

Nightmares & Dreamscapes Study Guide

Nightmares & Dreamscapes by Stephen King

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Nightmares & Dreamscapes Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Chapters 1-6.....	3
Chapters 7-10.....	7
Chapters 11-16.....	11
Chapters 17-20.....	16
Chapters 21-24.....	20
Characters.....	24
Objects/Places.....	27
Themes.....	29
Style.....	31
Quotes.....	34
Topics for Discussion.....	36



Chapters 1-6

Chapters 1-6 Summary

Chapter one, "Dolan's Cadillac" tells the story of Robinson, a third grade teacher who wants nothing more than to get revenge on Dolan, a high level gangster who killed his wife. King does not give details of the murder, save that the wife, Elizabeth, was blown up in her car after contacting the police regarding Dolan's criminal activity. It was one of the few instances in which Dolan was ever careless enough to get caught.

Elizabeth had been a first grade teacher, not one to be fodder for gangsters. Ever since Elizabeth's death, Robinson planned how he could get revenge on Dolan, rather, how Dolan could be killed. Dolan is not an easy target and it seems that the man is careful to the point of being paranoid. Even his Cadillac, silver gray like his hair, is armor plated and equipped with bullet proof glass. There are also two armed bodyguards with him at all times.

It takes nine years for Robinson to formulate and execute a feasible plan. The teacher begins to work out. The workouts are comical to Robinson's co-workers since he is a slight man with a bald head. During the summer, Robinson bribes a highway construction foreman to hire him. The man thinks Robinson is crazy but hires him, convinced that the small man will quit on day one. Robinson does not quit although he suffers every day in the blistering Nevada desert heat.

At long last, Robinson's time has come. Robinson decides that the best way to kill Dolan is by catching him on a highway detour. Robinson plans to dig a grave on the highway, trap Dolan's car in the pit, and bury the man alive. To Robinson, this seems to be just.

Robinson suffers greatly during the process. The man's hands are blistered and bloody. Toward the end of nearly two solid days of hard physical labor, he slips three discs and dislocates something in his back. However, Elizabeth's voice eggs him on.

Robinson's plan works brilliantly. Dolan is caught and buried alive. Robinson has nightmares for a while, convinced that somehow Dolan got out. Dolan was never found.

Chapter two, "The End of the Whole Mess" is a tale of Howard Forno, a freelance writer. Howard kills his brother, who believes he is the Messiah.

Chapter three, "Suffer the Little Children," details the life and times of Miss Sidley, a small woman who teaches third grade in a public school. Miss Sidley has been a teacher for a very long time and reigns with a strong hand, albeit often silent. Miss Sidley is the teacher with eyes in the back of her head, always knowing what the children were doing as she wrote on the blackboard.

The children do not dare to cross Miss Sidley. One day, Robert, a boy who sits in the first row, sees Miss Sidley's trick of catching the children's reflection in her glasses. The



boy taunts Miss Sidley by sticking out his tongue, wrinkling his nose, and other things that the prim and proper teacher does not tolerate. Robert gets under Miss Sidley's skin and one day the boy is kept after school. Robert has become something different, no longer a small boy but something evil and malevolent. Miss Sidley becomes afraid of him and begins to exhibit paranoid behavior. Robert tells Miss Sidley that there are more of "them" in the school and the number is growing every day.

After fainting in the girl's bathroom, Miss Sidley takes a month off. When the teacher returns to school, the evil seems to have completely taken over Robert and several other children. Miss Sidley devises a plan to get rid of the monsters. Miss Sidley is caught in the Xerox room after having murdered twelve children, Robert being the first. She is relieved of her position and sent to a mental institution. At first, Miss Sidley does fine. Slowly, the children in the hospital begin to giggle and sneer. Miss Sidley realizes that the evil has overtaken them as well. Miss Sidley kills herself.

Chapter four, "Night Flier," is the bizarre story of a jaded reporter who almost loses a major story because the work is good enough. A young reporter follows up and uncovers an eerie tale of the Night Flier. There are a series of murders that take place at a Maryland airport. It turns out that one of the planes, a Cessna, has a cargo section beneath, which is unusual for such a small plane. Carried in the cargo space is a vampire.

Chapter five, "Popsy," is a story about a man who gets into a jam with a bookie. In order to pay back the bookie, who has a notoriously bad temper, the man, named Sheridan, agrees to kidnap a child. A mysterious buyer agrees to pay forty thousand dollars for a boy-child, ten thousand more than Sheridan's actual debt. Sheridan goes to a mall at night and finds a small boy about five or six who is apparently upset over being separated from his "Popsy." Sheridan lures the boy into his van and steals him away from the mall.

The boy is as strong as an ox and fights like a wildcat. Sheridan tries to get the kid to shut up to no avail. The boy keeps talking about Popsy, how Popsy is really strong and how Popsy can fly. Popsy finds the boy, rips the driver's door off its hinges and pulls Sheridan from the van. The boy wasn't lying - Popsy can fly because Popsy is a vampire. Sheridan ends up being lunch.

Chapter six, "It Grows on You," is the story of Joe Newall and the monstrous house he built for his wife in Castle Rock. The story begins in 1904.

Newall's first property is a parcel of undeveloped land purchased at a foreclosure sale due to the death of the previous owner, who had no heirs. Joe has big plans for the property as well as a wood-milling operation he operated in Gates Falls. Joe marries Cora Leonard, the niece and only heir to a very wealthy man. Cora is an unattractive, fat woman, with no breasts and a big head. Joe's decision pays off when Cora's uncle dies and she inherits.



In 1921, Cora and Joe have their first child, a mutant baby who dies shortly after birth. Joe begins to build onto the family's already monstrous house. The place is ugly but as one of the townspeople said, "It grows on you." Joe is quite wealthy by this time. One day, Cora falls down the stairs, and her neck and back breaks. Cora is buried next to the baby.

Joe's mills experiences fifty thousand dollars worth of damage shortly before the stock market crashes. Joe hangs himself.

The house remains empty for eleven years. It is a topic of conversation in the town and no one has ever quite figured out why the house is so large and has a strange air about it.

Chapters 1-6 Analysis

Robinson is a man obsessed with avenging his wife's death. While Dolan flits from one woman to the next, Elizabeth was Robinson's life, even after death. Robinson's hatred for Dolan and his flashy lifestyle takes over Robinson's life to the point of self injury. Even with all the preparation for the big day, Robinson is not as strong as he needs to be, proving that the foreman on the road crew was right - some people take hold and others wither. Robinson is a witherer.

While there is no guilt over what happens to Dolan, Robinson still carries some fear, believing just a little that Dolan will get revenge. Of course this does not happen and at long last, Elizabeth's voice is silenced.

Miss Sidley is the classic no nonsense teacher. She is feared by the children, which gains her respect. It is obvious something is wrong when Robert begins to disobey the rules and is disrespectful. Robert talks to Miss Sidley with a sneer and an evil sense of humor. Robert lets Miss Sidley know, in his own way, that she cannot escape from "them." Miss Sidley chides herself but eventually begins to see that the children are changing. The teacher waves away any element of paranoia when Robert "changes" in front of her eyes, revealing a monster.

