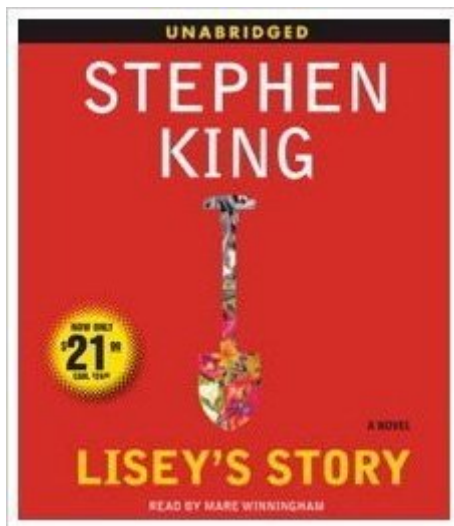


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Lisey's Story



Synopsis

Every marriage has two hearts, one light and one dark . . . Lisey Landon shared a profound and sometimes frightening intimacy with her husband, Scott, a celebrated bestselling novelist -- and a man with many secrets. One was the place where his gifts of imagination came from, a place that could heal or destroy him. Now, two years after his death, it's Lisey's turn to face Scott's demons on a nearly fatal journey into the darkness he inhabited. . . . --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Unabridged edition (October 28, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 074358158X

ISBN-13: 978-0743581585

Product Dimensions: 1.8 x 5.2 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 939 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,229,426 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in [Books > Books on CD](#)
> [Authors, A-Z](#) > (K) > King, Stephen #338 in [Books > Books on CD > Horror](#) #8105
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Customer Reviews

Since his first novel was published in 1974, Stephen King has stretched the boundaries of the written word, not only bringing horror to new heights, but trying his hand at nearly every possible genre, including children's books, graphic novels, serial novels, literary fiction, nonfiction, westerns, fantasy, and even e-books (remember *The Plant*?). With *Lisey's Story*, once again King is trying something different. *Lisey's Story* is as much a romance as it is a supernatural thriller--but don't let us convince you. Who better to tell readers if King has written a romantic thriller than Nora Roberts? We asked Nora to read *Lisey's Story* and give us her take. Check out her review below. --Daphne Durham
Guest Reviewer: Nora Roberts
Nora Roberts, who also writes under the pseudonym J.D. Robb, is the author of way too many bestselling books to name here (over 150!), but some of our favorites include: *Angels Fall*, *Born in Death*, *Blue Smoke*, and *The Reef*. Stephen King hooked me about three decades ago with that sharply faceted, blood-stained jewel, *The Shining*. Through the years he's bumped my gooses with kiddie vampires, tingled my spine with beloved pets gone rabid,

justified my personal fear of clowns and made me think twice about my cell phone. I've always considered *The Stand*--a long-time favorite--a towering tour de force, and have owed its author a debt as this was the first novel I could convince my older son to read from cover to cover. But with *Lisey's Story*, King has accomplished one more feat. He broke my heart. *Lisey's Story* is, at its core, a love story--heart-wrenching, passionate, terrifying and tender. It is the multi-layered and expertly crafted tale of a twenty-five year marriage, and a widow's journey through grief, through discovery and--this is King, after all--through a nightmare scape of the ordinary and extraordinary. Through Lisey's mind and heart, the reader is pulled into the intimacies of her marriage to bestselling novelist Scott Landon, and through her we come to know this complicated, troubled and heroic man. Two years after his death, Lisey sorts through her husband's papers and her own shrouded memories. Following the clues Scott left her and her own instincts, she embarks on a journey that risks both her life and her sanity. She will face Scott's demons as well as her own, traveling into the past and into Boo'ya Moon, the seductive and terrifying world he'd shown her. There lives the power to heal, and the power to destroy. Lisey Landon is a richly wrought character of charm and complexity, of realized inner strength and redoubtable humor. As the central figure she drives the story, and the story is so vividly textured, the reader will draw in the perfumed air of Boo'ya Moon, will see the sunlight flood through the windows of the Scott's studio--or the night press against them. Her voice will be clear in your ear as you experience the fear and the wonder. If your heart doesn't hitch at the demons she faces in this world and the other, if it doesn't thrill at her courage and endurance, you're going to need to check with a cardiologist, first chance. *Lisey's Story* is bright and brilliant. It's dark and desperate. While I'll always consider *The Shining*, my first ride on King's wild Tilt-A-Whirl, a gorgeous, bloody jewel, I found, on this latest ride, a treasure box heaped with dazzling gems. A few of them have sharp, hungry teeth. --Nora Roberts --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

