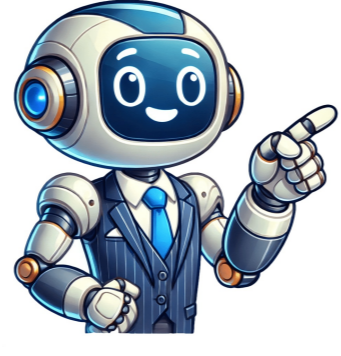


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The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. The Long Walk is a dystopian horror novel written by Stephen King under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. The novel was first published in 1979, and it is a story about a group of young boys who are forced to participate in a deadly race. The boys must walk continuously without stopping, and if they do, they are eliminated from the race. The last boy standing is declared the winner and is granted any wish he desires. The novel is set in a future dystopian America that is ruled by a totalitarian government. The government uses the Long Walk as a means of controlling the population and maintaining order. The Long Walk is an allegory for life, and it explores themes such as the value of life, the importance of perseverance, and the consequences of giving up. The novel is a thought-provoking read that will leave readers questioning their own values and beliefs. Overview of The Long Walk The Long Walk by Stephen King (as Richard Bachman) is a dystopian horror novel that tells the story of a future America where a cruel annual contest is held. The contest, called The Long Walk, involves 100 teenage boys who must walk continuously until only one is left standing. The last boy standing is awarded a prize of anything he desires for the rest of his life. The novel is set in a bleak future where America is ruled by a totalitarian government that uses the contest as a means of controlling the population. The contest is televised, and the public is encouraged to watch the boys suffer and die. The story follows the protagonist, Ray Garraty, as he participates in the contest and struggles to survive. The Long Walk is a powerful allegory that explores themes of power, control, and the human condition. It is a haunting and thought-provoking novel that will leave readers questioning the nature of humanity and the society we live in. Stephen King as Richard Bachman Stephen King, one of the most renowned authors of our time, has used the pseudonym Richard Bachman to publish several of his works. The Long Walk, one of Bachmans most famous novels, was originally published in 1979. King used the pseudonym to avoid overexposure and to experiment with different writing styles. Kings decision to use a pseudonym was initially motivated by his publishers reluctance to release more than one book per year under his name. However, King soon realized that writing under a different name would allow him to explore different genres and writing styles without being constrained by his established reputation. The Bachman persona allowed King to experiment with darker and more disturbing themes that were not typically associated with his name. 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The novel portrays the human mind as a fragile entity that can be pushed to its limits in the face of extreme stress and pressure. The walkers are forced to confront their deepest fears and desires as they struggle to stay alive, leading to a profound exploration of the human psyche. Political Critique The Long Walk can also be seen as a political critique of authoritarian regimes that use fear and violence to maintain power. The government in the novel uses the competition as a means of controlling the population, forcing young boys to risk their lives for the entertainment of the masses. This theme is particularly relevant in todays political climate, where many governments around the world use fear as a tool to maintain their grip on power. Character Analysis Garraty Garraty is the protagonist of the novel and the one who receives the most attention from King. He is a complex character, who is initially portrayed as a naive and innocent teenager. 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No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. edit descriptions of this character edit descriptions of this character The Long Walk is a dystopian horror novel written by Stephen King under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. The novel was first published in 1979, and it is a story about a group of young boys who are forced to participate in a deadly race. The boys must walk continuously without stopping, and if they do, they are eliminated from the race. 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Genres Horror Fiction Dystopia Thriller Science Fiction Audiobook Fantasy 8072 people are currently reading 153960 people want to read This is a Stephen King pseudonym. At the beginning of Stephen King's career, the general view among publishers was that an author was limited to one book per year, since publishing more would be unacceptable to the public. King therefore wanted to write under another name, in order to increase his publication without over-saturating the market for the King "brand". He convinced his publisher, Signet Books, to print these novels under a pseudonym. In his introduction to The Bachman Books, King states that adopting the nom de plume Bachman was also an attempt to make sense out of his career and try to answer the question of whether his success was due to talent or luck. He says he deliberately released the Bachman novels with as little marketing presence as possible and did his best to "load the dice against" Bachman. King concludes that he has yet to find an answer to the "talent versus luck" question, as he felt he was outed as Bachman too early to know. The Bachman book Thinner (1984) sold 28,000 copies during its initial run and then ten times as