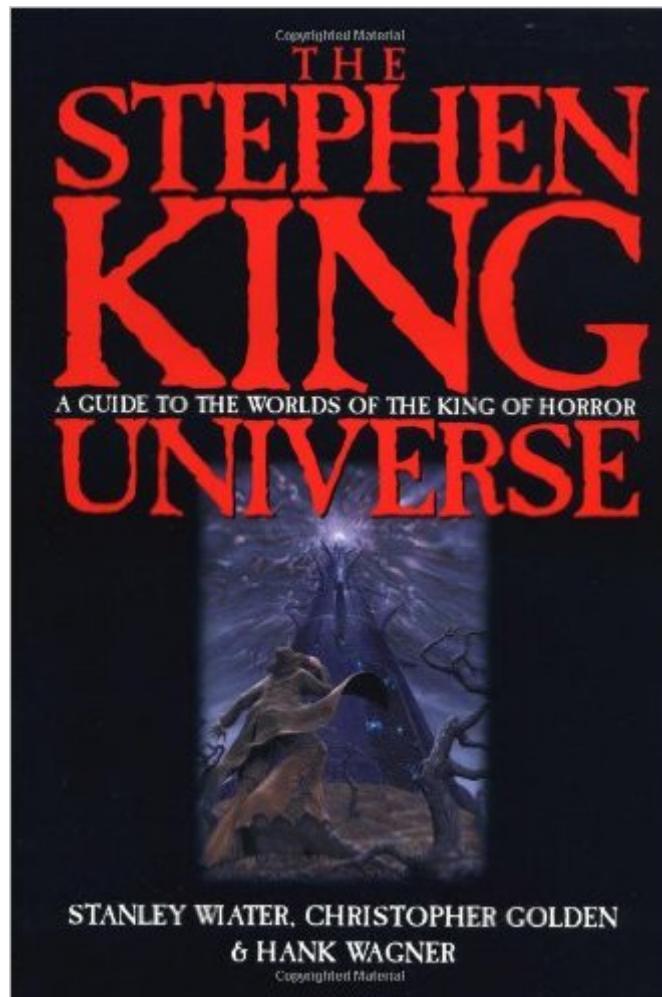


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The Stephen King Universe



STANLEY WIATER, CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN
& HANK WAGNER

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Synopsis

"I am coming to understand that Roland's world actually contains all the others of my making"
--Stephen KingWith those words, from *The Dark Tower: IV Wizard and Glass*, the world's most popular writer confirmed a suspicion long held by readers--that the myriad worlds and universes King has created are, in reality, one world, one universe. Here, for the first time ever is the guide to that universe, a thrilling road map and informative tour for new readers and diehard fans alike. *The Stephen King Universe* is the very first examination of all of King's fiction and the way in which its plots and characters, conflicts, and themes, intertwine. This definitive reference work examines his novels and short stories, as well as the motion pictures, miniseries, and teleplays that King has written. The authors spent three years discovering and tying together the threads that exist in King's fiction. Their insightful results will entertain and surprise readers new and old. Once you have read *The Stephen King Universe*, you will never read Stephen King the same way again

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Pennywise does live, after all. I've had an occasional argument with people over my theory that King is working on a meganovel that will ultimately tie his previous works together. As support, I called attention to a brief mention in "Dreamcatcher" of Pennywise the Clown, the central villain of that King classic, "It." It is waved off, as just one of the mentions King makes of characters from previous works. Now don't get me wrong; ordinarily I'm all for turning the other cheek. Except... I'm right. "*The Stephen King Universe*" is not so much a companion piece to King's writings as it is an examination

of the links between his fiction. "Universe" operates on the theory that King is working on a meganovel that will ultimately tie his previous works together, using the penultimate King tale, "The Dark Tower" series. Wiater and company uncover connections between books that you'd never suspect existed (Cujo may pop up in "Needful Things," while a character in "Misery" may have known someone from "It" as a child, to name just two). Everything (novel, short story, screen adaptation, e-book) before "Dreamcatcher" is examined in depth, while the histories of popular King towns like Derry, `salem's Lot and Castle Rock are written out in a grand fashion. A character mention here, a throwaway line there - they take on more meaning in "Universe." The authors of the book also compile nifty thumbnail sketches of key characters in the novels. From "It":IT (aka MR. BOB GRAY, PENNYWISE THE CLOWN): "...In 1958, It is confronted and defeated by a group of small children calling themselves the Losers Club..."

Stanley Wiater, Christopher Golden, Hank Wagner are quite overwhelmed with their enterprise : to describe the Universe of Stephen King's fiction. But they do a marvelous job at it, even if some purists may find some mistakes, contradictions, etc. Each entry gives you a general presentation of the work, then a presentation of the characters and finally eventual adaptations to the screen. They also include in their work (which is not an encyclopedia) the works that were only produced for the screen, like The Golden Years and Cat's Eye. They try, everytime it is possible to connect the characters, places , situations and artifacts from one book to the others. That is where the purists find some mistakes or misleading elements. But, as far as I know it is the first time such a book is published in such a format, in such length, hence in such usefulness, not only for Stephen King fans or addicts, but also for those who consider Stephen King's multimedia fiction as a social, cultural, and even political phenomenon that has to be studied in depth, in its plots, in its style, in its cross references. And it is not a simple compilation if not piling up of raw data, as so many other attempts amount to. No reference given here by me. Let me regret one thing though : the sources are not given, and that is a shortcoming.

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