

THE #1 BESTSELLING SERIES

STEPHEN KING

THE DARK TOWER VII

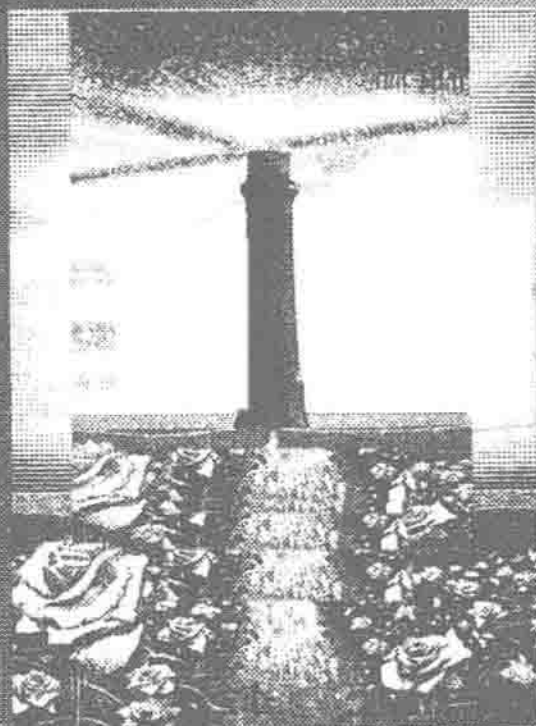


"A FITTING
CAPSTONE TO
A UNIQUELY
AMERICAN
EPIC."

—*The Washington Post*

THE DARK TOWER

THE DARK TOWER VII
THE DARK TOWER
STEPHEN KING



POCKET BOOKS

New York London Toronto Sydney

The sale of this book without its cover is unauthorized. If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that it was reported to the publisher as "unsold and destroyed." Neither the author nor the publisher has received payment for the sale of this "stripped book."



POCKET BOOKS, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.
1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places and incidents are products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons living or dead is entirely coincidental.

Copyright © 2004 by Stephen King
Illustrations copyright © 2004 by Michael Whelan
Maps copyright © 2004 by Robin Furth

Originally published in hardcover in 2004 by Donald M. Grant, Publisher, Inc.

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form whatsoever. For information address Donald M. Grant, Publisher, Inc., Post Office Box 187, Hampton Falls, NH 03844

ISBN-13: 978-1-4165-0393-4
ISBN-10: 1-4165-0393-5

This Pocket Books export edition May 2006

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

POCKET and colophon are registered trademarks of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

Manufactured in the United States of America

For information regarding special discounts for bulk purchases, please contact Simon & Schuster Special Sales at 1-800-456-6798 or business@simonandschuster.com.

"BAD COMPANY," by Paul Bernard Rodgers, Simon F. Kirke © 1974 (renewed) WB MUSIC CORP. and BADCO MUSIC INC. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. Warner Bros. Publications U.S. Inc., Miami, Florida 33014

Lyric excerpt from "Hurt" written by Trent Reznor, copyright 1994 Leaving Hope Music/TVT Music, Inc. Administered by Leaving Hope Music, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.

"THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT" by George David Weiss, Luigi Creatore, and Hugo Peretti © 1961, Renewed Abilene Music, Inc. Permission secured. All rights reserved.

**PRAISE FOR STEPHEN KING'S
THE DARK TOWER
*THE DARK TOWER VII***

“Pure storytelling. . . . An absorbing, constantly surprising novel filled with true narrative magic. . . . An archetypal quest fantasy distinguished by its uniquely Western flavor, its emotional complexity and its sheer imaginative reach. . . . The series as a whole—and this final volume in particular—is filled with brilliantly rendered set pieces, cataclysmic encounters, and moments of desolating tragedy. King holds it all together through sheer narrative muscle and his absolute commitment to his slowly unfolding—and deeply personal—vision. . . . *The Dark Tower* is a humane, visionary epic and a true magnum opus. . . . It will be around for a very long time.”

