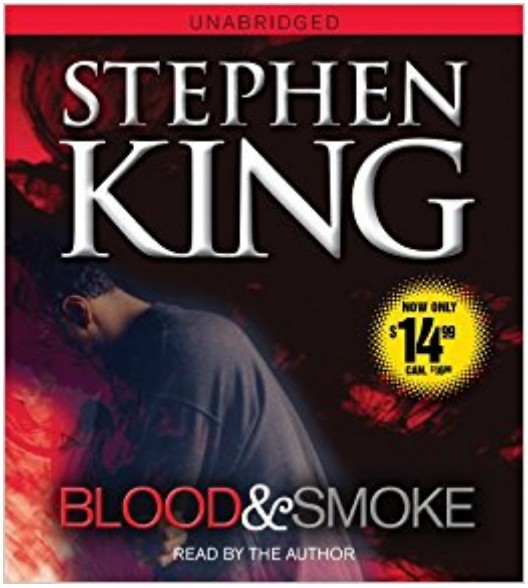
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Blood And Smoke



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Synopsis

Now from EncoreÃ¢â ¬â •world-renowned bestselling storyteller Stephen King reads three chilling tales of paranoia and addiction.In this audio-only trilogy of short stories, King tells the tales of three men, each smokers, who are grappling with their nicotine addiction as well as the personal demons that will determine their fates.In Lunch at the Gotham CafÃƒÂ©, Steve Davis is brooding over his recent breakup with his wife, plus the increasing stress of trying to quit smoking. When desperation pushes him to seek solace in a quiet luncheon, nothing prepares him for the horrors he will face at a trendy Manhattan restaurant.In the Deathroom is the story of a man named Fletcher who is imprisoned and tortured in a South American stronghold. He has information his captors want, and they will stop at nothing to get it out of him. His only hope for escape and survival lies in a final request: One more cigarette before he dies, please.And in 1408, listeners are introduced to Mike Enslin, a famous author of Ã¢â ¬Å“trueÃ¢â ¬Â• ghost stories. When he decides to spend a night in New York CityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most infamous haunted hotel room, he must survive the ordeal without the help of his trusty smokes.Unfiltered horror at its best, these inventive, blood-chilling stories showcase KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s compelling talent at its height. With unparalleled skill, King explores the perils of isolation and addiction, bringing the cravings of the mind to hideous life in Blood and Smoke.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

Stephen King had such fun recording the epic, unabridged audio version of his haunting novel Bag of Bones, he decided to publish the three-story collection Blood and Smoke exclusively on audio.

They’re horror stories, good and dark, loosely linked by the theme of cigarettes and a macabre humor. The flip-top cigarette-box package is amusingly cool, too. In the first tale, "Lunch at the Gotham CafÃƒÂ©," Steve Davis quits smoking two days after his wife dumps him. King cleverly compares the two kinds of withdrawal: obsession blends with emotional flatness, and you’re left "with a feeling the world has taken on a decidedly dreamy cast." Driven, Steve meets with his wife and her lawyer at a midtown Manhattan restaurant, where the nightmare begins. "I was pretty sure something was wrong with the maitre d’ almost as soon as I saw him," says Steve, and gothic cafÃƒÂ© events soon prove him right. But the gory denouement actually worked better on the page, in the 1995 book Dark Love. King’s two new stories, written directly for audio, outdo the first. In "1408," Mike Enslin, a writer who once studied with Jane Smiley, dreamed of being a Yale Younger Poet, and "starved on the payroll of The Village Voice," is reduced to hacking out stuff like "10 Nights in 10 Haunted Houses." For a follow-up, he visits room 1408 of the film noir-ish Dolphin Hotel. "Five women and one man have jumped from that room’s single window, Mr. Enslin," notes the proprietor. "Twelve suicides in 68 years." Ah, but Mike is wearing his "lucky Hawaiian shirt--it’s the one with the ghost repellent," and an unlit cigarette is tucked behind his ear. "In the Deathroom" evokes another scary small space: a bloodstained basement Ministry of Information in which Fletcher, a reporter who quit smoking long ago, asks Escobar and his torturer’s assistants--Ramon and a woman who reminds Fletcher of the Bride of Frankenstein--for a last cigarette. Fletcher recognizes the "we don’t need no steenkeeng badges" clichÃƒÂ© he’s trapped in, and is "amazed to discover that one’s sense of humor ... could function this far into a state of terror." But when Fletcher takes a drag, "knowing he might be dead before it burned down to the filter," you’ll be tense. King’s nasal, sarcastic delivery puts you right in there with his horrified protagonists. --Tim Appelo --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This audio-only collection, read by King, contains two never-before-published stories, "In the Deathroom" and "1408," as well as "Lunch at the Gotham Caf?," previously unrecorded. After King came to record Bag of Bones, his first S. & S. title, he decided to do a linked collection. The stories all touch on smoking, and the first printing is in a special flip-top box suggestive of a cigarette box. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Stephen King has been experimenting some new forms of communication for a while, and his attempt at giving short stories on CDs is quite a promising success. First his voice is agreeable and

