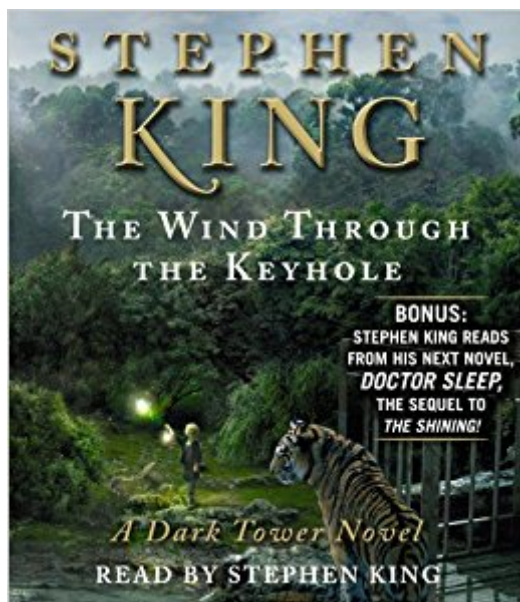


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The Wind Through The Keyhole: The Dark Tower IV-1/2



Synopsis

Now a major motion picture starring Matthew McConaughey and Idris Elba For those discovering the epic bestselling Dark Tower series for the first time—and for its legions of dedicated fans—an immensely satisfying stand-alone novel and perfect introduction to the series. Beginning in 1974, gaining momentum in the 1980s and coming to a thrilling conclusion when the last three novels were published in 2003-2004, the Dark Tower epic fantasy saga stands as Stephen King's most beguiling achievement. It has been the basis for a long-running Marvel comic series. Now, with *The Wind Through the Keyhole*, King has returned to the rich landscape of Mid-World. This story within a story within a story finds Roland Deschain, Mid-World's last gunslinger, in his early days during the guilt-ridden year following his mother's death. Sent by his father to investigate evidence of a murderous shape-shifter, a "skin-man," Roland takes charge of Bill Streeter, a brave but terrified boy who is the sole surviving witness to the beast's most recent slaughter. Roland, himself only a teenager, calms the boy by reciting a story from the Book of Eld that his mother used to read to him at bedtime. "A person's never too old for stories," he says to Bill. "Man and boy, girl and woman, we live for them." Sure to captivate the avid fans of the Dark Tower epic, this is an enchanting introduction to Roland's world and the power of Stephen King's storytelling magic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

[A] phantasmagorical folk tale ... King's ability to entertain and unsettle cannot be denied. The skill with which he delivers a shock or sense of gothic terror is simply unmatched Independent on Sunday Perfectly balanced: another excellent example of King's sheer skill as a storyteller. Daily Express Like John Steinbeck, he's an unfussy writer whose voice is rooted equally in the rhythms of everyday speech and the mythic made manifest in everyday life. Indeed, reading King, you often sense the presence of the dustbowl America of *The Grapes of Wrath* ... a King novel has a sparse elegance that most novelists never achieve in a whole career. Put it down to the insistent, economical and wholly distinctive authorial voice. SFX Magazine A frantic-paced puzzle-box adventure that encompasses gunslinger Roland Deschain's early years, werewolves and powerful storytelling. Shortlist King is one of the great popular artists of our time. Independent Classic King, fine characters, compellingly written in a gripping, well-honed plot Daily Express on *WOLVES OF THE CALLA* Superbly energetic, it's King at his best. Mail on Sunday on *WIZARD AND GLASS*

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Stephen King is the author of more than fifty books, all of them worldwide bestsellers. His most recent include *11/22/63*, *Full Dark*, *No Stars*, *Under the Dome*, *Just Past Sunset*, and *Lisey's Story*. He lives in Bangor, Maine, with his wife, novelist Tabitha King.

It has been a long time since I read the *Dark Tower* series. Waiting for each new volume to come out. This book comes to me long after Roland's story was completed. The language, the style came back as easily as one remembers how to ride a bicycle. It sparked memories of the Gunslingers travels with his Ka tet. So much so, that I'll revisit the series and read it once more, though knowing how it ends, the return to the journey will be anticipated with great joy. The *Dark Tower IV -1/2* stands well on its own, *The Skin Man*; Tim Ross and even Aslan, who has a small part of the story of *The Wind Through the Keyhole* will be remembered as the spark of reigniting the flame of desire to start the journey all over again. Thankee sai King...

When I was done with the *Dark Tower* series, which was an enjoyable but lengthy commitment, I felt a small pang of loss. That was it, there was no more. Sad to say goodbye to Roland and his ka-tet. I wanted more. Then Steve-O granted me just another morsel from Mid World in "*The Wind Through the Keyhole*". Nice. And the telling of the tale is interesting too, in that King wraps this gift in multiple layers. If you have enjoyed following the Gunslinger on his quest, you will want to add this to the series. It seems to fit between *Wizard and Glass* and *The Wolves of the Calla*. Enjoy!

I've read all of the books in the Dark Tower series as well as most of Stephen King's other novels. They have been very enjoyable reading experiences. Reading The Dark Tower series is like visiting old friends. King gave his characters life and developed them so deeply you feel you were "well met" as Roland of Gilead would have put it. Great reading!

