



# The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus

By Bev Vincent

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**AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE DARK TOWER SERIES—INCLUDING BOOK-BY-BOOK ANALYSIS AND INSIGHT INTO STEPHEN KING'S CREATIVE PROCESS.**

In 1970, Stephen King embarked on what would become the crowning achievement in his literary career—the Dark Tower. The seven-volume series, written and published over a period of 30 years, was inspired by Robert Browning's poem "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," as well as J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, and the spaghetti Westerns of Sergio Leone.

With the full cooperation of Stephen King himself, *The Road to the Dark Tower* examines the epic journey of the author to complete a story that threatened to overwhelm him. In this indispensable companion, Bev Vincent presents a book-by-book analysis of each volume in the series, tracing the Dark Tower's connections to King's other novels including *The Stand*, *Insomnia*, and *Hearts in Atlantis*, and offering insights from the author about the creative process involved in crafting his lifelong work—a work that has consumed not only Stephen King, but his legion of devoted readers. This is essential reading for any Dark Tower-or Stephen King-fan.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

How does one determine what the greatest work of an author's career is? The answer to this query, posed in the final pages of this book, can be found throughout Vincent's in-depth analysis of King's seven-volume Dark Tower epic (*The Gunslinger*, *The Drawing of the Three*, etc.). Making sense of a story that switches back and forth through time, across multiple universes, and involves the safety of a tower that represents the fate of all existence is no easy task. Kudos to Vincent for even trying. But readers beware—the work is analyzed in its entirety, so expect spoilers galore. Vincent—whose column on Stephen King, "News from the Dead Zone," appears in *Cemetery Dance* magazine—tracks the evolution of both King's three-decade avocation (the very first line was written in 1970) and the development of the saga's characters and plot. Most importantly, Vincent shows how the few members of gunslinger Roland's fellowship, recruited to help him protect the Tower, slowly evolve from reluctant participation to resolve about their leader's quest. Former cocaine addict Eddie, for example, puts his sarcasm and skepticism aside and learns to embrace the dream of his surrogate father. As Vincent writes, "If Roland were to die on their journey, Eddie would continue with the others, for having dreamt of the Tower and the field of roses, the compulsion to reach the Tower claims him, too." Vincent also devotes a full chapter to discussing some of King's other works that are related to the Dark Tower series, such as *Hearts in Atlantis* and *Insomnia*. In light of King's own admission that the Dark Tower epic is the nexus of all his books—"The Dark Tower finishes everything that I really wanted to say"—Vincent asserts, "What else, then, is a magnum opus if not something that both ties together and summarizes a person's life's work?" With this thorough analysis of King's epic, Vincent proves himself a master of the Dark Tower world.

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From [Booklist](#)

Vincent's expansive synopsis of horrormeister King's Dark Tower saga arrives nipping the heels of its seventh and last volume, *The Dark Tower* [BKL S 1 04]. Besides recapping the epic itself, Vincent points out the most germane aspects of other King novels and stories that touch upon it, sketches its leading characters, notes influences on it, and discusses its creation and the layered, self-consciously reflexive concept (King himself is a character in it) that animates it. Appended are chronologies of the saga's writing and publishing and of events in its main setting, Mid-World, and in "Keystone Earth" (i.e., our reality from the 1950s on, but including the saga's characters' doings when, at various times, they enter it), a too-small Mid-World glossary, and the Robert Browning poem that initially inspired King. The large and perdurable King fandom should embrace Vincent's effort and spur him to correct misstatements about the *Odyssey* and Dante's *Commedia*, in particular, in the chapter on influences and explain the saga's many pop-cultural references (e.g., the Crimson King) in future editions. *Ray Olson*

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Review

"Wonderful...opens doors to Roland's world that not even I knew existed. If you like *The Dark Tower* books, you'll like this one. Enthusiastically recommended."—Stephen King

"Bev Vincent is a true King insider....His book is essential to every reader of Stephen King's magnificent work."—Peter Straub

"Vincent proves himself a master of the Dark Tower world."—*Publishers Weekly*

“An excellent and maybe even vital guide to King’s grand opus.”—*Locus*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Ashley Staley:**

Reading a reserve tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire all their reader with their story or even their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the books. But also they write about the data about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write with their book. One of them is this *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus*.

#### **Dana Vinson:**

People live in this new day of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get lots of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, often the book you have read is *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus*.

#### **Donna Hubbard:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you actually, why because this *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus* guide written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written with good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus* as good book not simply by the cover but also through the content. This is one reserve that can break don't judge book by its cover, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

#### **Casey Schnell:**

In this period globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended for your requirements is *The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's*

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