



The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus

By Bev Vincent

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AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE DARK TOWER SERIES—INCLUDING BOOK-BY-BOOK ANALYSIS AND INSIGHT INTO STEPHEN KING'S CREATIVE PROCESS.

In 1970, Stephen King embarked on what would become the crowning achievement in his literary career—the Dark Tower. The seven-volume series, written and published over a period of 30 years, was inspired by Robert Browning's poem "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," as well as J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, and the spaghetti Westerns of Sergio Leone.

With the full cooperation of Stephen King himself, *The Road to the Dark Tower* examines the epic journey of the author to complete a story that threatened to overwhelm him. In this indispensable companion, Bev Vincent presents a book-by-book analysis of each volume in the series, tracing the Dark Tower's connections to King's other novels including *The Stand*, *Insomnia*, and *Hearts in Atlantis*, and offering insights from the author about the creative process involved in crafting his lifelong work—a work that has consumed not only Stephen King, but his legion of devoted readers. This is essential reading for any Dark Tower-or Stephen King-fan.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

How does one determine what the greatest work of an author's career is? The answer to this query, posed in the final pages of this book, can be found throughout Vincent's in-depth analysis of King's seven-volume Dark Tower epic (*The Gunslinger*, *The Drawing of the Three*, etc.). Making sense of a story that switches back and forth through time, across multiple universes, and involves the safety of a tower that represents the fate of all existence is no easy task. Kudos to Vincent for even trying. But readers beware—the work is analyzed in its entirety, so expect spoilers galore. Vincent—whose column on Stephen King, "News from the Dead Zone," appears in *Cemetery Dance* magazine—tracks the evolution of both King's three-decade avocation (the very first line was written in 1970) and the development of the saga's characters and plot. Most importantly, Vincent shows how the few members of gunslinger Roland's fellowship, recruited to help him protect the Tower, slowly evolve from reluctant participation to resolve about their leader's quest. Former cocaine addict Eddie, for example, puts his sarcasm and skepticism aside and learns to embrace the dream of his surrogate father. As Vincent writes, "If Roland were to die on their journey, Eddie would continue with the others, for having dreamt of the Tower and the field of roses, the compulsion to reach the Tower claims him, too." Vincent also devotes a full chapter to discussing some of King's other works that are related to the Dark Tower series, such as *Hearts in Atlantis* and *Insomnia*. In light of King's own admission that the Dark Tower epic is the nexus of all his books—"The Dark Tower finishes everything that I really wanted to say"—Vincent asserts, "What else, then, is a magnum opus if not something that both ties together and summarizes a person's life's work?" With this thorough analysis of King's epic, Vincent proves himself a master of the Dark Tower world.

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From [Booklist](#)

Vincent's expansive synopsis of horrrormeister King's Dark Tower saga arrives nipping the heels of its seventh and last volume, *The Dark Tower* [BKL S 1 04]. Besides recapping the epic itself, Vincent points out the most germane aspects of other King novels and stories that touch upon it, sketches its leading characters, notes influences on it, and discusses its creation and the layered, self-consciously reflexive concept (King himself is a character in it) that animates it. Appended are chronologies of the saga's writing and publishing and of events in its main setting, Mid-World, and in "Keystone Earth" (i.e., our reality from the 1950s on, but including the saga's characters' doings when, at various times, they enter it), a too-small Mid-World glossary, and the Robert Browning poem that initially inspired King. The large and perdurable King fandom should embrace Vincent's effort and spur him to correct misstatements about the *Odyssey* and Dante's *Commedia*, in particular, in the chapter on influences and explain the saga's many pop-cultural references (e.g., the Crimson King) in future editions. *Ray Olson*

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Review

"Wonderful...opens doors to Roland's world that not even I knew existed. If you like The Dark Tower books, you'll like this one. Enthusiastically recommended."—Stephen King

"Bev Vincent is a true King insider....His book is essential to every reader of Stephen King's magnificent work."—Peter Straub

"Vincent proves himself a master of the Dark Tower world."—*Publishers Weekly*

“An excellent and maybe even vital guide to King’s grand opus.”—*Locus*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Boris Hansen:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus*. Try to stumble through book *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus* as your friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Donald Scott:

This book untitled *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it via online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this publication from your list.

Phyllis Smith:

The reason? Because this *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus* is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Neil Nilsson:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our know-how for everything. By a book we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This book *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus* was filled regarding science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has different feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big

selling point of a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book you wanted.

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