Stephen King The Wind Through The Keyhole is a very good book and a fine addition to the Dark Tower set of books. It draws you into the plot very fast and you can't help but read 30-50 pages a day until it's done which is roughly 300 pages. I enjoy the book a lot because honestly can read it right after Wizard and Glass and before The Wolves of Calla because of how the storyline is set up this book is consider 4.5 in the Dark Tower set. I personally was shocked in mutiple pages as the storyline went along, and the characters were very well developed and made you want more and more and more. The last 50 pages or so I couldn't put it down I had to just finish the book it was that breathe taking. It did have some scenes in the pages that made me stomache go now thats very gross. But won't ruin it for those who have yet to read the book. In closing if you love the Dark Tower books and don't own the whole set yet buy this book and be blown away thats why I gave it a five star rating which is rare for me when it comes to movies, music and books.

If you're a fan of the Dark Tower series by Stephen King then this is simply one more book that rounds out that story. If you miss Roland, Eddie, Susannah, Jake and yes of course Oiy (apologies in advance for any misspellings of names here, forgive me Mr. King) the way I do then this book will be a total delight, a homecoming for sorts to slip back into Mid-World and spend time with friends old and new as they continue their journey to the Dark Tower. And no, the story isn't spoiled a bit by knowing what fate still awaits our beloved Ka-Tet. This is actually more of the story of what happened to a younger Roland following the events he tells of in Wizard and Glass, treating us to a double world of present and past in much the same way that book did. For me this book joins the collection of King's greatest story ever told. And yes, I really do mean that.

As a longtime fan of King, I've not always agreed with every decision he's made, while respecting his right to do whatever he wants with his own writing. For example, there are things I like and don't like about the revised edition of The Gunslinger, in which he made several changes to the book's tone and some aspects of the characters' personalities, as well as to much of the dialogue. I appreciate any and all Mid-World fiction King wants to treat us with, but I'm not wild about changes

being made to beloved material. That brings us to *The Wind through the Keyhole*, King's latest re-entry into the Dark Tower universe. Noting the five-star rating I've given it, you can safely assume I'm pleased with this addition to the canon. Here's why.

When I first heard about this project, I thought it made good sense. King mentioned that after some reflection, he realized there was a gap between *Wizard and Glass* and *Wolves of the Calla*, and has referred to this novel as "Dark Tower 4 1/2." Let's go back in time a bit. Years before King was hit by a van and nearly killed, he always said that *The Dark Tower* would be a series of about seven or eight novels. After the accident, King attacked the story like a man possessed, determined, as he also mentioned several times, not to end up like Geoffrey Chaucer with a hugely ambitious literary work that didn't get finished. He steamrolled through writing three final novels, ensuring that his story's fate wouldn't end up the same as Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Now, after several healthy years recovering from the accident and resuming his career, he seems less pressured and more interested in enriching the story. And like King, I also sensed a gap between DT 4 and 5, one that didn't exist between the other novels. Sure, Jake, Eddie, and Susannah have progressed noticeably from the end of *The Drawing of the Three* to their first appearance in *The Waste Lands*, but not to the point that it seemed like a great deal of time had passed, as it did between 4 and 5.

The best thing about *The Wind through the Keyhole* to me is that the book doesn't change anything, but it adds much. It bridges the gap and fills in that missing time, establishing a more cohesive flow between books 4 and 5, while offering Dark Tower junkies like myself another glimpse into King's fantastic creation with stories of Roland's past. I don't know if I'm alone here, but I was looking for more of Roland's back-story than I got when *Wizard and Glass* was published. I loved the story of his ordeal in Mejis, but I thought the flashback would have a wider scope, that it wouldn't be mostly concentrated on one summer from his youth. The stories within *Wind through the Keyhole* open up a bit more of that past with rich storytelling that helps flesh out Roland's early years and negates the concern of what the stakes will be for him and his current ka-tet. As others have noted, we know all of the characters are safe, so a worry going in was, what is there to provide suspense? Once you get lost in Mid-World's past, that concern will fade and the joy of experiencing that magical world only presented in tantalizing fragments in the other Dark Tower novels (except DT 4, of course) will set in. *Wizard and Glass* proved that flashbacks like these can be thrilling even if you know the characters will survive. They're great fun, allowing King to delve into the history of Mid-World and the forces that shaped Roland's personality. *The Wind through the Keyhole* is, for me, a welcome addition to Tower lore. I actually can't wait to go back and re-read the entire series with this book added to the timeline. It's impossible that King was able to squeeze in all of the ideas that he

wanted to develop when he wrote those last three books, considering that he took years in between each of the others, and that Roland promises at the end of Wizard and Glass he has a "tale for another day" that must be told before reaching the Tower. I feel like we're now getting some of those ideas that might've come naturally if King's accident hadn't given him a pressing urgency to finish the story as soon as possible. Maybe not everyone will agree with me, and maybe even some will refuse to accept this book into the Dark Tower family; to that, I'd say they will always have the freedom of skipping it and ignoring what it adds to the story. As for me, I'm grateful that King decided to give us a little bit more. You never know, he might even decide one day to give those readers unhappy with the ending of Dark Tower 7 the final version where Roland reaches the Tower with the Horn of Eld in tow. Whether he does or not, The Wind through the Keyhole opens the door for future possibilities with this series.

I've been a Dark Tower fan for years, but I found the last two books in the series to be fairly large let downs compared to the other five books in the series. This book was a lot like Wizard and Glass in that it takes place in Roland's past as a newly raised Gunslinger. I really enjoyed the way King seamlessly weaved in multiple storylines together. All in all, I really enjoyed another journey with my favorite Ka-Tet and would love for more "flashback" type books to come in the future.

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