



# **Stephen King's Contemporary Classics: Reflections on the Modern Master of Horror (Contemporary American Literature)**

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Many readers know Stephen King for his early works of horror, from his fiction debut *Carrie* to his blockbuster novels *The Shining*, *The Stand*, and *Misery*, among others. While he continues to be a best-selling author, King's more recent fiction has not received the kind of critical attention that his books from the 1970s and 1980s enjoyed. Recent novels like *Duma Key* and *1/22/63* have been marginalized and, arguably, cast aside as anomalies within the author's extensive canon.

In *Stephen King's Contemporary Classics: Reflections on the Modern Master of Horror*, Philip L. Simpson and Patrick McAleer present a collection of essays that analyze, assess, and critique King's post-1995 compositions. Purposefully side-stepping studies of earlier work, these essays are arranged into three main parts: the first section examines five King novels published between 2009 and 2013, offering genuinely fresh scholarship on King; the second part looks at the development of King's distinct brand of horror; the third section departs from probing the *content* of King's writing and instead focuses on King's *process*.

By concentrating on King's most recent writings, this collection offers provocative insights into the author's work, featuring essays on *Dr. Sleep*, *Duma Key*, *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*, *Joyland*, *Under the Dome*, and others. As such, *Stephen King's Contemporary Classics* will appeal to general fans of the author's work as well as scholars of Stephen King and modern literature.

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