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Stephen King

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The chilling novella featured in Stephen King's *New York Times* bestselling short story collection *Full Dark, No Stars*—soon to be a Netflix original film starring Thomas Jane and Molly Parker.

A violence awakens inside a man when his wife proposes selling off the family homestead, setting in motion a grisly train of murder and madness.

1922 Details

Date : Published October 13th 2017 by Scribner (first published November 9th 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Stephen King

Format : Kindle Edition 135 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Short Stories, Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review 1922 for online ebook

Kaytee (Flirting with Fiction) says

Very good story following a man losing his mind. Or is he?

Kourtney Bradley says

I accidentally/unknowing read 1922, because I thought it was sort of a part two to A Good Marriage. I kept reading to see how the two stories would tie in together. I kept waiting for a familiar name or scene that would link the two and it never came.

Wendy says

I wanted to read this before the movie on Netflix.
This man truly loved his land, his life but his wife, not so much.
It causes him to do something that he almost instantly regrets.
Will it cost him everything he has left? Read it and see...

AMEERA says

This really spooky short story ?'

Chance and his Goosie Scale says

I just knew this would be a supernatural read, but it's not (or at least I don't think it was). It's a much simpler storyline than I was expecting, but not in a bad way. I think I was expecting Children of the Corn type goosies, I don't know. This follows a 1922 farmer's fall from... grace? Hmmm, ok, not grace, but he falls anyway. And so. Many. Rats. O_o Anyway, I enjoyed it as an average thriller without too much going on.

Goosie Scale Rating: 3/10

This is another King read that just didn't have the goosie effect. It was eerie, but not enough to make my hair stand!

First Sentence Rating: 8/10

"To whom it may concern: My name is Wilfred Leland James, and this is my confession."

Ooooooooookayyyyy!!!! I see you! You can't read that sentence and not be interested. It's not complicated or deep at all, but it just wraps you up. And it definitely represents well the the mood for the rest of the book. Solid start, though it could have been a bit deeper.

Yahaira Hernandez says

A very Edgar Allan Poe story.

Max III says

Some of the finest writing he's ever done.

Helga says

4.5

“I believe that there is another man inside of every man, a stranger, a Conniving Man.”

This is a ghost story.

A dark, eerie and unsettling tale about greed, murder, guilt and comeuppance. It is a story about crime and punishment. It begins with a confession and it ends with...rats. Lots of rats! In a word, it is a typical King story!

Debbie says

I KNOW there are good rats. In fact, my kids had two very polite and cuddly rats, Lucy and Penelope. Oh how I loved to let them run up my sleeve. They tickled me (literally and figuratively) as they scurried up my arm! What we did for those cuties. Seriously, even VET visits, and more—which I'm just too embarrassed to confess, sorry. Those little scurry girls lived the life of Riley.

Well, I'll tell you this: Lucy and Penelope would not have had the privilege of living in our loving home had I read 1922 first! I know, I know, it's not fair. I can hear Lucy and Penelope screaming from their rat graves: Not All Rats Are Bad! I don't care—falls on deaf ears, Lucy and Penelope. I'm probably permanently damaged now, thanks to your kin. Those disgusting furry hoodlums whose favorite pastime is chewing and swallowing flesh are the stuff of nightmares.

Why in the hell did I read this story, you're probably wondering. Many of you know I don't do horror. The truth is, that hussy Kindle tricked me into it! It's a long story, which I outlined in excruciating detail in my review of A Good Marriage. At the risk of sounding like a total idiot, I'll confess that I thought 1922 was Part 2 of A Good Marriage. It really is Kindle's fault. By not saying upfront that there were two separate stories, my dear little Kindle insinuated that it was one big happy family. Oh, the scurrying I did, back and forth, back and forth, from screen to screen, fret fret, read again, search for people who were long gone. Who ARE these new people? Where did the people of A Good Marriage disappear to?