many when it was revealed that Bachman was, in fact, King. The pseudonym King originally selected (Gus Pillsbury) is King's maternal grandfather's name, but at the last moment King changed it to Richard Bachman. Richard is a tribute to crime author Donald E. Westlake's long-running pseudonym Richard Stark. (The surname Stark was later used in King's novel The Dark Half, in which an author's malevolent pseudonym, "George Stark", comes to life.) Bachman was inspired by Bachman Turner Overdrive, a rock and roll band King was listening to at the time his publisher asked him to choose a pseudonym on the spot. King provided biographical details for Bachman, initially in the "about the author" blurbs in the early novels. Known "facts" about Bachman were that he was born in New York, served a four-year stint in the Coast Guard, which he then followed with ten years in the merchant marine. Bachman finally settled down in rural central New Hampshire, where he ran a medium-sized dairy farm, writing at night. His fifth novel was dedicated to his wife, Claudia Inez Bachman, who also received credit for the bogus author photo on the book jacket. Other "facts" about the author were revealed in publicity dispatches from Bachman's publishers: the Bachmans had one child, a boy, who died in an unfortunate, Stephen King-ish type accident at the age of six, when he fell through a wall and drowned. In 1982, a brain tumour was discovered near the base of Bachman's brain; tricky surgery removed it. After Bachman's true identity was revealed, later publicity dispatches (and about the author blurbs) revealed that Bachman died suddenly in late 1985 of "cancer of the pseudonym, a rare form of schizophrenia". King dedicated Bachman's early books Rage (1977), The Long Walk (1979), Roadwork (1981), and The Running Man (1982) to people close to him. The link between King and his shadow writer was exposed after a Washington, D.C. bookstore clerk, Steve Brown, noted similarities between the writing styles of King and Bachman. Brown located publisher's records at the Library of Congress which included a document naming King as the author of one of Bachman's novels. Brown wrote to King's publishers with a copy of the documents he had uncovered, and asked them what to do. Two weeks later, King telephoned Brown personally and suggested he write an article about how he discovered the truth, allowing himself to be interviewed. King has taken full ownership of the Bachman name on numerous occasions, as with the republication of the first four Bachman titles as The Bachman Books: Four Early Novels by Stephen King in 1985. The introduction, titled "Why I Was Bachman," details the whole Bachman/King story. Source: 1 - 30 of 15,416 reviews February 28, 2012 If this book does not make you feel physical pain, I don't know what will. This isn't a book about killer clowns or haunted hotels. It's not a Hunger Games type of book, despite the "game show" element of the Long Walk, nor is it a world attached to any tower, Dale or not. This book is in-your-face and physical, while simultaneously never losing that dreamy, philosophical quality of existential fiction. The premise of the book is very simple: Every year, 100 boys enter a contest called the Long Walk, and the winner gets all his heart desires. Each contestant has to maintain a pace of 4 miles per hour or more, or else he gets a warning. If the boy who gets the warning can keep walking 4 miles per hour or faster for the next hour, the warning is revoked. However, if the boy collects three warnings, the next time he slows down, he's shot in the head and out of the game. I love this book, but it's really hard to communicate what I think it's trying to relate. As I'm writing this review, I'm desperately trying to organize my jumbled thoughts. The best I could do is to divide the book into two sections that broadly describe which parts of this book stood out to me the most: The Deeper Meaning (as I see it) & How it's Done and The People. The Deeper Meaning (as I see it) & How It's Done The physical aspect of the journey immediately comes to the spotlight. You think you can outwalk 99 boys? Well, despite the 100% chance of someone actually doing it, you're 99% going to be the one to die either from exhaustion or carelessness. The story's downward spiral from the optimism of the first 10 hours to the torturous hell that is the last 10 hours is slow, relentless, and ultimately certain. Some of the boys' death were incredibly cringe worthy, not because their death was bizarre or fantastic, but because it's so damn relatable. I can't relate to a woman running away from her ghost-possessed husband as much as I can imagine my legs giving out after hours of walking in my own blood and pus. But what's extraordinary about this novel is despite its physicality and its real grit, it's very spiritual and contemplative. Ultimately, this book questions what it means to live through the eyes of one boy (and 99 others) who are walking right into the arms of death. As the boys break down physically, their minds deconstruct past the point of madness until they become lifeless, soulless automatons. I think it's at this point, when the boys are broken beyond exhaustion, that King really questions the value of life in the midst of such suffering, and how we push beyond sanity to sustain life. King doesn't point at authority or paternal figures to place blame on how extraordinary and torturous this desire to live can be. It's the walker who chooses to go on the Long Walk that, in the end, leads to death, no matter what we do. And life isn't nice. It won't