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Four Last Midnight First Edition CoverAuthorStephen KingCover ArtistRob Wood-StansburyCountriesmound StatesLanguageEnglishGenreSupernatural FictionPublisherVikingPublication Date September 24, 1990Media typePrint (hardcover)Pages763ISBN978-0-670-83538-6 Caused by The Crew Of The Nightmares and Dreamscapes Four Past Midnight is a collection of short stories written by Stephen King in 1988 and 1989 and published in August 1990. This is his second book of this type, the first of which is Different Seasons. In 1990, the collection won the Bram Stoker Award for Best Collection and was nominated for the Locus Award in 1991. In the introduction, King says that while a collection of four short stories, such as Different Seasons, this book is more strictly terrifying with elements of the supernatural. The contents of the Four novels contained in the collection are described here: Langoliers This section is about the novel. For a TV miniseries, watch The Langoliers. The LangoliersAuthorStephen KingCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishGenre (s) dark fantasy Wikiquote has quotes related to: Four last midnight cross-country red eye flight from Los Angeles to Boston, ten passengers wake up to find that the crew and most of their fellow passengers have disappeared, leaving the airliner under autopilot control. They understand that only those who slept remained on the plane. Off-duty airline pilot Brian Engle takes control from an autopilot and lands a plane in Bangor, Maine, despite protests from the petulant Craig Toomey, who is obsessed with going to Boston. Upon arrival, they find the airport abandoned with no signs of life. Hearing an approaching sound similar to a radio static, the group agrees to leave before he arrives. Based on the belief that they have flown through time to rip into the past, and that flying back to rip will return them in due course, passengers work together to reluel the plane as the noise gets louder. Having lost touch with reality, Craig finds that other manifestations of Langoliers, monsters his now late father described when Craig was a child, chasing and devouring those who are lazy and wasting time. He strikes Dine, a young blind girl with mental abilities, and kills Don Gaffy before being subdued. Dina insists that Craig should not be killed because the group needs him alive. While the plane is in the last preparations for departure from Bangor, Dina telepathically communicates with Craig and convinces him that an important board meeting is taking place on the runway. Craig hallucinates arriving at the meeting and even encounters his fear of his father's frustration. Then come hundreds of monsters floating spheres with a chainsaw-like teeth that leave traces of black land in their path. They initially head to the plane, but Craig's presence on the runway (which also leads to them erasing Craig) distracts them long to allow Engle to start the plane. How they are they in the west, passengers watch as the rest of the ground below falls into a shapeless black void. Bob Jenkins, a mystery writer, suggests the idea that the goal of the Langoliers is to clean up what's left of the past by eating it. Dina succumbs to her trauma and other characters realize that the trip through the rip has allowed them to come to terms with their regrets. Because they have to sleep to survive the rip again, another passenger, Nick Hopewell, who carries a particularly guilty conscience, volunteers fly the plane through, knowing that it will cost him his life. The cabin pressure drops and everyone falls into a deep sleep, except for Nick, who wears an emergency oxygen mask. He flies the plane through a rip and, seconds after restoring the cockpit pressure to revive the others, he disappears. Survivors wake up unharmed, except for noses caused by falling air pressure. It would seem that nothing has changed: the world below shows no signs of life. The plane lands in desert Los Angeles. Infer suggesting that now the time rift has brought them a short distance into the future, the group takes refuge from the wall to avoid the human traffic of the airport and wait for the present to catch up with them. The wave of rising noise and movement strikes them, and they are back in the present. The television adaptation of The Langoliers was adapted for a two-act television movie in 1994. TV stars Kate Maberly, Kimber Riddle, Patricia Wettig, Mark Lindsay Chapman, Frankie Faison, Baxter Harris, Dean Stockwell, David Morse, Christopher Collette, and Bronson Pinchot. The Langoliers film version, released for broadcast on ABC-TV, was filmed almost exclusively at Bangor International Airport in Bangor, Maine (where author Stephen King went to college) in the summer of 1994. King himself, echoing Alfred Hitchcock's famous cameos, starred in the film as Craig Toomey's boss during Toomey's hallucination. Secret Box, Secret Garden Secret Window, Secret GardenAuthorStifen KingGenre (s) Horror, Thriller Secret Box, Secret Garden similar to King's previous novel The Dark Half. Both are about the authors who are thinly veiled analogues of King-Ted Beaumont himself in the Dark Half and Mort Rainey in the secret window, Secret Garden. The plot of Mort Rainey is a successful writer in Maine. One