Killing the students is not an easy decision for Miss Sidley. By this time, however, the children are gone and only evil inhabits their bodies. At the mental institution, Miss Sidley simply gives up, knowing that she cannot fight the demons.

"Popsy" is the story of desperation of a man in a jam who makes a foolish and fatal mistake by kidnapping a child who happens to be a vampire. The boy is much smarter and stronger than Sheridan expected and the man almost resorts to using the hypodermic needle to calm the boy down.

The boy never calms down and insists that Popsy will find him. When Popsy does find his grandson, Sheridan will be sorry. While Sheridan thinks that the boy is exaggerating, there is a small voice that tells him otherwise. The boy is vindicated when Popsy shows up to save the day and to punish Sheridan for his actions.



King's tale of Joe Newall leaves the reader to believe that Newall made some sort of deal with the devil in order to obtain his fortune. Somewhere along the way, things go awry, as proven by the mutant baby. Newall starts to go crazy as well and keeps the baby's fingers in a jar. Even after Newall hangs himself, the house still has a sense of evil to it and will continue to plague anyone who comes near.



Chapters 7-10

Chapters 7-10 Summary

Chapter seven, "Chatterly Teeth," is a tale about a pair of novelty teeth that are rescued from a roadside store by a salesman with a sense of humor. The store, Scooter's Grocery and Roadside Zoo, has only one customer other than Bill Hogan, a salesman from Los Angeles. The store is located in the desert in Nevada and is currently shelter in the eye of a nasty sand storm.

The store is operated by Scooter and his wife, Myra. Myra is an impatient woman overly concerned with the zoo's main attraction, Wolf. Scooter, a man suffering from the final stages of cancer, largely ignores his wife.

In addition to Hogan, a young man with the face of a rat is the only one buying anything at the store. Hogan finds a pair of chatterly teeth, a novelty item that Hogan's son Jack will get a kick out of, especially since they are incredibly large and have feet. After a bit of negotiation, the teeth, which were going to be thrown out, were given to Hogan. Hogan takes the teeth and leaves the store.

The rat faced kid asks Hogan for a ride to LA. Hogan hesitates, having had a bad experience with a hitchhiker a few years back. Hogan relents and the pair sets off. Out in the desert, the kid pulls a switchblade on Hogan and tries to hijack the car along with Hogan's wallet. Hogan decides to refuse and tells the kid that he would rather wreck the car. Hogan, who is wearing a seat belt, will survive while the kid may not. A struggle ensues and Hogan is cut a couple of times. The kid, who is on some sort of drug, will not give up. Although Hogan does not mean to make it happen, the car flips. Even after being injured, the kid is still trying to stab Hogan, angry because he is hurt. Soon, Hogan hears a noise.

Due to the crash, the chatterly teeth end up on the floor. Hogan thinks that perhaps the jarring fixed whatever had caused the teeth not to work in the store. The teeth continue to clatter and the kid picks them up, making fun of Hogan for being pathetic enough to buy them. The kid taunts the teeth and the teeth, which are made from metal, bite him. The kid thinks it is a joke until the teeth attack, first biting off his nose and then aiming for the kid's crotch. Hogan blacks out, sure he will be next.

Hogan wakes up and finds the kid gone. The seatbelt, which had jammed and kept Hogan in the car, was cut into two pieces, freeing him. Hogan looks around for the teeth and they are also gone. Hogan climbs out of the wrecked vehicle and sees the kid's shoes as he is being dragged out into the desert.

The story picks up nine months later. Hogan has returned to Scooter's to find that the man has died. Hogan and Scooter's widow talk about the horrible storm that day and Hogan learns that the kid supposedly crawled off into the desert to die after receiving



wounds in the crash. Hogan knows better. The wife gives Hogan the same chatterly teeth that he had purchased before. Scooter had saved them for Hogan, thinking that Hogan had dropped them on the day of the original purchase. Hogan tests the teeth to see if they will bite and they do not. On the way to the car, Wolf growls at Hogan and the teeth snap in warning.

Chapter eight, "Dedication," details the life and secrets of Martha Rosewell. Martha is a housekeeper at the upscale hotel Le Palais in New York. Martha is one of the Chiefs of Housekeeping and takes pride in her job. The story starts with Martha receiving a copy of her son's new book, which thrills the mother. The dedication in the book is to Martha. The dedication plus Martha's off-the-wall comment to her best friend, Darcy, prompt Martha to tell the tale of her late husband and the birth of their son, Peter.

After their shift was done, Martha and Darcy go to Le Cinq, a small bar off the lobby of the hotel. Darcy surprises Martha with champagne and the friends celebrate. Before long, Martha launches into the story of her no-good husband and his untimely death when a gun blew up in his face during a robbery at a liquor store. Martha was pregnant with Peter.

The tale becomes quite bizarre. When Martha first discovers that she is pregnant, she goes to see a bruja, a sort of witch, even though Martha does not believe. The bruja tells Martha about her husband and pregnancy and urges Martha to name the child after its natural father. Martha is baffled since her husband is the child's father and is the only man she has ever been with - but the bruja insists.

At this time, Martha is working at Le Palais, a hotel often frequented by celebrities such as the famous author Peter Jefferies. Martha is the one who always makes up and cleans Jefferies' suite.

Jefferies goes to Le Palais to work and spend time with friends who want to nothing more than drink and talk about their experiences in World War II. Jefferies is a white man who hates blacks; therefore, Martha is a persona non grata in the writer's eyes.

Martha begins to think that the bruja has put a spell on her because she begins to act crazy. One thing Martha always notices about Jefferies' bed is that he often masturbates shortly before she arrives. Typically, the bed would be stripped and the linens replaced. On this day, Martha begins a new ritual which includes licking semen from the sheets.

This behavior goes on for quite some time. Martha's husband is killed in a robbery gone awry and in many ways, Martha is glad to be rid of him and the abuse.

Martha thinks a lot about what the bruja said and realizes that Peter Jefferies is her child's natural father.

Martha's son, Peter, is only a few years old when Peter Jefferies dies. It is plain to see that there are similarities between the adult Peter and his natural father, from the cover of their books to the fact that their dedications in books are very similar and the handwriting is identical.



Chapter nine, "The Moving Finger," tells the tale of Howard Mitla and his encounter with a dismembered finger that he finds in his bathtub drain. It starts out as a tapping noise that makes Howard curious. The finger comes up through the drain pipe and its nail taps around on the porcelain. There is nothing attached to the finger and it is not long before Howard is convinced that he is having hallucinations. Oddly enough, Howard's wife, Violet never sees it.

As the days go on, Howard goes into the bathroom whenever necessary and stops using the facilities inside the apartment. Each time Howard goes into the bathroom, the finger seems to be getting longer.

Howard devises a plan. First, he dumps drain cleaner onto the finger, which makes it sizzle and burn. The finger continues to grow. It eventually reaches a length of seven feet. Phase two of Howard's plan is to chop up the finger with hedge trimmers and throw the pieces down the toilet. Meanwhile, Howard's maniacal screaming and laughing has drawn the attention of the neighbors who call the police.

When the police arrive, an officer finds Howard cowering in the corner in the bathroom, covered with gorge and blood. The entire bathroom is bathed in blood but there is no evidence of murder. Howard is explaining when a noise comes from the toilet bowl. As the officer walks toward the bowl, Howard warns him to stay away.