—*The Washington Post*

“A tale of epic proportions . . . [and] brilliant complexity. . . . Those who have faithfully journeyed alongside Roland, Eddie, Susannah, Jake, and Oy will find their loyalty richly rewarded. . . . King has certainly reached the top of his game.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Stunning . . . cataclysmic. . . . His writing is as powerful as ever.”

—*Bookmarks Magazine*

“Plenty of action and quite a few unforeseen bombshells.”

—*Booklist*

***The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower* is also
available from Simon & Schuster Audio
and as an eBook**

MORE ACCLAIM FOR STEPHEN KING'S INCREDIBLE DARK TOWER NOVELS

"The Dark Tower series is King's masterpiece."

—*The Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville)*

"Equal parts Western, high fantasy, horror and science fiction, the series is one of the wildest pastiches ever put between covers. All through the series there are references and tips of the hat to iconic works of pop culture, including J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, films like *The Seven Samurai* or the spaghetti Westerns popularized by Clint Eastwood, and even L. Frank Baum's *Oz* books. . . . King brilliantly juggles all the plot elements."

—*The Denver Post*

"The suspense master takes readers right over the edge."

—*Bangor Daily News*

"Draws to a feverish, page-turning ending."

—*Boston Globe*

"He's done it again. . . . Stephen King is no ordinary wordsmith."

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

**BE SURE TO READ THESE
BESTSELLERS BY STEPHEN KING**

FROM A BUICK 8

“Vintage King. . . . [He] knows how to jolt his readers.”
—*USA Today*

“Terrific entertainment. . . . Goes down like a shot
of moonshine, hot and clean.” —*Publishers Weekly*

EVERYTHING'S EVENTUAL

“Bear[s] the King trademark of creative energy and
imagination.” —*The Richmond Times-Dispatch*

“Well-crafted, nuanced stories.”
—*The Washington Post*

DREAMCATCHER

“King writes more fluently than ever . . . with simple,
unexpected grace.” —*The New York Times*

“A tour de force . . . [with] more passages of power
and imagination than some writers produce in a
lifetime. . . . [An] entertaining must-read.”
—*Chicago Tribune*

HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

“This is wonderful fiction. . . . [King's] take on the
'60s—including the effects of Vietnam—is scarily
accurate.” —*Entertainment Weekly*



THE DARK TOWER

THE DARK TOWER VII

NOVELS

Carrie
 'Salem's Lot
 The Shining
 The Stand
 The Dead Zone
 Firestarter
 Cujo

THE DARK TOWER I:

The Gunslinger
 Christine
 Pet Sematary
 Cycle of the Werewolf
 The Talisman (*with Peter Straub*)
 It
 The Eyes of the Dragon
 Misery
 The Tommyknockers

THE DARK TOWER II:

The Drawing of the Three

THE DARK TOWER III:

The Waste Lands
 The Dark Half
 Needful Things
 Gerald's Game
 Dolores Claiborne
 Insomnia
 Rose Madder
 Desperation
 The Green Mile

THE DARK TOWER IV:

Wizard and Glass
 Bag of Bones
 The Girl Who Loved
 Tom Gordon
 Dreamcatcher
 Black House (*with Peter Straub*)
 From a Buick 8

THE DARK TOWER V:

Wolves of the Calla

THE DARK TOWER VI:

Song of Susannah

AS RICHARD BACHMAN

Rage
 The Long Walk
 Roadwork
 The Running Man
 Thinner
 The Regulators

COLLECTIONS

Night Shift
 Different Seasons
 Skeleton Crew
 Four Past Midnight
 Nightmares and
 Dreamscapes
 Hearts in Atlantis
 Everything's Eventual

SCREENPLAYS

Creepshow
 Cat's Eye
 Silver Bullet
 Maximum Overdrive
 Pet Sematary
 Golden Years
 Sleepwalkers
 The Stand
 The Shining
 Rose Red
 Storm of the Century

NONFICTION

Danse Macabre
 On Writing

He who speaks without an attentive ear is mute.

Therefore, Constant Reader, this final book in the *Dark Tower* cycle
is dedicated to you.

Long days and pleasant nights.



Not hear? When noise was everywhere! it tolled
Increasing like a bell. Names in my ears
Of all the lost adventurers, my peers —
How such a one was strong, and such was bold,
And such was fortunate, yet each of old
Lost, lost! one moment knelled the woe of years.