slow down for you. Got blisters on your feet? Tough. Can't climb that hill after walking +24 hours? You'd better. Got to take a shit? If it takes longer than three warnings, you're going to die with your pants around your ankles. It seems, in this light, that life is much crueler than death. The People Ah, the other great part about this book--and what makes this book so amazing! Unlike many of King's works, this book is not atmospheric. With the exception of comments about the weather and the terrain (obvious factors to consider when walking quite literally until death), the entire narrative is solely focused on the Long Walk itself and the people who are a part of it. I was hesitant to shelf this book under "dystopian" because I don't really know if it's a dystopia. All I know is that the Major, whoever he is, seems to be in charge (how much, I don't know) and the Long Walk is something celebrated by everyone who doesn't partake in it. All we get to know is Garraty, the main character in the story, and the other boys he meets in the Long Walk. None of these characters are forgettable. Garraty, McVries, and even Barkovitch are some of the most developed, fleshed out characters that I've had the pleasure of reading. The boys' interactions, teetering between the desire for the other to die and genuine camaraderie, were incredibly complex and touching. Whenever I read about a gunshot, I desperately hoped that it wasn't one of the boys that I knew because they were so real and likeable. Amid the hardship and torture, something about this book was very sincere, and despite what King may have intended, characters like McVries and Garraty made the journey extraordinarily...enjoyable, if not more emotionally painful. This book is something that will always remain in my mind. Not only was the writing engaging and visceral, but it struck a chord deep within me. Some people may not enjoy the book. It's raw, painful, and depressing. But on the other hand, it challenges, breaks, and strips bare the human soul, and ultimately the sympathy such an act invokes is an intense experience. 5.0 stars and highly recommended! 6-plus stars all-time favorites apocadystopia Emily (Books with Emily Fox on YouTube) February 6, 2010 (4.5) Every time someone asks me which Stephen King book I would recommend, I mention this one. After reading quite a few of his books, it's still my favorite! The downward spiral into madness and overall despair were very well written. Reading this book literally made my body ache. I do wish there were a few more details about the world, how the long walk came about, etc. The ending wasn't fully satisfying, as seem to be most endings for SK, but I enjoyed the book anyway. favorites mystery-thriller-horror May 31, 2019 Updated Review - Re-read May 2019 Have you ever been watching a movie in the middle of summer that takes place in the middle of a very cold winter? Even though it is 90 degrees outside you start to feel like you need to bundle up under a blanket. That happened to me with the movie The Day After Tomorrow. I had a similar response to The Long Walk. As I read, I could feel the exhaustion and I was waiting for my legs to cramp. When you can truly feel a book deep in your muscles and bones, you know it is a good one! My audio re-read of The Long Walk in May of 2019 marks the 3rd or 4th time I have read it. It has always been one of my favorite dystopian novels and I have enjoyed it every single time. Long before the dystopian government in America (Panem) made Katniss battle it out in the Hunger Games, Ray Garraty was dragging his feet across the hot macadam of the backroads and turnpikes of Maine. All for what you ask? The honor of participating in the oppressive government's premier event, the entertainment of the people, and the always elusive fulfillment of all your heart's desires. A few people that I recommended this to before didn't care for it, but it is definitely one of my top five favorite of King's - and my favorite of his Bachman books. Such great storytelling, character building, suspense, and dark narrative. I have just always been so awed by this book and how much it has pulled me in over and over again and won't let go! Read this! But, you may want to avoid it if you are getting ready for a marathon or a big hike! ORIGINAL REVIEW This is one of my favorite King books: Suspenseful, unique, and all too possible. It is one of the few books that I have read more than once. Highly recommended for someone looking for a good place to start with King. 2019 audio favorites August 30, 2020 These shoes are made for death walks and that's where the characters go just one of these pairs of shoes is gonna walk home living too. The true darkness comes with the historic real life example that come to mind while and after reading this work, as it was, is, and will be a trend to kill people with death marches as special kind of psychological torture, as the victims have to watch their friends and family being killed one after another by the guards or sport fans next to the death race track. Following the sick rules of war and human mentality, it's a perfect method to show both the enemy and the own population who is boss, as the immense suffering and agony of the moribund are the easiest and cheapest marketing for ones dictatorship. Citizens will shiver and dont dare to protest, enemy soldiers will be demotivated before even entering the country, just perfect. With future medicine or even just normal, good medical support for the victims it could become an endless circle of pain to show who owns the country, continent, and