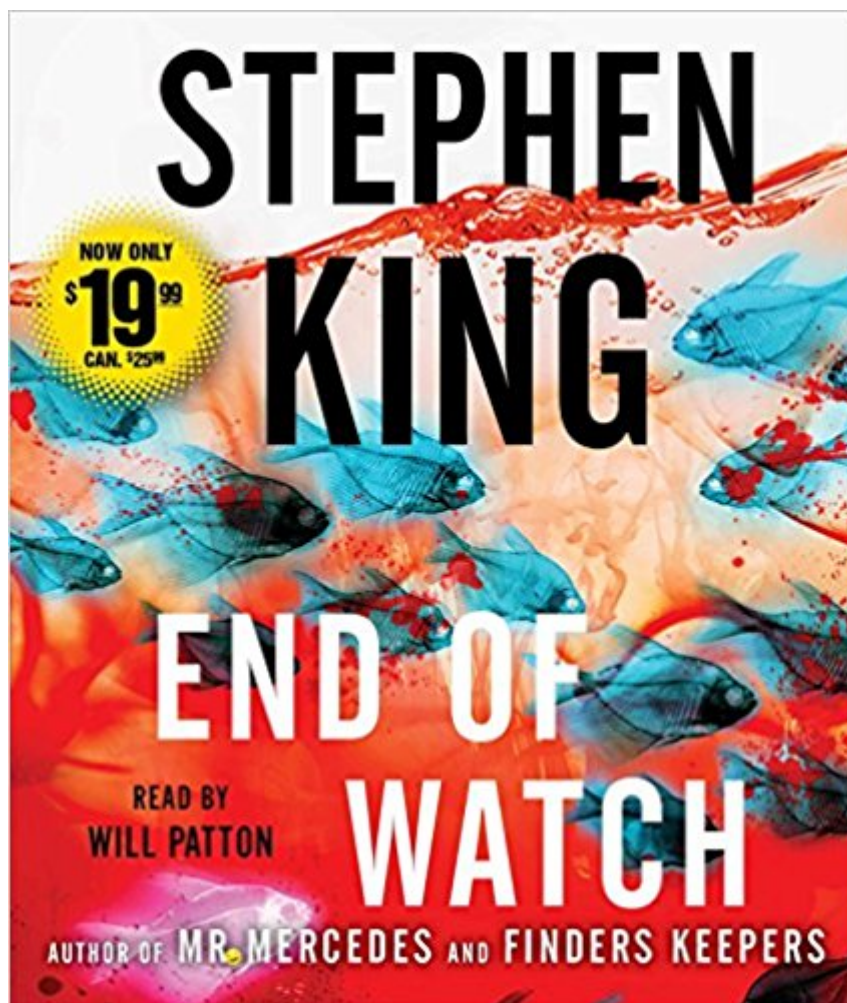




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End Of Watch: A Novel (Hodges)



Synopsis

Now in Encore! The fabulously suspenseful and “smashing” (The New York Times Book Review) final novel in the Bill Hodges trilogy from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Mr. Mercedes* and *Finders Keepers*! For nearly six years, in Room 217 of the Lakes Region Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic, Brady Hartsfield has been in a persistent vegetative state. A complete recovery seems unlikely for the insane perpetrator of the “Mercedes Massacre,” in which eight people were killed and many more maimed for life. But behind the vacant stare, Brady is very much awake and aware, having been pumped full of experimental drugs—scheming, biding his time as he trains himself to take full advantage of the deadly new powers that allow him to wreak unimaginable havoc without ever leaving his hospital room. Brady Hartsfield is about to embark on a new reign of terror against thousands of innocents, hell-bent on taking revenge against anyone who crossed his path—with retired police detective Bill Hodges at the very top of that long list.

Book Information

Series: Hodges

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Unabridged edition (March 28, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1508229538

ISBN-13: 978-1508229537

Product Dimensions: 5 x 1.2 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3,517 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #344,653 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in *Books > Books on CD >*

Authors, A-Z > (K) > King, Stephen #22 in *Books > Books on CD > Horror* #730

in *Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > General*

Customer Reviews

An Best Book of June 2016: It has been seven years since the Mercedes Killer, Brady Hartsfield, was knocked on the head and put into a catatonic state. But now he's awake, even if people haven't quite been clued into that fact, and he's got a score to settle. His ultimate quarry is the detective Bill Hodges, and as Brady gains his faculties—as well as some new paranormal skills (telekinesis anyone?)—people start committing suicide at a mysterious and alarming rate.

