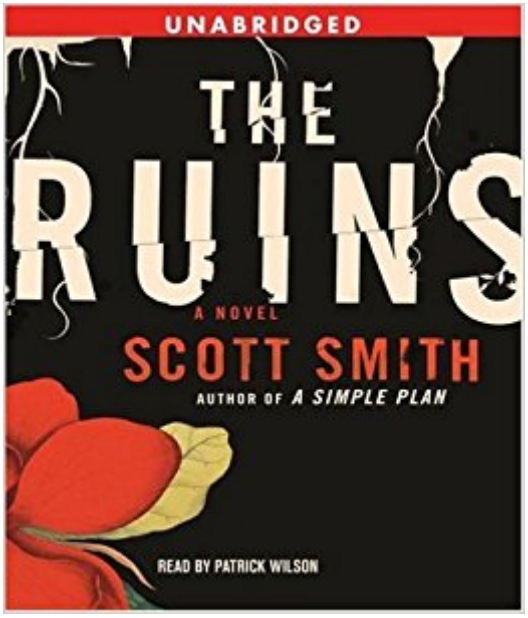
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The Ruins



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Synopsis

Trapped in the Mexican jungle, a group of friends stumble upon a creeping horror unlike anything they could ever imagine.Two young couples are on a lazy Mexican vacationÃ¢â ¬â œsun-drenched days, drunken nights, making friends with fellow tourists. When the brother of one of those friends disappears, they decide to venture into the jungle to look for him. What started out as a fun day-trip slowly spirals into a nightmare when they find an ancient ruins site . . . and the terrifying presence that lurks there. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

In 1993, Scott Smith wowed readers with A Simple Plan, his stunning debut thriller about what happens when three men find a wrecked plane and bag stuffed with over 4 million dollars--a book that Stephen King called "Simply the best suspense novel of the year!" Now, thirteen years after writing a novel that turned into a pretty great movie featuring Bill Paxton and Billy Bob Thornton, Smith is back, with The Ruins, a horror-thriller about four Americans traveling in Mexico who stumble across a nightmare in the jungle. Who better to tell readers if Smith has done it again than the undisputed King of Horror (and champion of Smith’s first book)? We asked Stephen King to read The Ruins and give us his take. Check out his review below. --Daphne Durham Guest Reviewer: Stephen KingStephen King is the author of too many bestselling books to name here, but some of our favorites include: Cell, The Stand, On Writing, The Shining, and the entire Dark Tower series. King also received the National Book Foundation 2003 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, has had many movies and television miniseries adapted from his novels, short

stories, and screenplays, and is a regular columnist for Entertainment Weekly. Keep your eyes peeled for Lisey's Story (October 2006), a new television series on TNT based on Nightmares & Dreamscapes (July 2007), and a graphic novel series based on the Dark Tower books coming from Marvel (2007). When I heard that Scott Smith was publishing a new novel this summer, I felt the way I did when my kids came in an hour or two late from their weekend dates: a combination of welcoming relief (thank God you're back) mingled with exasperation and anger (where the hell have you been?). Well, it's only a book, you say, and maybe that's true, but Scott Smith is a singularly gifted writer, and it seems to me that the twelve years between his debut--the cult smash A Simple Plan--and his return this summer with The Ruins is cause for exasperation, if not outright anger. Certainly Smith, who has been invisible save for his Academy Award-nominated screenplay for the film version of A Simple Plan, will have some 'splainin to do about how he spent his summer vacation. Make that his last twelve summer vacations. But enough. The new book is here, and the question devotees of A Simple Plan will want answered is whether or not this book generates anything like Plan's harrowing suspense. The answer is yes. The Ruins is going to be America's literary shock-show this summer, doing for vacations in Mexico what Jaws did for beach weekends on Long Island. Is it as successful and fulfilling as a novel? The answer is not quite, but I can live with that, because it's riskier. There will be reviews of this book by critics who have little liking or understanding for popular fiction who'll dismiss it as nothing but a short story that has been bloated to novel length (I'm thinking of Michiko Kakutani, for instance, who microwaved Smith's first book). These critics, who steadfastly grant pop fiction no virtue but raw plot, will miss the dazzle of Smith's technique; The Ruins is the equivalent of a triple axel that just misses perfection because something's wrong with the final spin. It's hard to say much about the book without giving away everything, because the thing is as simple and deadly as a leg-hold trap concealed in a drift of leaves…or, in this case, a mass of vines. You've got four young American tourists--Eric, Jeff, Amy, and Stacy--in Cancun. They make friends with a German named Mathias whose brother has gone off into the jungle with some archeologists. These five, plus a cheerful Greek with no English (but a plentiful supply of tequila), head up a jungle trail to find Mathias's brother…the archaeologists…and the ruins. Well, two out of three ain't bad, according to the old saying, and in this case; what's waiting in the jungle isn't just bad, it's horrible. Most of The Ruins's 300-plus pages is one long, screaming close-up of that horror. There's no let-up, not so much as a chapter-break where you can catch your breath. I felt that The Ruins did draw on a trifle, but I found Scott Smith's refusal to look away heroic, just as I did in A Simple Plan. It's the trappings of horror and suspense that will make the book a best seller, but its claim to literature lies in its unflinching