In chapter ten, "Sneakers," John Tell is a music producer just getting by. Tell works with Paul Jannings, a music industry veteran on a sub-par album that somehow becomes a hit. After the sessions, the men go their separate ways. Tell, so caught up in his work, forgets about the sneakers he always sees underneath the same bathroom stall.

Jannings and Tell go to work on Roger Daltrey's new solo album, a dream come true for the producers. The work goes well and Tell begins to think of Jannings as a close friend. That is, until Jannings gropes Tell in a bar one night. Tell tries to explain that he is not gay and the men profess that they will forget it ever happened.

It has been four months since Tell first saw the sneakers. Upon returning to the third floor bathroom, the sneakers are still there but now they are covered with dead flies. Tell begins to think that he is losing his mind. Tell becomes obsessed.

Finally, Tell asks Georgie, one of Jannings' assistants, if he knew of any strange history linked with the studios. Georgie tells Tell about a dope pusher who had been murdered in the third floor bathroom and some people claim to see his sneakers in the stall where he died. It begins to make sense.

Sneakers finally talks to Tell and relays the story of how it all happened. A customer who had been cut off, killed Sneakers, cut off his hand and made off with a briefcase full of cash. The killer, who turns out to be Paul Jannings, gets away with murder.



Chapters 7-10 Analysis

The story of the Chatterly Teeth is humorous in that it shows loyalty from the teeth in regards to Hogan who saved them from being thrown in the trash. Hogan berates himself for going against his better judgment and allowing the kid to ride with him to LA. Of course, but by then, it is too late.

The kid's actions reveal not only the fact that he is on drugs but also that he has a violent temper and combative personality. Even when the kid is injured because of his own actions, he has to have someone else to blame.

Hogan is unsure of the chatterly teeth's intentions until they snap at Wolf, who seems to pose a threat until Hogan reassures the teeth that Wolf will not hurt him.

Dedication is a bizarre tale about a mother who ingests semen from a famous writer, declaring that the man should be her unborn child's "natural father" although the baby has a biological father, even if the father is a useless waste of space.

Paul Jefferies, the writer, does not even acknowledge Martha's presence until a spell is cast upon him by an old woman known as the bruja. After the spell casting, which has also affected Martha, Jefferies gets his best idea ever and also involves Martha in a lively discussion about his new book.

Jefferies seems to not play a part in Martha's life save for an occasional sighting. The baby grows up to be just like Jefferies in every way, except for the racist behaviors.

The Moving Finger is classic horror. Mitla finds a finger in his bathroom, something that no one else sees. The man thinks he is losing his mind but of course, he is not. Paranoia and fear take over Mitla's life. Finally, the man devises a plot to get rid of the problem, and he tries to burn then chop up the moving finger which is now seven feet long. Despite all Mitla's efforts, the finger returns in the toilet bowl. The story ends as the police officer is about to investigate.

Sneakers is a classic example of "if it seems to be too good to be true, it probably is." John Tell needs a break in the music recording business and it seems that Paul Jannings turns into just what the doctor orders. A job that seemed to be hopeless turns out great and Tell finds himself working with the legendary Roger Daltrey. During Tell's tenure at Tabori Studios, he notices that the same pair of sneakers is in the bathroom stall every time he goes inside. This fact begins to wear on Tell until obsession sets in. Georgie plays the stereotypical quiet guy who knows all and finally relays the story to Tell. Tell's discovery that Jannings is an addict and murderer causes him to flee without an explanation, which baffles Jannings.



Chapters 11-16

Chapters 11-16 Summary

Chapter twelve, "You Know They Got A Hell Of A Band," begins with Clark and Mary Willingham, a couple who have decided to travel throughout the Oregon countryside before Clark is transferred out of Portland. The trip starts off smoothly enough but turns strange when Clark gets lost. Clark refuses to give in to Mary's pleas to turn around. Eventually, it is too late to turn around and the couple is stuck traveling on what is no more than a cow path in the middle of the woods and far away from anything resembling civilization. Mary is furious with Clark and Clark, while feeling sheepish, still takes a long time to admit that he should have listened to Mary.

Just as the car approaches a place in the road where they can turn around, Clark spots a picturesque village up ahead. It is quaint and isolated. Clark is eager to go there while Mary has a horrible feeling about the place and begs Clark to turn around. Clark wins out and the couple drives toward the town. As they draw closer, a sign announces that the name of the town is Rock and Roll Heaven, Oregon. Both Mary and Clark think it is a joke but there are other places in the country with weird names, so why not?

Mary is still jumpy about the town, viewing it as very Norman Rockwell with something horrible going on underneath. Clark insists on driving in and looking around before going on their way. After all, there is a nicely paved road just on the other side of the town.

Against Mary's wishes, Clark stops at a diner for a Pepsi to go. Mary goes in, afraid to be left in the car. The first person they see is a waitress who bears an uncanny resemblance to Janis Joplin. The cook, Rick, is a spitting image of Ricky Nelson. Clark orders pie, making Mary even more anxious and upset.

As more and more people enter the diner, Clark and Mary realize that these really are the legendary rock stars that have been long dead. The scenario only gets worse when Duane Allman, Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison walk in. Everyone tries to convince Clark and Mary to stay. They want nothing more than to get out. Mary makes up an excuse for Clark to go to the car, hoping that he caught the message that it was time to make a getaway. Clark understands and Mary runs out. Janis is screaming as the couple pulls away without paying for their sodas and pie.

As Clark drives as fast as he can toward the end of town, he ends up hitting a bus which is a perfect replica of Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters' van. The police come and Otis Redding questions Clark and Mary, who decide that they have to run. The Mayor, Elvis Presley, says that they will be free to go but that they must stay for the evening's concert. Clark and Mary agree.



As the concert is gearing up, Clark and Mary meet a young girl named Sissy. It turns out that Sissy arrived at Rock and Roll Heaven six or seven or eight or nine years ago when she was twenty-three. However, Sissy is still twenty-three. They chat while Alan Freed announces performers. Sissy tells Clark and Mary that sometimes the concerts go on for a year or more.

Chapter thirteen, "Home Delivery," is a story about Maddie and Jack Pace. The couple lives on an island in Maine and is expecting their first child. Maddie is a mousy woman who cannot make a decision to save her life, much like her own mother. Maddie and Jack seem happy.

One night on the news, a student reporter on CNN announces that zombies have eaten certain notable politicians and have attacked towns. The kid runs off the stage and everyone thinks it is a joke. It is not.

Zombies are everywhere, eating people and turning them into zombies. Jack is killed and although Maddie tells no one, Jack comes back as a zombie. When Maddie sees what he has become, she chops him up.

The sheriff and town citizens gather around the cemetery to stop the zombies before they can wreak havoc. Along the way, the sheriff turns into a zombie and insists on being killed.

In the end, the town is saved and all of these people have helped to protect Maddie and the baby.

Chapter fourteen, "Rainy Season," details the would-be vacation of John and Elise Graham. The couple travels to Willow, Maine from St. Louis in hopes of spending a quiet and creative summer in the country. John is a writer and hopes to take advantage of the time to work on his latest project.