hoarse enough to give density to stories that need heavily-packed language. We could regret that some voice effects are too bland, but that is a choice and it is acceptable if we consider the object of these recordings is to make people use their imagination and not only to manipulate their hearing to plunge them into a pre-constructed audio world. We have to represent the referential world of the stories in our mindÃ¢â ¬â„¢s eye. First , Lunch at the Gotham CafÃƒÂ© is a thriller and it is absolutely exciting. Every moment of it is more dramatic than the previous one, exploring the mind of a man suddenly turned crazy and murderous, and also exploring the mind of the main character, Steve, trying to cope with the craziness of the havoc the maÃƒÆ'Ã Â®tre dÃ¢â ¬â„¢ is creating, as well as exploring the vicious mind of SteveÃ¢â ¬â„¢s wife, soon to be ex-wife, who is getting just as lunatic as the maÃƒÆ'Ã Â®tre dÃ¢â ¬â„¢ and becoming unable to see that she was saved by Steve and even quite able to try to make him fail in his attempt, to get some vengeance of hers, not realizing that she would kill herself in the same move. Blood all right, but Stephen King shows that under any stress at all, the real reaction of a smoker is to quit and then his vision is demultiplied into a nightmare that can any time come true. And it sure does here. Second, 1408 is the only story of the set that contains an element of supernatural dimension : one room of one hotel in New York is inhabited by some unhuman being, or is it really a being of any kind ? Yet it is carnivorous and you can only escape it by killing yourself or using the only thing it is afraid of : fire. And there is the smoke of a book of matches used to light up, not a cigarette but a victim, so that the being lets the victim go because it does not like roasted meat. Yet He will not escape the trap really and he will go away with some unhealthy souvenirs who will eventually bring him down to an early death in suffering. But keep some matches at hand all the time. It is the safest way to escape one of those haunting Ãƒâ Ã Â« beings Ãƒâ Ã Â» that live in the walls of our urban buildings. Third, In the Deathroom is another thriller, a realistic story about some kind of anti-communist dictatorship in some kind of Central American big-brother-state. There, tobacco is the means to escape, the tool to fake your way out of the torture room, the death room, the death row of the Ministry of Information of that hellish paradise for HitlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s babies and apprentices. The point is that tobacco will never become a new habit for such an escapee from Tortureland. It will become some pilgrimage of a vague one-minute instant on forty-third street, just to pay homage to the tool that triggered out the forage to freedom of our hero. A brilliant set, a set of stories gleaming with power, suspense, surprise, horror, and, above all, realism. Stephen King is not speaking of any out-of-the-world fantasy, but of our everyday life of divorce, lunacy, crime, nightmares, fears, torture and dictatorship. Please get down to it and jump into that phenomenal trip.

Got this for my Aunt and she loves it

Stephen King has been experimenting some new forms of communication for a while, and his attempt at giving short stories on CDs is quite a promising success. First his voice is agreeable and hoarse enough to give density to stories that need heavily-packed language. We could regret that some voice effects are too bland, but that is a choice and it is acceptable if we consider the object of these recordings is to make people use their imagination and not only to manipulate their hearing to plunge them into a pre-constructed audio world. We have to represent the referential world of the stories in our mind's eye. First , Lunch at the Gotham CafÃƒÂ© is a thriller and it is absolutely exciting. Every moment of it is more dramatic than the previous one, exploring the mind of a man suddenly turned crazy and murderous, and also exploring the mind of the main character, Steve, trying to cope with the craziness of the havoc the maÃƒÆ'Ã Â®tre d' is creating, as well as exploring the vicious mind of Steve's wife, soon to be ex-wife, who is getting just as lunatic as the maÃƒÆ'Ã Â®tre d' and becoming unable to see that she was saved by Steve and even quite able to try to make him fail in his attempt, to get some vengeance of hers, not realizing that she would kill herself in the same move. Blood all right, but Stephen King shows that under any stress at all, the real reaction of a smoker is to quit and then his vision is demultiplied into a nightmare that can any time come true. And it sure does here. Second, 1408 is the only story of the set that contains an element of supernatural dimension : one room of one hotel in New York is inhabited by some unhuman being, or is it really a being of any kind ? Yet it is carnivorous and you can only escape it by killing yourself or using the only thing it is afraid of : fire. And there is the smoke of a book of matches used to light up, not a cigarette but a victim, so that the being lets the victim go because it does not like roasted meat. Yet He will not escape the trap really and he will go away with some unhealthy souvenirs who will eventually bring him down to an early death in suffering. But keep some matches at hand all the time. It is the safest way to escape one of those haunting Ãƒâ Ã Â« beings Ãƒâ Ã Â» that live in the walls of our urban buildings. Third, In the Deathroom is another thriller, a realistic story about some kind of anti-communist dictatorship in some kind of Central American big-brother-state. There, tobacco is the means to escape, the tool to fake your way out of the torture room, the death room, the death row of the Ministry of Information of that hellish paradise for Hitler's babies and apprentices. The point is that tobacco will never become a new habit for such an escapee from Tortureland. It will become some pilgrimage of a vague one-minute instant on forty-third street, just to pay homage to the tool that triggered out the forage to freedom of our hero. A brilliant set, a set of stories gleaming with power, suspense, surprise, horror, and, above all,

realism. Stephen King is not speaking of any out-of-the-world fantasy, but of our everyday life of divorce, lunacy, crime, nightmares, fears, torture and dictatorship. Please get down to it and jump into that phenomenal trip. Dr Jacques COULARDEAU, Paris Universities II and IX....

I love Stephen King. I listen to audio books during my commute to work, it keeps me from using my cell phone while driving. In Georgia, it is illegal to use your cell phone while driving for those who didn't know that already. ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã ËœÃ â These were all short stories that I had read before but it was nice to revisit them. I wish there were more short stories included in the CD.

Makes 7 hours of straight driving more than bearable.

Read by Stephen King himself which is always a bonus - one of his greatest short stories. King at his best.

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