King hits his sweet spot in this final episode of the Bill Hodges Trilogy, introducing his talent for horror into a storyline that already has featured some great detective writing. The result is a book that mixes revenge, crime, and otherworldly powers, bringing the trilogy to a thrilling, satisfying close. --Chris Schluep, The Book Review --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for Finders Keepers – “Stephen King’s superb new stay-up-all-night thriller, Finders Keepers, is a sly, often poignant tale of literary obsession that recalls the themes of his classic 1987 novel Misery – a love letter to the joys of reading and to American literature – | wonderful, scary, moving.” (Elizabeth Hand, The Washington Post) – “As in Misery and The Shining, King swan dives into the looniness lurking at both ends of the writer-reader transaction – the narrative hums and roars along like a high-performance vehicle – a rip-snorting entertainment; one that also works as a sneaky-smart satire of literary criticism and how even the most attentive readers can often miss the whole point.” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) “The new book is so good, being at least mildly obsessed with it is understandable. The finest thing about it, however, is that the author has another story to tell before the finale of this excellent series.” (USA Today) Praise for Mr. Mercedes “Classic Stephen King. Creepy, yet realistic characters that get under your skin and stay there, a compelling story that twists and turns at breakneck speed, and delightful prose that, once again, proves that one of America’s greatest natural storytellers is also one of its finest writers.” (Associated Press) – “Think of Mr. Mercedes as an AC/DC song: uncluttered, chugging with momentum, and a lot harder to pull off than it looks. . . . King has written a hot rod of a novel, perfect for a few summer days at the pool. Mercedes-Benz commands drivers to demand – the best or nothing.” In pop-fiction terms, that motto still applies to Stephen King, too. With apologies to AC/DC, the highway to hell never felt so fun.” (Christian Science Monitor) – “A taut, suspenseful race-against-time book . . . [King is] in reliably fine form.” (The New York Times) – “No one can create a villain quite like King. . . . [A]ll the elements come together in a very public, potentially explosive finale (with a surprising post script). King fans may find themselves furiously turning pages long into the night.” (Seattle Times) Praise for End of Watch – “King has dealt before with this novel’s different themes – endowment with dangerous supernatural powers, the zombifying effect of modern consumer electronics – but he finds fresh approaches to them and inventive ways to introduce them in the lives of his recurring cast of sympathetic characters, whose pains and triumphs the reader feels. King’s legion of fans will find this splice of mystery and horror a fitting finale to his Bill

Hodges trilogy. (Publishers Weekly, STARRED review) "[A] tense, thrilling conclusion to King's Bill Hodges trilogy. One would assume that a writer like King, who has been at the top of his game for decades, would eventually run out of ideas. Instead, he serves up one of the most original crime thrillers to come along in years. A spectacular, pulse-pounding, read-in-one-sitting wrap-up that will more than satisfy King's Constant Readers. (Library Journal, STARRED review) "Few of King's myriad terrors feel as visceral and close to home as the sense of human mortality that looms over his new book, *End of Watch* an undeniable page-turner. Throughout his tale, King nimbly pulls together numerous plot threads and characters and for good measure throws in a final nail-biting chase through a blizzard. One finishes this novel feeling great empathy for its resolute protagonist, and even greater trepidation about that next round of Candy Crush. (Elizabeth Hand, *The Washington Post*) "A deliciously savory conclusion to King's phenomenal hard-boiled Mr. Mercedes trilogy gripping as strong a King series as *The Dark Tower* in terms of characterization and pure storytelling. When it comes to the gumshoe genre, though, fingers crossed King's not yet closed for business. (Brian Truitt, *USA Today*) "King works his customary storytelling magic, unspooling the plot threads almost as quickly as readers can turn the pages. If you're wrapping up the trilogy, enjoy. If you're just getting started, you're in for a thrilling ride. (Rob Merrill, *The Associated Press*) "Keeps readers on edge... King stitches together threads from these events to weave a taut conclusion to the tale of Brady Hartsfield. But and with King you never know he does leave open the chance that some of the characters will be back. Because in Stephen King's world, is anyone ever really gone for good? (Amanda St. Amand, *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*) "A satisfying conclusion to this crackerjack detective series. As the book's title suggests, there is finality and loss in the final pages. Readers may find themselves wiping away a few tears as this well-written, involving series comes to an end. (Doug Knoop, *The Seattle Times*) "Outstanding. End of *Watch* gives us King at the height of his powers. Masterfully plotted, the novel is propelled toward its page-blurring conclusion by two deadly forces: Hodges' advancing disease and Brady's relentless murderous impulse. (John Wilwol, *Newsday*) "The book leaves a surprisingly deep, melancholy mark, crystallizing the themes that have become prevalent in King's recent work... End of *Watch* hurtles toward a conclusion you anticipate and dread in equal measure that wonderful, terrible anxiety King's constant readers have been relishing for

more than four decades now. He's not done with you yet, reads an ominous message Hodges receives on his computer in *End of Watch*. We're lucky. King isn't done with us either. (Rene Rodriguez, The Miami Herald) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