The Grahams are surprised that the whole town knows who they are and why they are staying at the Hempstead place for the summer. The proprietor of the Willow General Mercantile and Hardware is expecting the couple and almost right away, he and a customer tell the Grahams that the rainy season is arriving that night and it would be a good idea to go out of town. The Grahams argue and when the customer and storekeeper tell them that it rains toads, the couple thinks they are all crazy and refuse to leave. The Grahams find it hard to believe that for one night every seven years, the town is showered with toads.

It is not long until the Grahams regret their decision to stay in Willow. Just after dark, it begins to rain. Toads drop from the sky, getting into houses and flooding roadways and lawns. The Grahams' rental home becomes filled with toads as they rain down from the sky. Windows break and Elise is terrified.

As a last resort, the Grahams make their way to the basement, which seems to be the safest place in the house. Going outside is not an option. Although the couple tries to



fight off the deluge of toads, there seems to be no end to the amount of creatures that are overtaking the house. There is no escape. The couple is drowned in toads.

Chapter fifteen, "My Pretty Pony," examines Clive Banning's lesson that one cannot go through life without a pretty pony. Otherwise, one would never know what time it was, no matter what measures were taken.

Clive's grandfather takes care of the boy on the family homestead located just outside Troy, New York. The year is 1961.

"Clivey" is being laughed at because he was "called out" in a game of hide and seek where the counter cheated. However, Clivey learns that natural men do not bitch, that bitching is left for women.

George, the grandfather, gives Clivey a silver pocket watch and constantly reminds the boy not to drop it. George has sixteen grandchildren, and although Clive is one of the two who will amount to something one day, the boy makes his grandfather laugh.

George explains to Clivey that there are three kinds of time however, only one truly matters. The first time is long, just like those times when something seems like it will never end. Real time is what happens when one starts to grow up. Real time is a pretty pony. The third is pain-time, when time seems to drag on forever because one is hurt or sick.

Chapter sixteen "Sorry, Right Number," is a screenplay written in proper format with explanations by King. In Act I, Katie Weideman is on the phone talking about Bill, who is down with a headache but is convinced that it is the beginnings of a brain tumor. As Katie chats, the camera focuses in on three kids who are arguing over what to watch on television later in the evening. The kids cannot agree. Jeff, who is eight, wants to watch a televised version of their father's first book but no one will let him. They won't even let Jeff tape it.

Jeff goes to his father who is reluctant to let the boy watch the movie. It is hard to deny a child the right to watch a movie based on the book one has created and Bill, secretly pleased, agrees to tape the show for the boy. Bill later tells Katie that he intends to edit out the scariest part.

The phone continues to ring as Bill looks for a blank video tape for Jeff. A hysterical woman comes on the line and Katie tries to figure out who it is and what it wrong. The person on the other end of the line hangs up. Katie thinks it's their daughter Polly, who is away at school. Panic sets in. Katie manages to get in touch with Polly, who is on cloud nine from having a great day. Katie is stumped.

Bill tries to calm Katie who is convinced that the caller is someone in her family. Katie's mom turns out to be all right so Katie focuses in on her younger sister, Dawn. The phone is constantly busy and the operator informs Bill that the phone is off the hook. Bill and Katie decide to go to Dawn's house. Dawn is fine, just exhausted from chasing her toddler who is teething.



Bill and Katie go home. That night, Bill has a heart attack and dies.

Five years later, on the same day, Polly is married. Katie is also remarried. That night, there is a phone call - the same voice and the same message. This time Katie hears the message - it is her own voice telling her to take Bill to the hospital because he is going to have a heart attack and die.

Chapters 11-16 Analysis

You Know They Got a Hell of a Band is the story of two travelers lost in the middle of nowhere in Oregon. What starts out as a tour of the state of Oregon ends up as a nightmare in what turns out to be a twisted version of Rock and Roll Heaven. Clark is a bit of a know-it-all when it comes to rock and roll as well as trivia in general. Mary, Clark's wife, is younger but probably knows more about the music than he does.

The trip becomes rocky as the country charm turns into unpleasant wilderness. Mary accuses Clark of being the typical man when he refuses to ask for directions and as a consequence, they get lost. After a very long journey, the pair stumbles upon a picturesque village. Mary has a negative reaction to the town and is not sure if the reaction is real or is simply an aftershock of the nightmare she had while snoozing in the car.

Clark wins out and goes to the town despite Mary's objections. There is denial at first that the waitress could be Janis Joplin. While the physical similarities could be a coincidence, there is no way anyone else could have the same voice. Clark and Mary become convinced as one by one dead rock stars enter the diner. By this time, Mary knows her intuition was right and wants nothing more than to get out. Clark, who thought the whole thing was pretty cool for the first few minutes, now sees the horror in the situation.

Clark and Mary are not able to get away and the reader is left to wonder how long the couple will be forced to stay in Rock and Roll Heaven.

"Home Delivery" details the life of Maddie Sullivan Pace, a young woman who is completely lost without someone to run her life. After Maddie's husband dies, the only thing that keeps her alive is the unborn baby. Oddly enough, Maddie begins to take charge after Jack dies, when she decides to chop up his body after it has been taken over by a zombie.

"Rainy Season" is classic Stephen King. A couple comes into town and is warned about a forthcoming oddity or tragedy. The couple thinks the townspeople are crazy and insist on staying, only to be victims of the oddity and are forced to die a terrifying and gruesome death.

"My Pretty Pony" shows the relationship between a not-too-bright child and his grandfather who wishes to impart instruction so that the boy will be able to make important decisions in his life in regards to time.



"Sorry, Right Number" is reminiscent of a Twilight Zone episode. Katie is scared and frustrated by the phone call and knows that Bill thinks she is hysterical. Katie is sure that the voice is "one of her own" but cannot identify it until years later. The story looks at a woman's intuition as well as a husband's tolerance and understanding.



Chapters 17-20

Chapters 17-20 Summary

Chapter twenty-one, "Doctor's Case," is narrated by Sherlock Holmes' constant companion, Watson. There has been only one crime that Watson was able to solve before Holmes and that is where the story begins.

One rainy night, Holmes is approached at home by Lestrade, a policeman who has a mutual dislike with Holmes. There is a fresh corpse that Lestrade wants Holmes to investigate. The dead man is Lord Hull, a shipping magnate who has apparently been murdered. Lestrade gives Holmes and Watson the background for Hull, including his family as well as the fact that the man had just changed his will disinheriting his wife and children. Instead, Hull bequeathed his fortune to a number of distant relatives, charities, and a boarding house for cats.

A month previous, Lord Hull had been diagnosed with a case of gangrene on his leg. Hull refused to have the leg amputated and the next day, the man changed his will.

This case is considered by Lestrade to be Holmes' perfect locked door murder, with no possible way for a murderer to enter or exit. There is much discussion and examination of facts before Watson uncovers the fact that it had to be two of the sons who committed the crime. Hull had two wills on his desk - the old will and the new one, the latter disinheriting the family. The plan was to kill the man, burn the new will, and make it look like a suicide.

After hearing Watson's theory, the entire thing makes sense to Holmes and Lestrade. Hull was a nasty, ruthless man who was by and large hated by nearly everyone. This includes his wife and sons who were constantly ridiculed, criticized and picked apart for everything they did or did not do.

