speech-Language Pathologist. The only SK series I couldn't really get "into" in college was this one. But I'm 45 now, and I'm grasping for anything new I can get from King. It's not a new series, but I'm thankful to have downtime after work and before home and real life responsibilities to listen to Stephen King. I really appreciate the series now. I wish he could crank these stories out faster lol!

I am a huge Stephen King fan. When I found out about "The Dark Tower" book, some 40 or so years ago, I was very disappointed because it was a limited edition. Imagine my joy when he released it into a series of books, and updated them. It is one of my favorite series of stories of his. My daughters have also read them, and loved them, as well. I tell everyone I know to read them. Stephen King, I am most definitely one of your most constant readers. I saw the movie, and hope there are more to come

I am a lifelong avid Stephen King fan. One of those that spooked myself reading the Shining at all hours of the night at the age of 11 in my bed with a flashlight. Also one of those that waited what felt like forever for him to get around to finishing The Dark Tower and Roland's quest. This book is the one book that could stand alone as a story within the story and it is good. Very good. A vivid, tragic, heart wrenching western where the characters leap off the page. I have read this whole series before. If you've completed this series before, you'll get how ironic it is to read it again. I couldn't

wait to get back to this part. Now, of course I'll move on to the final books happily. I recommend reading the first 3 in the series before this one as they are all part of one story, but note this could stand alone if you start from 4 people and 1 Billy bumbler (don't worry if you don't know what that is) on a quest in a world parallel to our own. This story is mostly about the youth of one of those 4; Roland, born in that world and trained as a gunslinger, perhaps the youngest to ever earn that name(and his guns with the sandalwood grips) there.

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