finally the world, not to forget the irony of giving the best cures and drugs to people who are determined to die, wasting it that way, and very probably not giving free general health insurance to the own population adds another layer of perversion and a very real innuendo to the mix. It could be used for the marketing of different products, sponsors for the victims, and a huge tourism and entertainment industry around it too, with different routes all through the evil world dominating empire, with different topics, logos, single sponsors, including all kind of Hunger Games elements, varying difficulty levels, terrains, climate zones, rules how victims can or cant kill another or the audience and guards, if the audience can freely or for high fees take part in the fun, different groups of victims selected by age, gender, or race, for instance just young white men for groups who are into that, etc. The options, both for propaganda and deterrent, are manifold. Did I mention casting shows or the good old fashioned random selection with stylish, music video like, bada bing, reality TV satirizing elements? Not sure how much of it is already out there in the newer fantasy and young adult genre, as I am sticking on the classic Sci-Fi and fantasy authors (I am old) I am used to read, like the blood on the festering soles of the feet of the road runners, beep, beep. King said about one of his novels, I am not sure if its this one or The running man he wrote under the pseudonym Richard Bachmann too, that he wrote it in 2 or 3 weeks (if it was already part of the dawn process of his cocaine multi drug use phase that would explain it) and the astonishing thing is that one doesnt notice that fact, as its perfect, easy going entertainment others may need years to write or even never be able to write it. And he is just like Hold my beer, coming back soon later, Theres your novel, style! I am a bit missing the metatplot, big scene, worldbuilding element in many of Kings new works, where there is paranormal activity always spooking around, but nothing compared to his older novels or the Dark towers series, which is a shame, as he was brilliant at creating big pictures in combination with the amazing characters too. Tropes show how literature is conceptualized and created and which mixture of elements makes works and genres unique: 21, 2018 "They walked through the rainy dark like gaunt ghosts, and Garraty didn't like to look at them. They were the walking dead." On the first day of May each year, one hundred boys will take part in "The Long Walk". Breaking the rules results in warnings. More than three warnings and you'll get your ticket and you're out of the race. I've felt for quite a while now that my top 10 Kings are pretty solid - before reading this I had about 13 or 14 left to read and none of them really seem like possible contenders (apart from maybe The Green Mile). In particular, I never thought a goddamn Bachman book would break the top 10 (we have a rocky relationship me and Bachman). And yet here we are! The Long Walk didn't just break into the top 10, but the top 5! From the outset I thought The Long Walk would just be another dystopian novel (I say "another" quite loosely as surely this was one of the first?), but boy was I wrong. Below the surface, this book touches upon so many different themes and topics, like mortality, identity, friendship, and countless others. If you've followed my King journey you'll know that I'm a huge fan of the books in which King tackles death, grief, loss and mortality. That's kinda my wheelhouse. All of these rank in my top 10: Pet Sematary, Duma Key, Lisey's Story, Bag of Bones and stories like The Woman in the Room and The Last Run on the Ladder (both of these appear in Night Shift, which is also on the list). The Long Walk is heavy on both mortality and death. King started writing this when he was eighteen. EIGHTEEN. And yet this will surpass many of the books I read in my lifetime. I'm not sure how much editing was done between his first draft and when it was actually released, but either way, this is a fascinating idea for a book. Only King could make the story of one hundred boys walking down a road so fucking nail-biting and engrossing. It is dripping with tension and dread. My heart would be racing in my chest - when some of those boys stumbled I would be screaming "GET UP!" in my head! So many King books have had an impact on me, but this has been one of the most impressive. When I wasn't reading it, I was thinking about it or talking about it. I almost wanted to stop strangers in the street and tell them all about the amazing book I was reading. I had to settle for telling my boyfriend all about it instead - but even then he was kinda like "So?" *shrugs* and that's the thing. The plot sounds interesting, yes, but it's the immersive experience you have when reading this one that really sticks with you. It's the characters you get to know. It's the looming black cloud of death that hangs over these boys. I cried on countless occasions during this read - death is a very real fear for me, and when I think of what these boys must have been going through, it got to be too much at times. As for the characters themselves, King has written them all in such a way that they're very individual, with their own personalities and traits. McVries in particular stands out for me. You get the impression he may not have been the best person in the world before this experience, but he becomes a really decent guy throughout the walk, he becomes someone for our main protagonist, Garraty, to lean on. I love McVries