There they stood, ranged along the hillsides, met
To view the last of me, a living frame
For one more picture! In a sheet of flame
I saw them and I knew them all. And yet
Dauntless the slug-horn to my lips I set,
And blew. 'Childe Roland to the Dark Tower came.'

—Robert Browning

“Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came”

I was born
Six-gun in my hand,
behind a gun
I'll make my final stand.

—Bad Company



What have I become?
My sweetest friend
Everyone I know
Goes away in the end
You could have it all
My empire of dirt
I will let you down
I will make you hurt
—Trent Reznor

REPRODUCTION
REVELATION
REDEMPTION
RESUMPTION



CONTENTS

PART ONE:

THE LITTLE RED KING DAN-TETE

I: CALLAHAN AND THE VAMPIRES	3
II: LIFTED ON THE WAVE	20
III: EDDIE MAKES A CALL	36
IV: DAN-TETE	65
V: IN THE JUNGLE, THE MIGHTY JUNGLE	97
VI: ON TURTLEBACK LANE	137
VII: REUNION	162

PART TWO:

BLUE HEAVEN DEVAR-TOI

I: THE DEVAR-TETE	171
II: THE WATCHER	188

III: THE SHINING WIRE	208
IV: THE DOOR INTO THUNDERCLAP	231
V: STEEK-TETE	243
VI: THE MASTER OF BLUE HEAVEN	271
VII: KA-SHUME	304
VIII: NOTES FROM THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE	325
IX: TRACKS ON THE PATH	381
X: THE LAST PALAVER (SHEEMIE'S DREAM)	395
XI: THE ATTACK ON ALGUL SIENTO	423
XII: THE TET BREAKS	479

PART THREE:

IN THIS HAZE OF GREEN AND GOLD
VES'-KA GAN

I: MRS. TASSENBAUM DRIVES SOUTH	521
II: VES'-KA GAN	559
III: NEW YORK AGAIN (ROLAND SHOWS ID)	601
IV: FEDIC (TWO VIEWS)	658

PART FOUR:

THE WHITE LANDS OF EMPATHICA
DANDELO

I: THE THING UNDER THE CASTLE	681
II: ON BADLANDS AVENUE	716

III: THE CASTLE OF THE CRIMSON KING	741
IV: HIDES	781
V: JOE COLLINS OF ODD'S LANE	804
VI: PATRICK DANVILLE	851

PART FIVE:
THE SCARLET FIELD OF
CAN'-KA NO REY



I: THE SORE AND THE DOOR (GOODBYE, MY DEAR)	887
II: MORDRED	933
III: THE CRIMSON KING AND THE DARK TOWER	965

EPILOGUE SUSANNAH IN NEW YORK	1001
----------------------------------	------

CODA FOUND ❧ ❧ ❧ 1013

APPENDIX ROBERT BROWNING "CHILDE ROLAND TO THE DARK TOWER CAME"	1035
AUTHOR'S NOTE	1047



PART ONE:
THE LITTLE RED KING'
DAN-TETE



CHAPTER I:

CALLAHAN AND THE VAMPIRES

ONE

Pere Don Callahan had once been the Catholic priest of a town, 'Salem's Lot had been its name, that no longer existed on any map. He didn't much care. Concepts such as reality had ceased to matter to him.

This onetime priest now held a heathen object in his hand, a scrimshaw turtle made of ivory. There was a nick in its beak and a scratch in the shape of a question mark on its back, but otherwise it was a beautiful thing.

Beautiful and *powerful*. He could feel the power in his hand like volts.

"How lovely it is," he whispered to the boy who stood with him. "Is it the Turtle Maturin? It is, isn't it?"

The boy was Jake Chambers, and he'd come a long loop in order to return almost to his starting-place here in Manhattan. "I don't know," he said. "She calls it the *sköldpadda*, and it may help us, but it can't kill the harriers that are waiting for us in there." He nodded toward the Dixie Pig, wondering if he meant Susannah or Mia when he used that all-purpose feminine pronoun *she*. Once he would have said it didn't matter because