Holmes refines the plan, showing how all of the family was involved. Holmes is impressed with Watson and the pair returns to Baker Street.

Chapter twenty-two, "Umney's Last Case," takes place in Los Angeles in the 1930s. The story begins with Umney waking up on a picture perfect day, one that is almost too good to be true. On the street corner stands Peoria Smith, a blind paper boy that has regular exchanges with Umney. On this day, Peoria is over the moon because his mother has won the lottery. Umney does not believe the twelve-year-old boy but lets him have the dream. Peoria knows that Umney is patronizing him and goes off on a rampage. Things continue to go wrong as Umney discovers Blondie's, a true LA landmark, has been closed.

Things get even stranger when Vern the elevator car operator announces his retirement. Umney is astonished and upset. One of the men standing nearby asks



Umney what is wrong and says that the man has been acting "poco loco" for the last six months.

The day gets worse when Umney gets to his office to find a nasty resignation from his secretary who accuses Umney of being a childish drunk. The secretary, Arlene Cain, also has other complaints, including the fact that Umney often "pawed" her and also refused to call her anything but "Candy Kane." Umney is surprised by this. Umney thought Candy liked playing what he refers to as "slap and tickle" and as far as the detective knows, Candy never revealed her real name.

Umney suddenly hears a voice that he recognizes as his own, yet it belongs to an older man named Samuel Landry. Landry tells Umney that he was created in Landry's imagination, that the detective was pure fiction. Umney cannot believe it, of course, until Landry proves it. Landry also takes Umney on a trip forward in time, from the 1930s through to 1994.

Landry tells Umney how his life had gone downhill since the death of his son, Danny. Danny had fallen off a swing and contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. Of course, Umney has no knowledge of AIDS and Landry must explain. In any case, Landry is unhappy and decides to switch places with Umney.

After Umney and Landry switch places, Umney begins to realize that he has never suffered from the things real people do, such as colds, fatigue or shingles. No matter how much Umney wants to return to his 1930s existence, there is no way to do so.

While Umney is stuck in 1994, Landry is back in the 1930s, going to Blondie's, which has miraculously reopened, and rekindling his former friendship with Peoria. Although the boy's surgery to correct his blindness has failed, the kid realizes that being blind is not the worst thing in the world and returns to his usual good-natured self.

In the meantime, Umney is teaching himself to write and one day, he will sneak up on Landry and end it all.

Chapter twenty-three, "Head Down," is an essay about the baseball team Bangor West who went on to the Eastern Regional Little League Championship in 1989. King's son, Owen, was on the team and because of that, King recorded the entire experience as part journal part essay. This was encouraged by an editor at the New Yorker and was King's most ambitious non-fiction piece to date.

It is obvious by the way King writes "Head Down" that there is a great love for the sport, admiration for the kids and their coaches, and pride in Owen.

There are numerous notable moments in the essay, beginning with the way the parents and coaches motivate the kids, reminding everyone that there are but two reasons to play - to have fun and to win. Having fun must always come first.

King goes into great detail about the games, the characters and the roles they play.



Throughout the stressful series of games leading up to the World Series, King stresses the care that is given to the kids despite their performance. The kids are expected to work hard but there is no harsh criticism or punishment like one would expect in bigger leagues. No matter what happens, the kids are always told that teamwork means taking care of and loving one another, no matter what. The coaches and helpers are also fond of reminding everyone that the boys are twelve and still just kids.

The feeling changes as the coaches begin to practice tough love. Unconditional love off the field but during practice the kids are expected to play hard and do as they are told.

There are anecdotes as well as touching moments. In the end, the team called Bangor West makes it to the second round in the Eastern Regional Little League Championship held in Bristol, Connecticut.

Although Bangor West eventually lost, King takes pride that one of the players who took part in winning the World Series was from Maine. It was the first time since 1983 that an American team won the World Series.

Chapter twenty-four, "Brooklyn August," is a short poem about King's remembrances of events that took place at the legendary Ebbets Field.

Chapters 17-20 Analysis

The Ten O'Clock People shows how an ordinary person reacts when faced by a bizarre and unbelievable situation. While Pearson is a typical, mild-mannered bank worker, the arrival and expansion of the bat people is enough to make him take any measure possible to protect himself, his kind, and perhaps most of all, his family.

"Crouch End" tells the tale of a place in England where the veil between worlds is thinner. Even for those people who do not believe in such things, facts and verifiable bizarre happenings are difficult to ignore. This can be seen in the reaction of the veteran cops, much to the surprise of the younger, less-experienced officers.

Doris is hysterical and although her story is unbelievable in many ways, the police are convinced that it is true. Otherwise, why would a foreign traveler expose herself to such an embarrassing situation with the police?

Doris survives the ordeal and goes back to America but never recovers from the experience in Crouch End, where her husband was eaten up by some unknown thing in the underground.

"The House on Maple Street" celebrates the ingenuity of the kids and why they should not be underestimated. The Bradbury children despise their step-father but do not take action until the man is cruel to their mother. Lew's behavior toward his wife is appalling, and the children know that their mother deserves better. Mother deserves a good man, like their father was before he died.



No matter how Lew tries to control the children and the household, the kids only do what is necessary to maintain the peace. Finding the space ship in the attic is a godsend and an answer to all their prayers. Even when every material possession is lost in the end, the children are grateful and wait to start life anew.

"The Fifth Quarter" deals with greed and dishonesty, proving that some people will do practically anything for money.



Chapters 21-24

Chapters 21-24 Summary

Chapter twenty-one, "Doctor's Case," is narrated by Sherlock Holmes' constant companion, Watson. There has been only one crime that Watson was able to solve before Holmes and that is where the story begins.

One rainy night, Holmes is approached at home by Lestrade, a policeman who has a mutual dislike with Holmes. There is a fresh corpse that Lestrade wants Holmes to investigate. The dead man is Lord Hull, a shipping magnate who has apparently been murdered. Lestrade gives Holmes and Watson the background for Hull, including his family as well as the fact that the man had just changed his will disinheriting his wife and children. Instead, Hull bequeathed his fortune to a number of distant relatives, charities, and a boarding house for cats.

A month previous, Lord Hull had been diagnosed with a case of gangrene on his leg. Hull refused to have the leg amputated and the next day, the man changed his will.

This case is considered by Lestrade to be Holmes' perfect locked door murder, with no possible way for a murderer to enter or exit. There is much discussion and examination of facts before Watson uncovers the fact that it had to be two of the sons who committed the crime. Hull had two wills on his desk - the old will and the new one, the latter disinheriting the family. The plan was to kill the man, burn the new will, and make it look like a suicide.

After hearing Watson's theory, the entire thing makes sense to Holmes and Lestrade. Hull was a nasty, ruthless man who was by and large hated by nearly everyone. This includes his wife and sons who were constantly ridiculed, criticized and picked apart for everything they did or did not do.

Holmes refines the plan, showing how all of the family was involved. Holmes is impressed with Watson and the pair returns to Baker Street.