day, he encounters a man from Mississippi named John Shooter, who claims Mort plagiarized the story he wrote. Mort vehemently denies ever plagiarizing anything. The shooter leaves, but not before leaving his manuscript The Secret Window, a secret garden. Mort throws the manuscript in the trash. When Mort's maid restores the manuscript, thinking it belongs to Mort, he finally reads Arrow's story, discovering that it is almost identical to his story, The Sowing Season. The only differences are the name, the name of the character, the diction and the ending. Mort is concerned about these. The shooter returns in a few days. After learning that The Sowing Season was published two years before the shooter claimed to have written The Secret Box, Secret Garden, Mort confronted Shooter with this information. The furious Shooter accuses Mort of lying and demands proof, giving Mort three days to show him his published story. At night, he kills Mort's cat and burns down the house of Mort's ex-wife, which published the issue of the magazine, which published the Sowing Season. Mort orders a new copy of the magazine. He also asks his caretaker Greg Carstersse to tail the shooter and talk to a man named Tom Greenleaf, who drove past Mort and the shooter. The shooter, angry that Mort is taking other people into their business, kills both men and factories, evidence, framing Mort for the murders. After receiving the log and returning home, Mort discovers that the Sowing season has been removed. Mort realizes that John Shooter is actually his own divided personality. Mort created Shooter out of guilt for stealing a story early in his career called crowfoot Mile and was recently suspected of another act of plagiarism, although he was innocent a second time. Tom did not see Arrow while driving, he saw Mort, by himself. Mort realizes that he burned down his own house, killed his own cat and killed two people. He's got it. Fifteen minutes later he wakes up, only to hear who he believes the shooter is pulling into his driveway. Desperate to get any signs of his own sanity, he runs out on the street only to find his ex-wife Amy. Devastated, he loses control of his body and mind in front of the Arrow. Amy discovers that Mort has gone mad by writing the word Shooter all over the house. She goes to Mort's office, where the shooter tries to kill her in an ambush. She manages to escape. The shooter chasing Amy outside is shot dead by her insurance agent. Mort becomes himself again, turns to Amy and dies. Amy and Ted Milner - a man with whom she had an affair before divorcing Mort - discuss their ex-husband's motives. She insists that Mort became two people, one of whom was such a bright character that it became a reality. She then recalls something Tom witnessed when he drove past Mort alone, he saw Arrow and Mort in the rearview mirror, but the shooter was transparent. Amy then reveals that while digging into Mort's house, she found Arrow's signature hat. She left it on the right side of the trash bag. When she returned, she found a note from Arrow inside an upturned hat, showing that he had gone back to Mississippi with a story he had come for the Crowfoot Mile. Amy notes that Mort created a character so vivid that it's actually about life. In 2004, an adaptation of The Secret Box was filmed with Johnny Depp, John Turturro, Maria Bello and Timothy Hutton in the lead roles. The storyline of the film differs from the plot of the novel, primarily in their Endings. In the film, Mort kills his wife and her lover, while in the novel he is killed before he has a chance to do so. In B a few months later it is revealed that Mort was growing corn in his wife's garden, where it is implied that he buried her and her lover, thereby removing all evidence that he had killed them. Another difference is the titles of the stories: in the film Mort Rainey wrote a story called The Secret Box, and John Shooter wrote The Sowing Season. The story in the film's version is set in upstate New York instead of Maine. Three episodes of the radio adaptation aired in 2003 on BBC Radio 4 with Henry Goodman, William Roberts, Barbara Barnes, Lee Montague and Kerry Sheil. King's inspiration was the subject of unfounded accusations of plagiarism. One woman claimed that King had stolen some of her story ideas and based characters from his books on her. All her cases were dismissed. In another incident, a deranged man broke into King's home and, when he was discovered by King's wife, claimed that King had stolen a Misen plot from the attacker's aunt and that he had a bomb in a shoebox he was holding and was about to blow up the house. The fake bomb was made of pencils with paper clips wrapped around the erasers. Police Library 'Police Library'S Stephen KingHenre (s) Horror Police Library tells the story of Sam Peeble and his struggle against age-old fear. Peebles is asked to give a speech to his local Rotary Club. An office assistant (Naomi Higgins) directs him to the public library to check out books that could help with his speech. In the library, he receives a library card and help in finding books from the elderly librarian Ardella Lortz. Noticing a number of disturbing posters in the children's section, including the intimidating character of the Library Cop, he discusses their appropriateness with