naturalism. It’s no Heart of Darkness, but at its suffocating, terrifying, claustrophobic best, it made me think of Frank Norris. Not a bad comparison, at that. One only hopes Mr. Smith won’t stay away so long next time.--Stephen King --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Four American tourists vacationing in Cancun make friends with a German traveler and join the hunt for his brother, who has mysteriously vanished after following a new flame to an archeological site. But inadequate planning, horrendous conditions and unforeseen dangers quickly turn this jungle adventure into a fight for survival. The novel itself is creepy, compelling and simple in scope, but the audiobook adaptation doesn’t quite succeed in relating the feeling of dread the text imparts. Wilson reads in an assured (if somewhat flat) voice in the tenor range, but his tone often seems too light to properly convey the novel’s dark and foreboding mood. He also doesn’t do much to differentiate between the characters; although Smith has characters who feel very real and distinct, listeners could have used more help from the narrator to distinguish one point-of-view from the next. A book like this oneÃ¢â ¬â •which presents the story from several different POVsÃ¢â ¬â •would have benefited from a team of talented narrators to help bring the narrative to life. Regrettably, Wilson goes it alone, delivering a sufficient but mediocre performance. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

I caught the movie on SY-FYÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| 20 minutes after it started. I quickly became enthralled, looked it up on IMDB to find out how a group of people could get in so much trouble in such a short period of time (despite commercials) I discovered there was a book and bought it when I was done with the movie. Living on a budget, I have to decide which book will I spend money on and I usually talk myself out of it and for a sucky free one in PRIME. I didnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t even hesitate with this purchase ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ the movie was that good.What intrigued me about this book is how six people can so quickly get into dire trouble. It isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t just about a vine ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s about human nature. Are you a follower or a leader? How would you react in a life/death situation? How well do you know your friends? Or yourself for that matter?The writing is so intense at times that I had to stop reading and take breaks. I watched the movie once more after I finished the book and despite their differences, both forms of media are outstanding. There are 2 times in the book where the author goes on a bit too much (at least in my opinion) but I quickly skimmed through those. This book is well worth the money.The reason for the vine isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t clear .. I saw a trailer online about how itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s a curse or

something. The book offered some ideas. This bothered me until I got to the end. ThatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s when it occurred to meÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦ it doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t matter what caused it. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d have to ask why the idea of fire wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t pursued further but that's not enough to ding a star. Critics say the plot isn't plausible... lots of horror stories aren't plausible! This is a great book.... my only advice is not to eat while reading as it is not lighthearted fare.

I enjoyed reading this book! I saw the movie and realized it was based on a book so I had to get a copy. I breezed through the book. It was a fast read, very entertaining!

I liked the book very much and then made the mistake of watching the movie on DVD - that was not a good idea as the movie changed things all around and it was disappointing.

Very good horror story. Well-written, would recommend to readers liking this genre. Hard to put down

A group of tourists find themselves lost in a jungle of horror and those giving it bad review I don't know - it is different than A Simple Plan which I liked but this was so phenomenal. I cannot imagine that I would ever be "scared" or "creeped out" by a book the way I was with this one. Excellent I just WISH HE WOULD WRITE A LITTLE FASTER _ two books - come on scott Im dying over here!!!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. This is my second book by Scott Smith, and I'm off to browse for more as soon as I finish this review. Scott Smith is a master at creating suspense within unique and interesting plots. Another reviewer described him as a cross between Stephen King and Michael Crichton, and that is a great description. In this particular novel, a group of people get stranded in the jungle and bad . . . very bad . . . things happen to them. I won't give anything away, but suffice it to say it will keep you on the edge of your seat.

And I loved it. I read it in three days. A group of college kids stumble upon a grassy mound in a Mexican jungle. Trapped by Mayans and stealthy killers, they struggle to survive. Suspenseful. Worth every shiver. Read the book then watch the movie.

Not only is this a very compelling story, it's a great character study of ordinary people put into

extraordinary circumstances. I enjoyed the book partly because I identified myself and my friends in the two couples and two friends who enter the Mexican jungle searching for an afternoon's adventure. They set out looking for one of the friend's brother, who has followed a new love interest to an archeological ruins and has not returned to his hotel in Cancun. The author's well-developed characters:: Jeff, Amy, Eric and Stacy all have bright futures ahead of them back in the States. Matthias, a German friend whom they meet while on their Cancun vacation, as well as a friendly non-English speaking Greek, whose name they are never completely sure of, make up the group who find terror and agony deep in the jungle.Not only is the story disturbing in the horrible circumstances the friends find themselves in, I kept asking myself how I would have acted if I had been part of the group. They all stay pretty much in character, which begs the question: how would anyone act when in what may be a hopeless situation? Are you always completely faithful to your partner when drunk? Sober? When you have decisions to make that impact not only your life, but those of friends and near strangers, what do you choose to do? Do you take chances? Are you loyal? Selfish? A leader? Or a follower who gives up? How do you act when your faith in yourself and your loved one is tested?These questions kept me guessing about my own character, while I kept anxiously reading, curious and fascinated as to what the answers might be.

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