It wasn't until the first Gore on Steroids scene that I had the good sense to check Goodreads, where I discovered that 1922 is its own story and has absolutely nothing to do with A Good Marriage. The good news: I finished the story. The bad news: The pictures of rats chomping on a dead person, a live person, and

a cow's teat (no kidding!) are plastered onto the photo album in my head.

Meanwhile, that murder scene had me clicking pages with my eyes squeezed half shut, trying to ascertain if I was out of the gruesome killing in the bedroom and back in the farmhouse kitchen with people calmly drinking cups of java, no dead body in sight. Squint and click, squint and click, until I thought it was safe, that the last sickening details of blood and guts and the twisted dead body were truly gone.

You are surely wondering why I didn't just stop reading after I hit that first nasty patch of gore. Well, the story was good, damn good. And stupid me, I was hopeful that the gore quotient had been filled. No chance. The rats were a mere few pages away.

The narrator, Wilfred, murdered his wife and enlisted the help of his teenage son. (No spoiler here; this is all in the first sentence of the story.) Wilfred has a shitload of guilt and regret, and he murmurs a lot of If Onlys. He is persecuted by his wife's ghost (who may be in the form of the horrific rats that torture him); she messes with his head bigtime. As more and more disasters befall Wilfred, his sense of dread is palpable. This suspenseful story goes way beyond being a Crime Doesn't Pay tale. It's a great character study with good internal monologue. There's a far-out scene of the drunken mother describing sex (complete with hand gestures) to her teenage son. It's over-the-top inappropriate and vulgar—and I must admit, totally entertaining. King cleverly added this, I think, so we wouldn't feel sorry for her.

How to rate a book that you know is great (and will appeal to fans of horror) but turned you off with its huge doses of violence and gore? If I were a horror fan, I'd give it 5 stars. For me, the rats ate 5 and gnawed through 4, and left me with a half-digested 3.

Janet says

Good writing. Horrible story. I really wish I hadn't read it.

Ichar says

Stephen King is hands down the King of Horror! In all my years of reading horror, not to mention true crime books, in 1922 I have encountered the first ever time I had to put a book down and take a break to collect myself through a scene because it was so gruesome my mind just could not tolerate another word! What is more, I was actually afraid to take it up again.

Chris says

Now there's the Stephen King that I know and love.

I've been wanting to find a copy of Full Dark, No Stars for a while now - my amazing aunt snagged a water-damaged copy from a thrift store, and I've begun in earnest since finishing some bucket list reads.

I have not been disappointed. I think one thing that has always been dependable is King's short story game -

while he tends to get carried away with descriptive work in longer stories, he is far more concise and intuitive in his novellas.

1922 is old King, dark King, disturbing King. You can read a million stories about rats and be disgusted, but, with 1922, King will invade your dreams with them. I'm really surprised that this one is a recent story. I had thought that King was done with horror; I'm so relieved that he isn't!

1922 is a keeper. Recommended.

Edit: I need to stop posting reviews from my cell phone, and actually proofread my reviews before posting!

Brina says

„1922“ ist eine knapp einhundertneunzig Seiten lange Novelle, die in Deutschland in der Sammlung „Zwischen Nacht und Dunkel“ erschienen ist. Da ich schon viele Kurzgeschichten aus der „Story Selection“-Reihe von Stephen King gelesen habe, musste auch diese unbedingt auf meinem Reader landen und ich muss sagen, das mich der Autor wieder einmal überzeugen konnte.

Der Hauptgrund, um die Geschichte jetzt endlich zu lesen, war für mich die Tatsache, dass die Geschichte ab Oktober als Verfilmung auf Netflix zu sehen sein wird. Da ich die Verfilmungen von Stephen King bislang fast alle mochte, möchte ich dementsprechend vorbereitet sein, sodass die Geschichte für mich ein absolutes Muss ist.

