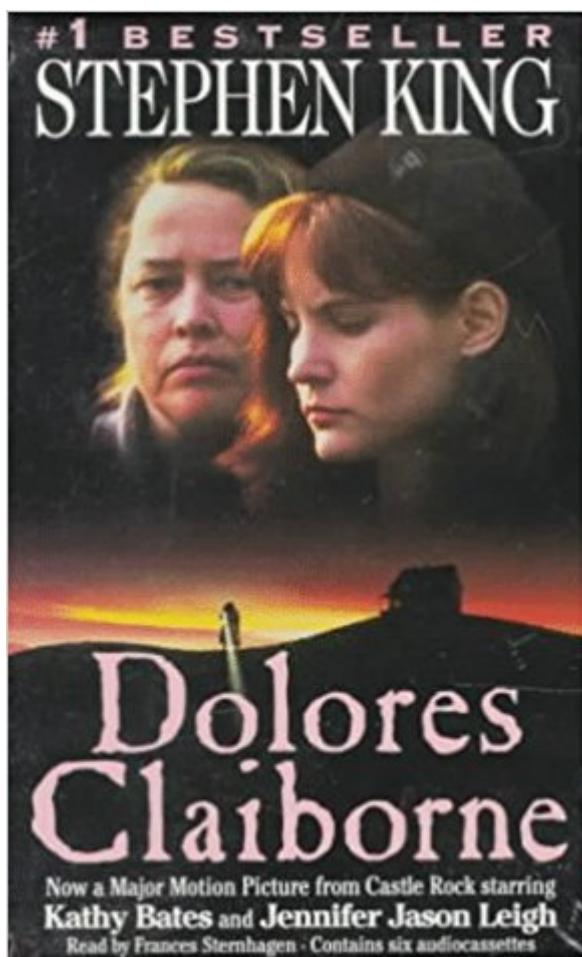


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Dolores Claiborne: Complete And Unabridged



Synopsis

By her own account she's an old Yankee bitch, Dolores Claiborne: foul temper, foul mouth, foul life. Folks on Little Tall Island have been waiting thirty years to find out just what happened on the eerie dark day her husband, Joe, died - the day of the total eclipse. The police want to know what happened yesterday, when rich, bedridden Vera Donovan, the island's grande dame sans merci and Dolores's longtime employer, died suddenly in her care. With no choice but to talk, Dolores Claiborne talks up a storm. "Everything I did, I did for love, " she says, and this spellbinding novel is at once her confession and her defense. Given a voice as compelling as any in contemporary fiction, her story centers on a disintegrating marriage's molten core, where the mind's unblinking eye becomes huge with hate and a woman's heart turns murderous. It unfolds the strange intimacy between Dolores and Vera, and the link that binds them. It shows, finally, how fierce love can be, and how dreadful its consequences. And how the soul, harrowed by the hardest life, can achieve a kind of grace. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Highbridge Audio; Unabridged edition (March 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0453009573

ISBN-13: 978-0453009577

Product Dimensions: 4.6 x 2.2 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 372 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,875,977 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (K) > King, Stephen #268 in Books > Books on CD > Horror #4018 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

Taking a break from Broadway to try her voice at audiobook narration, Frances Sternhagen reads Stephen King's work with dazzling gusto. Sternhagen is Dolores Claiborne, a curmudgeon of a housekeeper accused of murdering her less-than-genial boss. So adept is the actress at playing the crusty, outspoken East Coaster that one may feel as if they're privy to a closed deposition. However, listeners be warned: Dolores Claiborne is not for delicate ears. Colorful adjectives and earthy idioms abound--let's just say Mrs. Claiborne doesn't mince words and uses metaphors that

would make most truckers blush. (Running time: nine hours, six cassettes)

King's portrait of a Maine housekeeper accused of her employer's murder--a nine-week PW bestseller--shows him to be a magnificent storyteller. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This review is for the novel, but its also for the audiobook edition as well. I read this when it 1st came out. I thought it was awesome. I dont really remember though if i laughed while reading it because it was such a long time ago. But i do remember it was good & that it was one of Kings good 90s novels. All his 70s & 80s stuff is topnotch, but once the 90s hit, his stories started to be hit or miss. This was one of the hits. Anyway, i usually dont read books more than once except for my all time fav the shining which i read thrice & then listened to the audio version as well bringing the total up to 4. I dont like to read anymore. But i love listening to audiobooks now. So lately i been buying the audio versions of all his old hits so now i've "read" a lot of his books more than once which is a good thing because listening to the audio version gives you a slightly different experience.

Sometimes that difference is good & sometimes its not. This audio version was down right hilarious to me LOL!! At 1st when i started listening to it i was quite turned off by Frances Sternhagens gruff narration. I know thats probably because for years i've had the sound Kathy Bates' portrayal of Dolores Claiborn in my head. So to hear a different voice associated with that character was kinda off putting for the 1st hour or so. But once the ball got rolling, then man i was rollin too!! Its 1 thing to read lines of dolores telling us about such things as how vera donovan had a "shiit" savings account and how it was paying out its dividends, but its a whole other thing to actually hear things like that being said aloud with the inflections that Frances Sternhagen uses. It was just priceless in the humor department. God i was laughing throughout the entire 9 hours+ of it. If you like this novel, you should most definately try the audiobook, no question. Even if you never read it, try the audio as well. Its not much like the movie though so be aware of that. The movie is actually much better than the novel. Its 1 of the only times i know of that a movie outshone the source book.

I've been a Stephen King fan since he began writing, and I've seen him try all kinds of "styles". Some for the better, some for the worse. I believe Mr. King truly excels when he writes his books in the first person; these are the books that grab me and don't want to let me go. "Dolores Claiborne" is one of those books that hooked me from the very first page. And what's really unusual is that he is writing this from a woman's point of view. I have to hand it to him -- he did an excellent job of it,

too. I'd classify this as a suspense novel; while there are some elements that are somewhat supernatural, there's not a lot of it, especially compared with many of Mr. King's other books. It's just a plain good read! (In fact, although I do own a paper copy of "Dolores Claiborne", I also bought a Kindle version -- something I haven't done with a lot of his other books.) In my opinion, "Dolores Claiborne", along with "11/22/63" are his best works to date; I wish he would do more writing in the first person.

Dolores Claiborne was always one of my favorite movies and finally read this book and both the book and movie are still exceptional - even with tiny changes in the film version. Let's get into the book, it's written in a one person narrative (no chapters or breaks) of Dolores during police interrogation, who's suspected of killing her long time employer Vera Donovan. Dolores promises in the early stages of the book that she would start from the middle of the story and bring it back to present (Which SK does that in the writing). Dolores goes into her life living on the island of a small town in Maine, her life working as Vera's help, being a mother and her volatile marriage with Joe Sr. The best thing about this book I admire the strength of both Dolores and Vera characters, they embody different ways of woman empowerment (especially Vera's famous quote about being a 'bitch'). Not to mention I felt sympathy for both characters. While I am not a fan of it, I'd recommend reading 'Gerald's Game', because there is a slight mention of it midway in the story. This book is relatively shorter than his other novels, but trust me, SK nails this one. Plus if you are not into scary reads, this is not your typical SK scare at all. Dolores Claiborne is whether suspenseful and drama-filled writing. I'll if you only going to read a few SK books I'll say let Dolores Claiborne be one of those reads.

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