Ardella. After she's rebuffed, Sam checks the books with a warning that they must be returned on time, otherwise I'll have to send a library cop after you. Speech is a success, but Naomi informs Sam that Ardella Lortz has been dead for years. Ardella, as a young woman, committed suicide in 1960 after killing two children and a local sheriff's deputy. Books are accidentally destroyed, and a formidable police library terrorizes Sam in his home. Through Naomi Sam meets Dave Dirty Dave Duncan, an alcoholic former sign artist and former lover of Ardella. From Dave's memoirs, Sam discovers that Ardella is not a human being, but a creature that feeds on fear, and that Duncan was sometimes an unwitting companion/conspirator, helping her to feed off the fear of children. Dave believes that Ardella is looking for revenge and a new owner. While the trio tries to stop Ardella's return, Sam recalls a repressed memory: a man claiming to be a library cop raped and threatened Sam when he was a young child in St. Louis. However, the new police library is not only a re-creation of a man from Sam's past, but also the embodiment of Ardella, who wants Sam as her new host. Dave Sam and Naomi from Ardella. Sam and Naomi win the library cop / Ardella, only to discover that Ardella is already attached to Naomi in the form of a blister of growth, covered with a cobweb skein crossing white threads ... a piece of pinkish jelly that pulsed and throbbd with the rhythm of her heart. Sam removes the creature from Naomi's neck and destroys it under the wheels of a passing train. Solar Dog The Sun DogA Polaroid Sun 660AuthorStephen KingGenre (s) Horror Kevin Delevuan gets a sun 660 Polaroid camera for his fifteenth birthday. He discovers that there is something strange about the camera: the only photos he produces have a malicious black dog that seems to move closer with each shot, as if to attack the photographer. On the recommendation of Kevin seeks help from Reginald Pop Merrill, a wealthy and unscrupulous owner of a garbage shop in Castle Rock, Maine. Although Merrill is as concerned about this phenomenon as Kevin is, he sees an opportunity to develop his own interests; namely, selling the camera to paranormal enthusiasts for a lot of money. He manages to turn off the camera for another of the same model that Kevin destroys. To his horror, however, Merrill can't get rid of The Sun as his customers either dismiss it as a fake or refuse to buy because of the discomfort and anxiety they feel when viewing the photos. In addition, Merrill is increasingly forced to use the Sun - the dog slowly advances and turns into something more wild and monstrous with every photo he takes. At the same time, Kevin suffers from recurring nightmares about the dog. Realizing that Merrill had deceived him and the Sun had never been destroyed, he intends to prevent Merrill from taking more photos, fearing that the dog will break through into the real world. By this point, the camera's influence on Merrill had led to him losing control of his sanity. Waking up one night to find himself holding the sun and repeatedly pushing his trigger, Merrill decides to smash it in the morning. However, he hallucinates that one of the cuckoo clocks hanging on the wall of his shop is actually a camera, and smashes the clock instead. Under the illusion that he repairs the clock on his work bench, Merrill again begins to take pictures. At this point, Kevin and his father arrive to confront Merrill, but they stop him too late. The dog plucks its way out of the final photo, killing Merrill in the process. Inspired by his nightmares, Kevin brought with him another Sun, and just as the dog is about to release himself, he takes his picture, capturing it once again in the world of Polaroid. In the epilogue, Kevin gets a computer the next birthday. In order to test its kitchen processor function, it's like a fast brown fox jumping over a lazy dog. Instead of printing out this text, the page reads: Dog is free again. He's not sleeping. It's not laziness. This is For you, Kevin. He's very hungry. And it's very angry. Receiving after his release, Michael A. Morrison of the Washington Post called the collection exceptionally well-crafted, with the exception of Sun Dog, praising King's unexpected comparisons and his use of dreams to reveal the character. Robert Chataine called it arguably King's best book and a serious, heavy effort, describing the tales as rich as well as fast, cunning, even perverse, like carnival rides that look easy from the ground but turn out to be unexpectedly unpleasant and dizzying when we're in the air. However, Josh Rubins at Entertainment Weekly rated the anthology as C and found it formulaic with enthusiasm and a modern setting. Rubins compared the story The Langoliers to the quote of the characters of the novel - stupid disaster and bad television film. He found the Secret Box, The Secret Garden tolerably tense with cunning, the least compelling (the finale). He called Sunny Dog the simplest, most distinctive story and praised it as basically a delicious black comedy. Andy Solomon, in The New York Times, noted that King's mass appeal comes ironically from his diction clichés, citing the anthology's reliance on popular culture to describe. 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