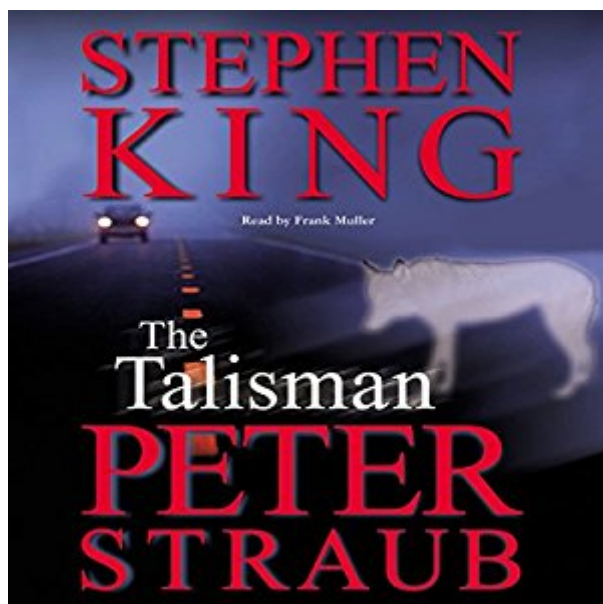


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The Talisman



Synopsis

Now available on audio "completely unabridged" on MP3 CD for only \$19.9, Stephen King and Peter Straub's epic thriller about a young boy's quest to save his mother's life. Jack Sawyer, twelve years old, is about to begin a most fantastic journey, an exalting, terrifying quest for the mystical Talisman "the only thing that can save Jack's dying mother. But to reach his goal, Jack must make his way not only across the breadth of the United States but also through the wondrous and menacing parallel world of the Territories. In the Territories, Jack finds another realm, where the air is so sweet and clear a man can smell a radish being pulled from the ground a mile away "and a life can be snuffed out instantly in the continuing struggle between good and evil. Here Jack discovers "Twinners," reflections of the people he knows on earth "most notably Queen Laura, the "Twinner" of Jack's own imperiled mother. As Jack "flips" between worlds, making his way westward toward the redemptive Talisman, a sequence of heart-stopping encounters challenges him at every step. An unforgettable epic of adventure and resounding triumph, The Talisman is one of the most influential and highly praised works of fantasy ever written. --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 28 hours

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: November 6, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00005QTHB

Best Sellers Rank: #54 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Horror #109

in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror > Occult #263 in Books > Audible

Audiobooks > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

A little while ago I did a writeup for Clive Barker's "Weaveworld" and said it may be the best blend of the horror novel and the fantasy novel ever. While I stand by that 'may be' it occurs to me now that I should have also mentioned "The Talisman" as a voraciously strong contender for that title. It's about

a lot of things, including the existence of parallel realities overlaying one another and what happens in one of them also affecting what happens in the other (or others?) but perhaps the best way to describe the slice in space and time in this stunningly realized Universe (Multiverse?) we're taken to in "The Talisman" is to say that it's about a young boy named Jack who's mother is dying, and to save her he has to go on a journey to obtain a mystical artifact (the title 'Talisman'), and his mother's counterpart is also dying. And she's the Queen of one of Earth's parallel selves. This may sound like the basis for a 'Y.A.' novel a la "Harry Potter" or "Abarat" but it's not, this novel is graphic and brutal through much of its run. It also contains some of the very best of the worlds of charm and whimsy and wonder at other times. Jack is possessed of the ability to 'flip' from one world to the other, and the novel spends time in each. Items from one world, as well as people, have their counterparts in the other world as well, but in different forms. What is a house in one world could well be a hut or a castle or a tent in another. Magic is far stronger on the 'other' world, technology more prevalent in 'ours', but each exist in both.

In the vast and eerie world of Stephen King's multiverse, "The Talisman" is something special -- a boy's quest to save his mother, and his journey into another world where magic reigns. And that magic begins to bloom like a black rose in "The Talisman: Road of Trials," the first comic book collection adapted from King and Peter Straub's epic fantasy. Vivid, shadowy and hauntingly visceral, this story gives an eerie, dark edge to the everyday world. The first part is kind of fragmented, but it does an excellent job of introducing Jack (and readers) to the Territories. Jack and his mother Lily are on the run, driving from place to place so they can get away from a sinister man known only as Uncle Morgan. When they stop at a deserted beach resort, Jack befriends a kindly old man named Speedy -- and not only does Speedy know about Jack's "daydreams," but he also knows the true reason Lily is dying. To save his mother, Jack has to go on a journey into a strange otherworld known as the Territories, populated by "twinners" (sort of a other-world doppelganger who lives and dies alongside the person in our world). Jack manages to "flip" into the Territories and begins his journey to recover the Talisman, but he soon discovers that horrendous enemies are following him -- both in the Territories, and in our world.... The first volume of "The Talisman Road of Trials" is all about setting up the story -- plot threads are set up, characters are introduced, and the preteen hero begins his quest. It's a bit fragmented in plot, but when Speedy and Jack start talking by the broken carousel the story really begins to take focus.

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