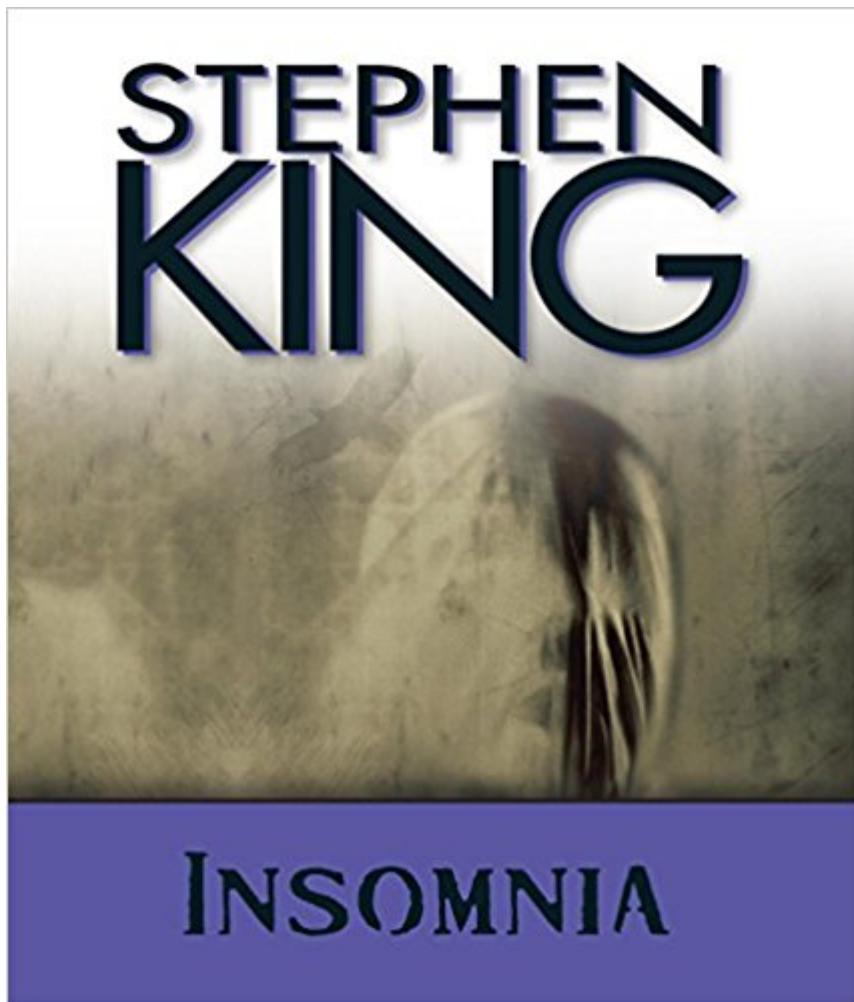


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# Insomnia



## **Synopsis**

Ralph Roberts has an incurable case of insomnia, but lack of sleep is the least of his worries. Each night he stays awake, he witnesses more of the odd activity taking place in his town after dark than he wants to know. The nice young chemist up the street beats his wife and has delusions about beings he calls "The Centurions." A madman with a knife is trying to kill him, he's sure. And on the night May Locher died, one of the two bald men coming out of her house had a pair of scissors in his hand. What does it all mean? Ralph doesn't quite know. But the bizarre visions he's been having keep getting more intense, the strange deaths in Derry have just begun, and Ralph knows he isn't hallucinating. Returning to the town of Derry, Maine, the setting of one of his most critically acclaimed novels, *It*, Stephen King combines bone-chilling realism with supernatural terror to create yet another masterpiece of suspense.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

Publisher: HighBridge Audio; Unabridged edition (September 16, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1598877631

ISBN-13: 978-1598877632

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 57.2 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 817 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,534,347 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (K) > King, Stephen #198 in Books > Books on CD > Horror #2952 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## **Customer Reviews**