Stephen King konnte dabei wieder einmal mit seinem grandiosen Schreibstil bei mir punkten: Stellenweise salopp, immer direkt, es wird nichts beschönigt und gleichzeitig kann man sich in nahezu jeden einzelnen Moment hineinversetzen, sodass „1922“ letztendlich sehr gut durchdacht wirkt. Dazu hat Stephen King hier einige sehr gruselige Momente geschaffen, die gut ausgearbeitet sind und durchaus für eine Gänsehaut sorgen können.

Erzählt wird hierbei die Geschichte der Familie James, die auf einer großen Farm lebt und diese sogar noch vergrößern möchte. Als Wilfrieds Frau Arlette jedoch andere Pläne hat und ihren Teil der Farm nicht nur verkaufen, sondern sogar in die Stadt ziehen möchte, brennen bei Wilfried sämtliche Sicherungen durch und er bringt seine Frau um. Sein Sohn Henry betrauert dabei allerdings nur wenig den Tod seiner Mutter, sondern hilft seinem Vater auch noch, die Leiche zu verstecken. Für Wilfried scheinen nach der Beseitigung der Leiche sämtliche Probleme gelöst zu sein, allerdings ändert sich dies schlagartig, als nicht nur der Sheriff Verdacht schöpft, sondern auch immer mehr unheimliche und mysteriöse Dinge auf der Farm geschehen...

Obwohl die Geschichte sicherlich manchmal schon fast zu vorhersehbar ist, konnte mich diese dennoch durchweg unterhalten und gruseln. Gleichzeitig gibt es hierbei auch einige Parallelen zu den Geschichten "Dolores" und "Nona", was mir sehr gefallen hat. Man muss zwar sagen, dass ich die Figuren hierbei nicht wirklich sympathisch fand, was jedoch auch aufgrund der Thematik nicht verwunderlich ist. Dafür wurden diese allesamt gut ausgearbeitet, sodass Stephen King hierbei wieder beste Arbeit geleistet hat.

Das Cover ist sehr schlicht, einfarbig und hebt lediglich den Namen des Autors und den Buchtitel hervor, was zwar kein Hingucker, aber dennoch in Ordnung ist. Die Kurzbeschreibung hat mich direkt angesprochen, denn diese liest sich so interessant, dass ich direkt mehr über die Familie James und deren Farm erfahren wollte.

Kurz gesagt: "1922" ist nicht nur eine unterhaltsame Geschichte mit interessanten Figuren, sondern auch eine

Geschichte, die mich durchweg gruseln konnte und mir immer wieder eine Gänsehaut beschert hat, sodass ich hier eine ganz besondere Geistergeschichte vorgefunden habe.

Andrew “The Weirdling” Glos says

In the late spring of 1922, Wilfred James has had just about enough of his wife Arlette. He coaxes their son to help him murder Arlette. What ensues is a tale of a father and his son’s ensuing mental, material, and spiritual decline. Oh, and rats. It’s also a tale of the ensuing rats.

This is one of those tales where Stephen King stays squarely within the mind of a protagonist who is clearly going insane. However, he is also sensing something that’s there too. However, you’re left wondering where Wilf’s insanity ends and reality begins. Wilf sort of wonders the same thing along with you.

Personally, I think King is at his strongest when he crafts characters and their interior lives. He is especially good when he chooses to describe someone’s descent into insanity. So, needless to say, this novella is King at his strongest.

Wilfred James is a seriously screwed up guy, who’s put himself in a position where he’s seriously screwed. How much of it is mental and how much of it is supernatural? Your guess, “constant reader”, is as good as mine.

The emphasis on rats and insanity have definite echoes of a Lovecraft story about rats and insanity. If there was any doubt, King even uses the adjective “eldritch” once to describe a rat. (Eldritch is now basically an authorial hashtag for “I know Lovecraft wrote something just like this once and I’m giving a nod to the master.”) There is something sort of nice about seeing King (whose authorial debts have all been paid at this point in his career) still writing checks to past masters.

Selene Matheson says

Spookathon 2017
October 16, 2017-October 22, 2017
A Thriller.

I found this novella online. I want to read Full Dark, No Stars now. Very creepy.