Chapter twenty-two, "Umney's Last Case," takes place in Los Angeles in the 1930s. The story begins with Umney waking up on a picture perfect day, one that is almost too good to be true. On the street corner stands Peoria Smith, a blind paper boy that has regular exchanges with Umney. On this day, Peoria is over the moon because his mother has won the lottery. Umney does not believe the twelve-year-old boy but lets him have the dream. Peoria knows that Umney is patronizing him and goes off on a rampage. Things continue to go wrong as Umney discovers Blondie's, a true LA landmark, has been closed.

Things get even stranger when Vern the elevator car operator announces his retirement. Umney is astonished and upset. One of the men standing nearby asks



Umney what is wrong and says that the man has been acting "poco loco" for the last six months.

The day gets worse when Umney gets to his office to find a nasty resignation from his secretary who accuses Umney of being a childish drunk. The secretary, Arlene Cain, also has other complaints, including the fact that Umney often "pawed" her and also refused to call her anything but "Candy Kane." Umney is surprised by this. Umney thought Candy liked playing what he refers to as "slap and tickle" and as far as the detective knows, Candy never revealed her real name.

Umney suddenly hears a voice that he recognizes as his own, yet it belongs to an older man named Samuel Landry. Landry tells Umney that he was created in Landry's imagination, that the detective was pure fiction. Umney cannot believe it, of course, until Landry proves it. Landry also takes Umney on a trip forward in time, from the 1930s through to 1994.

Landry tells Umney how his life had gone downhill since the death of his son, Danny. Danny had fallen off a swing and contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. Of course, Umney has no knowledge of AIDS and Landry must explain. In any case, Landry is unhappy and decides to switch places with Umney.

After Umney and Landry switch places, Umney begins to realize that he has never suffered from the things real people do, such as colds, fatigue or shingles. No matter how much Umney wants to return to his 1930s existence, there is no way to do so.

While Umney is stuck in 1994, Landry is back in the 1930s, going to Blondie's, which has miraculously reopened, and rekindling his former friendship with Peoria. Although the boy's surgery to correct his blindness has failed, the kid realizes that being blind is not the worst thing in the world and returns to his usual good-natured self.

In the meantime, Umney is teaching himself to write and one day, he will sneak up on Landry and end it all.

Chapter twenty-three, "Head Down," is an essay about the baseball team Bangor West who went on to the Eastern Regional Little League Championship in 1989. King's son, Owen, was on the team and because of that, King recorded the entire experience as part journal part essay. This was encouraged by an editor at the New Yorker and was King's most ambitious non-fiction piece to date.

It is obvious by the way King writes "Head Down" that there is a great love for the sport, admiration for the kids and their coaches, and pride in Owen.

There are numerous notable moments in the essay, beginning with the way the parents and coaches motivate the kids, reminding everyone that there are but two reasons to play - to have fun and to win. Having fun must always come first.

King goes into great detail about the games, the characters and the roles they play.



Throughout the stressful series of games leading up to the World Series, King stresses the care that is given to the kids despite their performance. The kids are expected to work hard but there is no harsh criticism or punishment like one would expect in bigger leagues. No matter what happens, the kids are always told that teamwork means taking care of and loving one another, no matter what. The coaches and helpers are also fond of reminding everyone that the boys are twelve and still just kids.

The feeling changes as the coaches begin to practice tough love. Unconditional love off the field but during practice the kids are expected to play hard and do as they are told.

There are anecdotes as well as touching moments. In the end, the team called Bangor West makes it to the second round in the Eastern Regional Little League Championship held in Bristol, Connecticut.

Although Bangor West eventually lost, King takes pride that one of the players who took part in winning the World Series was from Maine. It was the first time since 1983 that an American team won the World Series.

Chapter twenty-four, "Brooklyn August," is a short poem about King's remembrances of events that took place at the legendary Ebbets Field.

Chapters 21-24 Analysis

The Doctor's Case is a fitting tribute to the most famous detective on Baker Street with a special nod to the often under-appreciated Watson. Sherlock Holmes does not have a good rapport with Lestrade and both men know it. Despite that, Lestrade sometimes uses the detective to solve seemingly-impossible cases. In many ways Holmes and Lestrade are alike, particularly when it comes to a certain linear way of thinking. In this case, Watson is able to solve the crime first because he thinks in an entirely different way.

Holmes is somewhat surprised by the fact that Watson solves the case first but remains gracious about it.

In the end, it is Lord Hull's own meanness that precipitates his downfall. Although the man was dying, Hull surely knew that drawing up a second will would cause the family to rebel and kill him.

"Umney's Last Case" is clearly a nod to Raymond Chandler's film noir style. Umney is the classic gumshoe, from the fedora to the dicey relationship with his Gal Friday.

King manages to delight and confuse the reader when Landry first introduces himself to Umney. It is easy to relate to the idea of being someone else for a while, particularly when life is not so kind. Landry is tired and wants Umney's life, even if it is of Landry's own making.



Once Landry switches places with Umney, all of the things that went wrong on that day seem to right themselves, leaving Umney even more bitter than he was when Landry told him the news.

Umney will not give up, however, and plans to get revenge on his creator.

"Head Down" and "Brooklyn August" are both tributes to the sport of baseball. King's first major non-fiction work is written around Bangor West's journey to the Little League World Series, including trials and triumphs.

"Brooklyn in August" recounts some of the games from King's youth and the way baseball used to be.



Characters

Robinson appears in Dolan's Cadillac

Robinson is a third grade school teacher who becomes obsessed with avenging his wife's premature death. Elizabeth, Robinson's wife, was a witness to a criminal act committed by a high level gangster named Dolan. Elizabeth, wanting to do the right thing, reports the crime to the police and FBI and agrees to testify. Elizabeth car blows up and she dies.

Robinson tries to go on with his life. A third grade schoolteacher is no match for a criminal of Dolan's caliber and the man is protected around the clock by armed bodyguards. Still, Robinson cannot rest.

When Robinson sets his plan to kill Dolan in motion, the first task is to join a gym and become physically fit. Many of the other teachers at the school chide the pale faced Robinson for his efforts to get into shape. No one knows why Robinson is seeking a stronger and healthier body and the man is only taken seriously after his first summer on the highway construction crew. Robinson suffers greatly due to the heat and physical exertion but refuses to stop.

Robinson's dedication and devotion to both Elizabeth and the task at hand are admirable, albeit a bit crazy. It is understandable that the end must come for Dolan and Robinson is willing to suffer virtually any consequence to make it happen. Although Robinson and Elizabeth are vindicated, the man does feel some sense of guilt in the way of fear at what he has done.

Joe Newall appears in It Grows on You

Joe Newall is the main character in "It Grows on You." Newall moves to the Castle Rock section known as "the Bend," in 1904. Newall lived in Castle Rock until 1929.

Newall is a scrawny man who has an "angry, hectic face" and the corneas in his eyes are yellow. Newall is not well liked in Castle Rock. Newall's employees are none too fond of their boss, who they refer to as "Firing Joe" because an employee who misses even one shift is fired.

The man's first property is a parcel of undeveloped land purchased at a foreclosure sale due to the death of the previous owner, who had no heirs. Joe has big plans for the property as well as a wood-milling operation he operated in Gates Falls. Joe marries Cora Leonard, the niece and only heir to a very wealthy man. Cora is an unattractive, fat woman, with no breasts and a big head. Joe's decision pays off when Cora's uncle dies and she inherits.



