

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

STEPHEN KING

A close-up of a human eye with a jack-o'-lantern face reflected in the iris. The jack-o'-lantern has a glowing orange light and a carved face with triangular eyes and a jagged mouth. The background is dark and textured, possibly skin or fabric.

*The Dark
Half*

A NOVEL

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Praise for *The Dark Half*

“A spectacular of terror!”

—*Boston Globe*

“A story that roars forward on all 12 cylinders and doesn’t let up!”

—*Newsday*

“A chiller . . . few writers are better than Stephen King at giving readers what they want.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Stephen King’s evil ‘Dark Half’ . . . moves at high speed, the best white-knuckle read since *Pet Sematary*.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Potent, engrossing, suspenseful . . . scary enough to make it the book to beat this season!”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“A knockout thriller . . . brilliant, compelling . . . grips you by the throat.”

—*The Flint Journal*

“Vivid . . . King reasserts his mastery of the modern horror story.”

—*Detroit Free Press*

“A chiller . . . terror comes often enough to lower our body temperature.”

—*Chicago Tribune*

“Must-reading . . . Moves at a steady, nail-biting pace . . . on a roller coaster of fear.”

—*The Quincy Patriot Ledger*

“Sharp . . . grabs you by the gut!”

—*Milwaukee Journal*

“One of King’s darkest nightmares . . . leaves you shuddering.”

—*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

“A solid horrorfest shocker . . . chilling . . . hooks the reader by the collar and shoves him into the front seat for a fast spin. Hold on tight!”

—*Boston Herald*

“Terrifying . . . sleep with the lights on!”

—*Woman*

“Eerie fun!”

—*Orlando Sentinel*

“Compelling . . . King makes you believe!”

—*Palm Beach Post*

“Taut horror-suspense . . . provides readers with all the roller-coaster thrills, chills, and spills they have come to expect.”

—*Macon Telegraph & News*

“King is just so good, the pages turn and you’re snared by his web.”

—*The Baton Rouge Advocate*

“King does what he does better than anybody else. . . . he keeps it simple and lets the imagination run wild. . . . a natural story teller.”

—*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

“He’s baaaaaacck . . . with the real thing . . . a very scary story!”

—*The Detroit News*

“A new season of terror . . . we never tire of King’s lurid brainchildren.”

—*The Anniston Star*

“Guarantees a shivering good time!”

—*Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel*

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STEPHEN
KING

THE
DARK HALF

A NOVEL



SCRIBNER

New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi

*This book is for Shirley Sonderegger, who helps me mind my business, and
for her husband, Peter.*

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I'm indebted to the late Richard Bachman for his help and inspiration. This novel could not have been written without him.

S.K.

PROLOGUE



“Cut him,” Machine said. “Cut him while I stand here and watch. I want to see the blood flow. Don’t make me tell you twice.”

—*Machine’s Way*
by George Stark