What can I say? He's the man! No matter how implausible a premise, King can somehow make it believable. He has an uncanny knack for getting into the details and having the story fall into place, and his incredible imagination will take you places other authors cannot. This is the last of stories in the Hodges trilogy and a worthy ending it is. (Strongly suggest you read the previous two first rather than treating this as a stand-alone - the context will make this one have a lot more impact.)A bit over-written in places as much of his work is but a great book to get lost in!

A decent end to this series. It almost made book two seem out of place with a weak link to the first, but a good stand alone story and a vehicle to develop the Hodges Gibney Robinson trio. Assuming he cared to, another Robinson Gibney story would be welcome. They are well drawn characters in the King universe but it seems as if their story or stories are still unfinished. Hartsfield however is three dimensional and has a creepy enough connection to reality to up the menace just enough. He is right up there with the best King's villains. it might have been better if his growing threat had been a subplot or at least hinted at in book two to have given the three stories a more coherent connection but no doubt some readers would have felt cheated having to wait for this one to wind out the story. Which we had to do anyway. Damon you King and your Hartsfield like hold on your "dear readers". Is this Kindle sending blue flashes out?

I love Stephen King books!! I started out reading his books from the beginning with Carrie. The three books in this series are so good and I love the build up. I believe that anyone who reads all 3 are going to grow with the characters just as I have. I was so wrapped up in these books that during this one I laughed cried, loved, cried, was shocked, angry and all of those plus the cry/happy feeling. His books have always been the best, to me.

Another winner from Stephen King, and a great final entry in this trilogy. King remains the quintessential storyteller. Whether he's illuminating the everydayness of life or its frightening dark corners, we can see the events unfolding on the pages in our minds' eyes. We feel every emotion of every character, and we discover their insights as they do. I've been reading King since he began

writing. With very few exceptions I've devoured every story and book, and always been hungry for more. End of Watch was everything I wanted. I will miss Hodges, but he left us as he had to. And Brady Hartsfield was the perfect vehicle for evil in the world, and the perfect foil for Hodges' smarts and skill. The only thing I might have liked would have been to know that there was still a tiny smoldering ember of Brady left floating in the dark, maybe even inside Hodges as he suffered, suffering as well, and trapped and doomed just like Hodges. But that didn't fit with the finality of the trilogy, and probably wouldn't have allowed us to appreciate Hodges as we do. For every person in pain who has wondered whether taking their life was a workable alternative, King shows us how frighteningly easy it is to make the decision, and how brave the survivors become. The influence of the Internet combined with Hartsfield's evil and his doctor's hubris makes us wonder why people don't opt for suicide more often today. But Stephen King helps us explore the options in his writing, and show us why it's so important to reach out and protect the people who are considering their options. Hartsfield's evil brings the scary possibilities to light while Hodges' perseverance shines a wiser light on them and points to a better possibility. Stephen King remains a great American writer. End of Watch shows us why he does.

If you are already a fan of Stephen King, with his intricate detail, complicated characters, and thrilling, sometimes even a little too raw, plots... You will not be disappointed. I was a little hesitant about a Trilogy, but I was pleasantly surprised. I started the first book, couldn't put it down, and flew through the series in just a few days. Another great story by King. You won't be disappointed.

Be sure you have read the first 2 books in the Trilogy. If it has been a while since you read the first 2 books I suggest a reread. It will help. The plot thickens quickly. It does not take more than a few pages to be hooked. Will Patton did a great job reading the book. As with any audio book the artist can make or break it. Will Patton does an excellent job. King at his best.

This is an odd novel. It is clearly the least of the three. Very little happens, characters aren't developed, and literally half the novel is spent talking about zappits and pink fishies. Jerome is underused, Holly is more annoying than ever, and Brady suffers from Kong's seeming inability to make a villain seem threatening. But... What an ending! Brady's finale is both ironic and poetic, giving real meaning to the "suicide king" and Hodges "End of Watch" is poignant and heartfelt (if slightly brief). Definitely finish the series if you've read the first two, just don't expect a tremendous opening or middle.

Anyone who loves Stephen King's writing will not be disappointed. As only he can do, King takes preposterous liberties with reality and yet makes it all work. His character development is thorough bringing each actor to life infused with realism. I hated to see the trilogy end; hopefully there will another around the next bend. Thanks and keep writing SK!

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