In 1921, Cora and Joe have their first child, a mutant baby who dies shortly after birth. Joe begins to build onto the family's already monstrous house. The place is ugly but as one of the townspeople said, "It grows on you." Joe is quite wealthy by this time. One day, Cora falls down the stairs, her neck and back breaks. Cora is buried next to the baby.

Joe's mills experiences fifty thousand dollars worth of damage shortly before the stock market crashes. Joe hangs himself.

Dolan appears in Dolan's Cadillac

Dolan is a high level gangster who operates on the Las Vegas and Los Angeles scenes. The man is flashy, violent, and incapable of remorse.

Miss Sidley appears in Suffer the Little Children

Miss Sidley is a small, older woman who teaches third grade in a public school.

The teacher wears a back brace to keep her steady yet she needs no help in asserting authority elsewhere.

Sheridan appears in Popsy

Sheridan is a gambler who is unfortunate enough to kidnap a child who happens to be a vampire and nephew of a master vampire named Popsy.

Bill Hogan appears in Chatterly Teeth

Bill Hogan - Salesman who buys and is saved by a pair of chatterly teeth.

Martha Rosewell appears in Dedication

Martha Rosewell - Housekeeper at the upscale Le Palais in New York City.

Peter Jefferies appears in Dedication

Peter Jefferies - Famous writer known for best selling books and prejudices despite his quality upbringing.



Clark Graham appears in You Know They Got a Hell of a Band

Clark Graham - Unsuspecting traveler who ends up in Rock and Roll Heaven.

Katie Weiderman appears in Sorry, Right Number

Katie Weiderman - Woman who gets a disturbing phone call from her future self.



Objects/Places

Castle Rock, Maine appears in *It Grows on You*

Castle Rock, Maine is Stephen King's most famous mythological town. It is located in Castle Country, which is also fictional. Many people believe that the town is based on one of the local towns in Maine, including Durham, which was home to Stephen King for quite some time.

Castle Rock is located less than 40 miles from Portland and just under 200 miles from Boston. The characters in Castle Rock tend to have lived there for many years, such as Harley McKissick, John Clutterbuck, Gary Paulson, all of whom appear in "It Grows on You."

Castle Rock is a fairly small town, surrounded with woods, and home to families that have lived in the area for generations. The families are often devoted but suspicious of outsiders which often proves to be wise.

Le Palais appears in *Dedication*

Le Palais is one of the oldest and most prestigious hotels in New York. It is the workplace of Martha Rosewall, a chief housekeeper who takes great pride in her job. The hotel is large with long corridors and a roomy break and dressing rooms for the chiefs of housekeeping. It is in these rooms that the housekeepers do their paperwork, eat, chat, and dress. It is the first and last place housekeepers go during their daily routines.

In addition to the guest rooms and suites, Le Palais also has amenities. These include La Patisserie, an upscale restaurant and Le Cinq, a bar off the main lobby that is often referred to as a pocket bar. It is at Le Cinq that Martha Rosewell celebrates her son's new book with her best friend Darcy Sagamore. It is also in Le Cinq where Martha tells the story of her relationship with Johnny Rosewell, a no good bum, and the birth of their son, Peter.

As with the staff in many high end hotels, the housekeepers tend to know much more about the goings on in the suites than anyone else in the hotel. This is true with Martha, who relays a tale of a famous man who routinely stayed at the hotel in the fifties and sixties. Naturally, the hotel was chosen for its discretion which allowed the patrons to do almost anything they wanted without repercussions or being plagued by gossip.

Las Vegas appears in *Dolan's Cadillac*

Las Vegas - Setting for "Dolan's Cadillac"; home to Robinson as well as the gangster Dolan.



Queens, New York appears in The Moving Finger

Queens, New York - Home to Howard and Violet Mitla.

Scooter's Grocery and Roadside Zoo appears in Chatterly Teeth

Scooter's Grocery and Roadside Zoo - Home and business belonging to Scooter and Myra. The place where Hogan finds the Chatterly Teeth and the troublesome hitchhiker.

Nevada desert appears in Dolan's Cadillac, Chatterly Teeth

Nevada desert - appears as the scene of the crime in "Dolan's Cadillac" and "Chatterly Teeth."

Tabori Studios appears in Sneakers

Tabori Studios - Formerly a part of Music City, Tabori Studios is a recording studio with great musical history.

Willow, Maine appears in Rainy Season

Willow, Maine - Small town where the Grahams plan to spend the summer until they are killed by toads during the rainy season.

Rock and Roll Heaven, Oregon appears in You Know They Got a Hell of a Band

Rock and Roll Heaven, Oregon - a small picturesque town where all the dead rock stars live and congregate to perform every night.

Troy, New York appears in My Pretty Pony

Troy, New York - Location of the Banning Homestead.



Themes

Unbelievable scenarios

A common theme in Stephen King's work is a character being faced with unbelievable situations. The character must adapt to the situation whether or not he or she believes that the goings on are real.

Some good examples of this can be seen in "The Moving Finger" where Mitla believes that he must be hallucinating when he sees the dismembered finger pop out of the drain in the bathroom. Although his wife does not see the finger, Mitla certainly does, and must do something before it takes over.

Another situation in this vein can be seen in "Crouch End" when Lonnie is swallowed up by the ground. King is notorious for leaving things to the imagination, for both the character and the reader, which makes the horror even worse.

Rock and Roll Heaven is not a place one would expect to end up. Although one might dream of meeting a favorite rock star of days gone by, surely decomposition and maggots would not be a part of the fantasy.

In "The House on Maple Street," the Bradbury kids are saved by the appearance of an alien space ship that overtakes their house. While it is implausible to believe that a house will launch off into outer space with a villain in the closet, it is nice to know that the evil step-father gets his comeuppance.

Music

Stephen King is fond of old time Rock and Roll and often refers to it in his work. Probably the most prevalent use of the theme can be found in "They Got a Hell of a Band." In the beginning of the tale, Clark shows off his knowledge by correctly responding to the answers on Jeopardy. When Clark and Mary go on their trip throughout the Oregon countryside, there is discussion on what music should play. There must be a compromise since Mary loves Lou Reed and Clark prefers other forms of music.

Arriving in Rock and Roll Heaven would seem like the ideal place for music fans like Clark and Mary. However, when faced with Janis Joplin, Mary becomes frightened and uneasy. Clark is enthralled until dead rocker after dead rocker comes into the diner. The once fascinating characters have taken on a horrific side as their corpses seem to believe that they are still alive.

King makes it possible to see Otis Redding as a cop or Elvis Presley as the town's mayor. It is also feasible that Alan Freed would be introducing the bands.



Even after all that has happened, Clark still has a sense of wonderment at the possibility of seeing some of his old heroes. The man just wishes it would be possible to leave after the concert.

Rural Living

Creating characters in out of the way locales is one of King's strengths. At any given location in the country, there are quirky people who may come off as peculiar or just plain weird or scary. In "Rainy Season," King introduces the readers to shopkeeper Henry Eden and a townspeople, Laura Stanton. The pair has known each other for many years, which is evident by their good natured bickering.