Celestial forces of good and evil wage an apocalyptic war in a small Maine town in this 14-week PW bestseller. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA?Ralph Roberts has been waking earlier and earlier every night for weeks, and the forgetfulness and weariness caused by sleep deprivation are starting to affect him. When he begins to see brilliant auras around people and objects, his concern grows. As his nights become shorter, his visions become more terrifying, and yet more real. Strange forces are maneuvering for power in

Derry, Maine, and somehow Ralph is a part of the conflict. Well-read students will note references to Greek mythology, the Bible, and to Tolkien's Lord of the Rings (Houghton, 1967) interspersed with modern cultural allusions. King's forte, however, is characterization, and there is no shortage of it here. Good guys and evil are well developed, with a depth that makes them believable. Although Ralph is clearly identified as a septuagenarian, he is never stodgy or prudish, and will appeal to teens. Some of King's more recent novels, such as Gerald's Game (1992), have been disappointing, but Insomnia is closer to It (1987) and Needful Things (1992, all Viking) in its suspense and entertainment potential. A good return trip to Derry, Maine. ?Robin Deffendall, Bull Run Regional Library, Manassas, VA  
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Insomnia is another cleverly crafted chapter of Stephen King's Magnum Opus The Dark Tower. This story while not directly about the Dark Tower, introduces characters that readers will recognize, as well as situations that indirectly relate to the 7 book series. Additionally this book serves as a nice unintended sequel to It!. Character development is on-par with other King novels, and the only reason it does not get a 5 out of 5, is that there were some parts that were slow, but ended up being crucial to the overall story. If you enjoy King, and particularly are a fan of the Dark Tower, you should read this.

I'm a fan of Stephen King, but lately his books have been partly really good, but a couple not so great recently in my opinion. I really respect this author, and try to read everything he has available. This isn't a new publication, but somehow I missed it when it was released. Really happy to have found this, and thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Hope you like it as much as I did...

I love Stephen King and this is one of his best. There are many references to the Dark Tower series-a very enjoyable read.

Like other readers have stated, it does take a while to get going. But stick with it, because it does finally take off, and when that happens, it's difficult to put down! I finished reading this a few weeks ago, and I still find myself wondering about Ralph and Lois!

Stephen King outdid himself with this one! I saw the reviews before reading "Insomnia" and they all said to read the first 200 pages before you make any assumptions (READ the prologue and

epilogue, too!). They were right! I assure you, the backstory is necessary. It helps you fall in love with the characters and better understand the nature of Derry. I thoroughly enjoyed the plot twists and I highly recommend this read to anyone who enjoys Stephen King novels!

I am a big fan of King's work, and not because it's considered "horror" or "fantasy". He has talent and he has really honed his craft. I haven't read the book (I've only listened to it in audio form), so I am holding off as far as whether this is one of his better works or not. But as an audiobook I really enjoyed it. Background music or other audio effects usually irritate me quite a bit in audiobooks. This was not the case with *Insomnia*. It did surprise me a bit at first, but since I do enjoy King's novels plus the fact that I spent a good deal of money on it, I kept listening. It didn't take long for the music to put me in a different state of mind. Somehow it just pulled me deeper into the book. Another thing that appealed to me in this book was the usage of Greek mythological characters in a more "modern" venue. It was a nice element of whimsy and led me to surf the net for more information about the Fates, the Muses, etc. (Actually I would like to listen to it again, but I've switched over to MP3.)

I did the audio version. Enjoyed the book content and the narrator very much and did like the music for effect but the music should have been equalized/mixed a bit better. It was akin to when the obnoxious window rattling commercial comes on the television. I had to swipe back a couple of times and read the words because I couldn't understand the narrator over the eerie music.

I was interested in this book not only because it was written by Stephen King, but because I suffer from insomnia. So, while insomnia is the title, and it does come up in the book a lot, it really is a background to the other events that are happening. And it's in those events that King's main character, Ralph, finds the reason behind his insomnia. While most of the characters in this book are 'seniors', don't let that turn you away from reading this book.

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