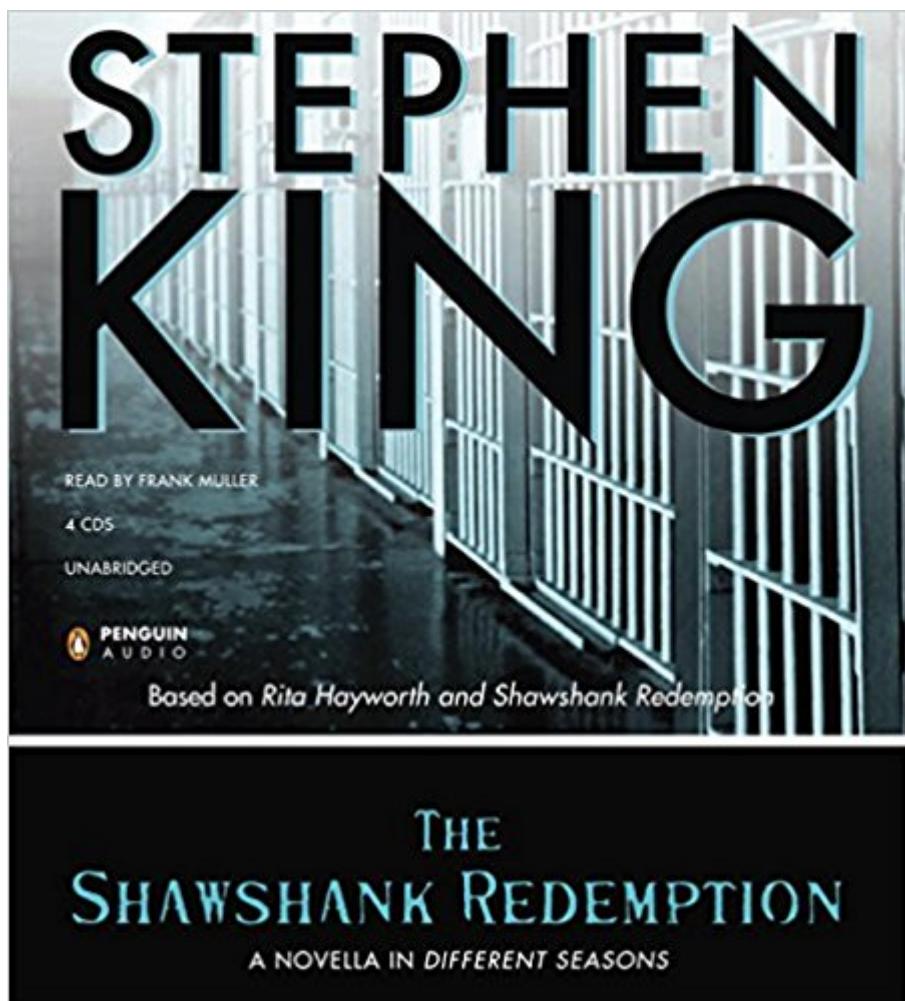


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The Shawshank Redemption



Synopsis

Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman star in The Shawshank Redemption, now a major motion picture from Columbia based on the novella "Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption" in Different Seasons by Stephen King. A prisoner exacts a revenge and escape so meticulous, so brilliant, that no one suspects his plan. . . . --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

I just love Stephen King's books, okay? I've read them all, except RIDING THE BULLET, because I'm on the computer enough already, and I personally like to have a book with paper pages to pour over while I'm on a plane or a couch or a beach. So I have read King--in hardback--for years. I always buy his books as soon as they are published. Then I buy them in paperback for tote-ability. They don't weigh as much, and therefore don't load me down when I'm walking mile-long concourses, nor hurt my stomach when I am (re)-reading them on the beach. To me, all of his books are marvelous. But SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION is his best story EVER. This story is actually one of four in King's book, DIFFERENT SEASONS. And it is actually entitled "HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL RITA HAYWORTH AND THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION." Preceding the story, there is a single page with a single sentence which says, "It is in the tale, not he who tells it." Oh, and this tale does tell itself, but if King had not put it down for us, (pen to paper, so to speak) we would never have had the gift of this masterpiece to even consider. When you realize the King of Horror has written a work that would catapult most authors into the galaxy of writers' stardom, and that it is just one of his many, many works, you just have to appreciate what a great WRITER King is. Sound

silly? Well, as we all know, there are best-selling authors out there who are not particularly good writers. King sets this story down with a writing skill so superior that it is difficult to imagine something more perfectly written. Of course I saw the movie, and it was fairly true to the book.

Like the many others before me, I too have seen the movie "The Shawshank Redemption". And like them all, I too was in tears at the end of the movie. The book and the movie is not that different except for some few minor changes (Red is white, and that's maybe a big change?). The novella is just over 100 pages which is in my opinion way too short for a book making, in my opinion, the greatest movie of perhaps all time. That is my only minus with this novella. The story is about a man named Andy Dufresne, imprisoned for a killing his wife and her lover. In the prison of Shawshank he suffers terrible crimes of inhumanity. Over the years he befriends a few convicts, who as it turns out is not as inhumane as the rest of the convicted beasts and guards. With his friends, especially Red, a great friendship is forged and through common acts of humanity hope is finally born. The thing about this story is that it's so human. It's not complex or simple, it's pure and utterly human. That draws you in, you cannot resist Stephen King's writing as it is so beautiful. The story shows you the most darkest of human deeds and the noblest of acts. One of my favorite parts of the story is when they drink beer and how the Red explains that they were as free men for one day. The feeling I get while reading that chapter is so joyously good. As you read this novella you will feel the film score of Thomas Newman graciously following. If you have not watched the movie, I strongly suggest you see it. The bottom point is that you will be moved by this story, not simply because it's written so well but simply put because it's so human. Everyone can relate to the characters in some way. I strongly suggest buying this novella.

I realize that I have come late to the party concerning this review, but I liked this story and film by Stephen King so much that I wanted to say to anyone who comes upon this review that both story and film are worth reading and seeing. That said, it is probably much more likely that readers of this review have seen the film with Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins simply called The Shawshank Redemption. It is a justly famous movie, well loved by both professional critics and movie fans. Having seen the film, I wondered if the story on which the film was based was just as good. The answer, plain and simple is, not quite. Stephen King's story is called Rita Hayworth and The Shawshank Redemption. Rita is important both in the story and film. Personally, I like adding her name to the title. It provides a bit of foreshadowing for events to come. The film is 80% faithful to the original novel on which it is based and the 20% of the liberties that the filmmakers have taken are all

to the good, in my opinion. For example, in the novel there are three wardens, all bad, while in the film only one, the hypocritical Bible thumping Warden Norton. Additionally, Warden Norton plays a larger and more malevolent role in the film, which increases the dramatic tension throughout the movie. The film is definitely more exciting, in terms of sheer action, than the novel, but the novel gives us more time to think along with Red, the man who can get anything if you have the cash to pay for it, played perfectly in the film by Morgan Freeman. Red tells us the story of young Andy Dufresne, wrongfully convicted of killing his wife and her lover. At Shawshank prison, by the way, Red tells us that everyone is innocent so Andy is in good company.

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