The people try to be friendly to the Grahams and warn them about the rainy season, something that one will never believe without seeing it first. Since it only occurs once every seven years, the oddity is not well known. The Grahams think that the townspeople are just plain crazy, even though they have taken great pains to assure the couple that the story is true.

People in rural areas also tend to have close neighborly cliques as well as outsiders. This can be seen in "It Grows on You," where the house and its owners are often discussed and judged from a safe distance.

Even after events have long since passed, people who live in the same area for many years never forget.

Another case in which rural living plays a part is in "Home Delivery," where the people on the island go to great pains to protect their community as well as Maddie and her unborn child.

Style

Point of View

The point of view used in "Nightmares and Dreamscapes" by Stephen King varies from story to story.

The stories that use third person omniscient are ones that have a broad scope or complicated range of emotions between characters. By using third person omniscient, King is able to describe bizarre happenings that may not be explained through the limited knowledge and experience of the character. The author can also cover the history involved in a particular scenario and compare and contrast points of view and belief.

Some examples of the third person point of view can be seen in "The Moving Finger," "Popsy," "Sneakers," and "Chatterly Teeth."

The first person point of view is valuable when the thoughts and emotions of the narrator are vital to the story. One story in which the first person point of view is crucial is "Dolan's Cadillac." In this story, Robinson is able to express the great hatred for Dolan and how that hatred and rage have turned a mild mannered school teacher into a scheming murderer. Only through the first person point of view can the reader understand the pain Robinson has gone through since Dolan killed his wife or the great preparation and effort the man goes through in order to plot and execute the gangster's demise.

Another good example of the use of the first person point of view is "The Doctor's Case," in which the reader gets to experience a classic Sherlock Holmes case through the eyes of the ever-present Watson. Even forty years after Holmes' death, Watson is still faithful and loyal enough to tell his story without besmirching the reputation of the great detective.

Finally, "Head Down" could only be written in first person as it is an essay that is written almost like a daily journal regarding the trials and tribulations of a championship-level Little League team.

Setting

Most of Stephen King's stories take place in Maine. Castle Rock, King's ultimate mythological town appears in "It Grows on You," while the rest of the stories use different locations. By far, King employs more locations in this collection than any other.

"Dolan's Cadillac" and "Chatterly Teeth" both take place in the desert and also mention Los Angeles. LA is also used as a setting in "Umney's Last Case."



Various locations in New York are included in the stories, including "Brooklyn in August," "Popsy," "Dedication," and "My Pretty Pony."

King also skips across the pond to include locations in and around London in "The Doctor's Case" and "Crouch End."

Some of the stories are set almost exclusively inside a home or business. A good example of this can be seen in "Sneakers," where the reader spends almost the entire time in Tabori Studios, a new incarnation of Music City.

Readers are given the complete picture of the music studio and what it would be like to be inside. This includes the studio itself plus various locations throughout the studio's building, including the third floor men's room where "Sneakers," a dope pusher from the 1970s was murdered and still appears to the right people.

Language and Meaning

The language used throughout "Nightmares and Dreamscapes" varies depending upon the timeframe and location used in the story.

In "Head Down" King uses all of the vernacular associated with Little League and baseball in general, a theme which carries over into "Brooklyn in August."

The most noticeable changes in language are presented in the stories "The Doctor's Case," "Crouch End," and "Umney's Last Case."

In "The Doctor's Case," the timeframe is the Victorian era in London. While there is a great opportunity to take advantage of the vernacular of the time as well as words and phrases unique to the Queen's English, King uses these things moderately. The result is a story that has the feel of Holmes without overburdening a reader with unfamiliarity.

The Queen's English is also used throughout "Crouch End," but again, sparingly since the main characters are American.

"Umney's Last Case" is a marriage of more modern vernacular married with the classic detective jargon of the 1930s. King is able to combine the two in the conversations between Umney and Landry to make sense of their thoughts and actions. Earlier in the story, King takes full advantage of Umney's job as a gumshoe, so well that the reader can practically hear the story being narrated as an old piece of film noir.

Structure

Nightmares and Dreamscapes by Stephen King is a work of fiction, comprised of 24 chapters totaling 797 pages.



The shortest chapter is 2 pages in length; the longest chapter is 58 pages in length. The average length of the chapters is 33 pages.

Only a few of the stories have been grouped together. These include "The Doctor's Case," a tale about Watson and Sherlock Holmes, and "Umney's Last Case," King's tribute to Raymond Chandler's detectives based in the 1930s.

"The Night Flier" and "Popsy" are grouped together as both stories revolve around vampires. First is a vampire with a pilot's license, the second is about a master vampire who must save his grandson from a kidnapper. King says he would like to believe that the same vampire plays both parts.

Lastly, "Head Down" and "Brooklyn August" are put together because of their baseball references. Although "Head Down" is an essay and not a short story, it goes along well with the one other entry that is not a short story. "Brooklyn in August" is a short poem devoted to baseball of yesteryear.



Quotes

"If only I'd had a gun! I could've ended his rotten, miserable life right then, if I'd only had a gun!"

Page 15

"When I woke up from a nightmare I could not remember - except there had been hands in it, clutching my throat - I found that I had been buried alive."

Page 61

"The snakes in pissant little roadside menageries like this one couldn't kill you; their venom was milked twice a week and sold to clinics that made drugs with it."

Page 182

"I walked the rest of that day in a kind of daze. It was like I was hypnotized."

Page 244

"It was like I was standing outside myself and watching again."

Page 247

"The only reason you don't hear about them more often is because people don't like to talk about them...having hallucinations is embarrassing."

Page 266

"Howard uttered a deep and primitive howl - a sound such as had never before escaped his polite set of CPA vocal cords - and flailed at the edge of the door."

Page 290

"Although he recognized these thoughts as paranoid fantasies, recognition did not lead to dispersion."

Pages 318-319

"Considering that it was probably the end of the world, Maddie Pace, thought she was doing a good job."

Page 381

"When he saw a decaying man still dressed in the mud streaked remnants of the Brooks



Brothers suit in which he had been buried tearing at the throat of a screaming woman in a T-shirt that read property of the Houston Oilers, you suddenly realized it might be a very big deal indeed."

Page 393

"He raised his eyes and looked out the window. What he saw out there struck him mute with horror and incredulity."

Page 425

"The expression of sympathy in his eyes - in my eyes - was the most hideous thing I've ever seen, and when he held out his hand - held out my hand - I felt a sudden urge to wheel around my swivel chair, get to my feet, and go running straight out my seventh-floor office window."

Page 711

"There have been some pretty bad days, though, the first one coming less than 24 hours after I showed up in the unbelievable year of 1994."

Page 736

Topics for Discussion

If you went to Rock and Roll Heaven, who would you most like to see? Why?

In what way could Umney get revenge on Landry? Could both men exist in the 1930s?

How do you think the mother will react when she sees that The House on Maple Street and her husband are gone?

Examine the coaches' techniques in "Head Down." Were they helpful or harmful? Explain.

What do you think was responsible for the happenings at the house in "It Grows on You?"

What is the most likely reason that Lestrade does not like Sherlock Holmes?

How do you think Peter would react to the concept of Peter Jefferies being his "natural father?"