King's latest bid for literary respectability is read by acclaimed actress Winningham, best known for her Oscar-nominated performance in *Georgia*. Winningham glazes King's novel in multiple coats of Southern honey, her voice shimmering with an old-fashioned glow for the tale of Lisey Landon, wife of acclaimed novelist Scott Landon, and her effort to discover the source of her husband's inspiration after his death. Winningham is a good fit for King in a less terror-filled mood, capturing the book's blend of the sentimental and the comic. The narrative is ushered in and out by the strains of Ryan Adams's "When the Stars Go Blue," and King reads his own afterword, where he details the sources of his own inspiration, carefully distancing himself and his loved ones from the characters in

his book while making it clear that, like Scott Landon, he must dive deep into his subconscious and into the pool of literary history, to find inspiration. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Muddled plot, piles and piles of paper, annoying and boring heroine...these are the main things I got from this book. Whereas I can easily describe most Stephen King books years after I've read them, I could hardly summarize this one minutes after I read it. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Somehow it's supposed to be experimental or something like that. It's the only Stephen King book I've started that I haven't been able to finish. It's books like this that are the reason that I stopped buying fiction just because Stephen King was the author.

A Stephen King story that snuck up on me. I'm what King calls a "CR"(constant reader), and thus probably spent more time getting into this book than others. The effort was definitely worth it! The story is loosely autobiographical, about a successful author but told from the perspective of his widow (sorry if that's a spoiler). The plot is solid and contains enough King "substance" for three novels. Deeply revealing of the human condition, the plot also deals sensitively with death and coping. I highly recommend reading this book!

This novel was certainly formidable to get through. The love of a widow for her 2 year departed husband is moving, and I could dream as realistic, but it is much longer than is War and Peace, and I was half way through the work before I saw a plot developing, or anything supernatural appear. However, King's writing is always involving, even if it does not even follow his own rules of writing. As a budding author, I can only learn, and share my opinion.

The first novel I read by Stephen King, was in 1975 when I was still a newlywed and titled, Salem's Lot. Mr. King and I have grown up together, through the same tumultuous decades and his writing has grown with him. Reading a "Stephen King" novel, for me, feels like I'm coming home to familiar, and yet sometimes unexplored or new sides of loved family members with all the ups and downs you'd expect. "Lisey's Story" was both familiar and different from Mr. King's previous novels, yet the same familiar writing style that lets you forget that you are reading and feels more like listening to an old, dear friend, bringing with it the best feelings of pleasure as any homecoming could hope to achieve. Thank you Mr. King for another great read!

Not a Steven King fan, but decided to read it based on a friend's recommendation. This was a lovely story. Steven King always has to throw in something supernatural, but in this case it was very gentle and sweet.

There were moments when I enjoyed this: King's peek into the complexity of relationships, his vivid descriptions of pain and loss, and his idea of a fantasy world where some of us - maybe all of us, particularly the creative - go when we can't deal with reality. In this (as well as his more recent novels), he's truly honed the ability to delve deep into close relationships - and get at the core of what it is to be human. I relished in those moments: father and son, sister and sister, husband and wife. But Lisey's story felt plodding, slow, and heavy; with hardly enough sparkle to keep one going through all the muck to get to the pool. Like walking through a swamp to find rare flora, but coming up nearly empty-handed. I finished feeling mostly disappointed. There wasn't enough STORY there to make up for the discomfort of the continual inner-mind wanderings of the main character. And the bad guy seemed almost an afterthought; unnecessary to the story, just used as a plot mover.

Ok, if you thought reading the novel was bad, listening to it out loud has to be a thousand times worse!!!! I'm not gonna get into any details about the book and why it's so incredibly awful because it's all been said in minute detail in literally hundreds of these reviews already. And believe me, every single negative thing that was said in all those reviews is absolutely true and accurate. All I want to say is that listening to this book being read aloud is EVEN MORE annoying than actually reading it. I kept yelling aloud to my player to SHUT THE EFF UP for crying out loud!! My god, I wanted to just smash my player it was that bad. The only reason I finished it is because I wasted money buying it and to not finish it would have meant an even bigger waste of money!! Thank god I don't pay full price for any Stephen King book that came out past 1988ish. And the only reason why I even bother to read any of his books anymore is on the off chance that maybe, just MAYBE he might churn out something that's even remotely close to what he used to write in his glory days. Not much chance of that ever happening. But one can always hope. Sigh...

Very well written, albeit the plot (such as it is) is somewhat predictable in a Stephen King bizarre manner. It will likely not stand out as one of King's classics, but the story is told from the very personal, intimate point of view of Lisey, an interesting, likeable character facing darkly

metaphysical challenges arising from and related to her beloved dead husband. The predictable part is that the husband, a brilliant but highly disturbed novelist, used his unusual imagination to create an alternative universe that affects other people. This obviously autobiographical theme, of the gifted writer imagining and sometimes escaping to imaginary worlds of his own creation, repeats throughout several of King's novels.

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