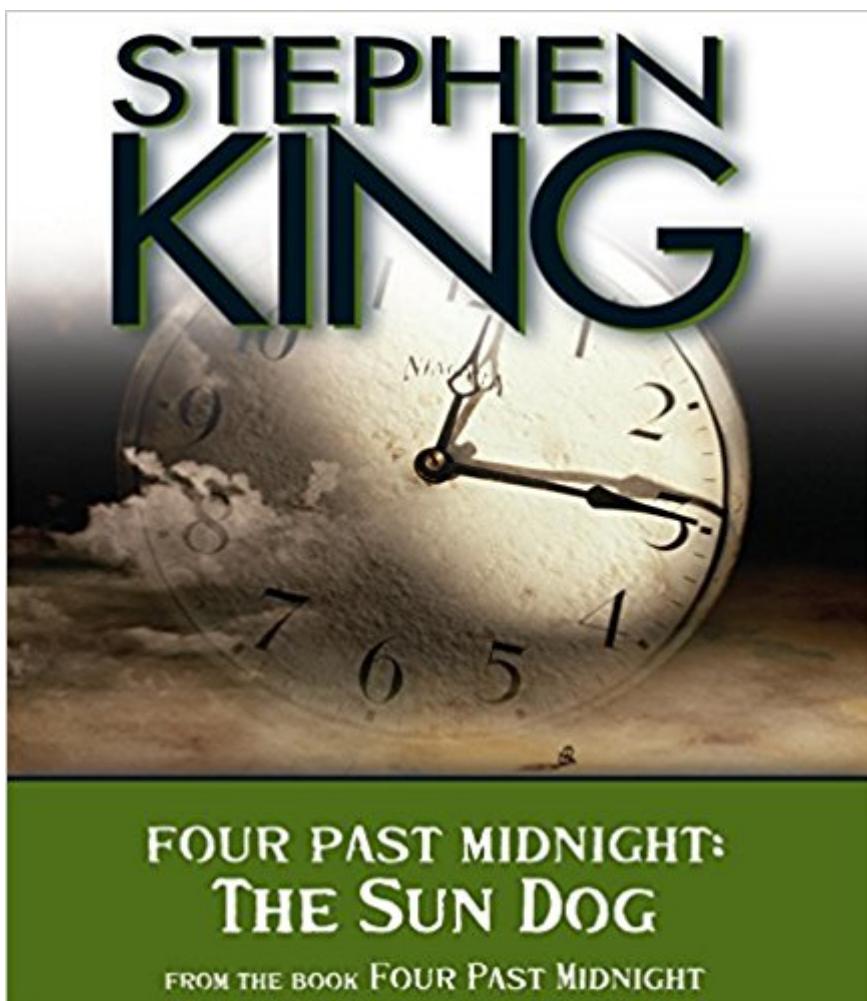


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The Sun Dog: Four Past Midnight



Synopsis

In *The Sun Dog*, the concluding novella in Stephen King's best-selling *Four Past Midnight*, the source of terror is a simple Polaroid camera owned by a 15-year-old boy in the small town of Castle Rock, Maine. No matter where Kevin Delevan aims the camera, it produces a photograph of an enormous, ugly, vicious looking dog. In each successive picture, the menacing creature draws nearer to the flat surface of the Polaroid film as if it intends to break through. When old Pop Merrill, the town's sharpest trader, gets wind of this phenomenon, he envisions a way to profit from it—but the Sun Dog, a beast that shouldn't exist at all, turns out to be a very dangerous investment.

Book Information

Series: *Four Past Midnight*

Audio CD

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Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 17.5 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (207 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,531,116 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > (K) > King, Stephen #261 in Books > Books on CD > Horror #4039 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

Customer Reviews

I never thought I'd pick up a Stephen King book. The macabre is not an area which interests me; paper cuts produce enough blood to give me nightmares, thank you. However, after watching "Langoliers" on television one evening, I decided I would take a peek at the source material just to see how it compared. I was honestly amazed. King may be hailed as the Master of the Macabre, but this man is first and foremost a *good writer*--all four of his novellas in this volume drew me in and gave me no choice but to keep turning pages to find out what happened next. It was a pleasant surprise to find so much wit and humor buried amidst the horror, and I can't help but be in awe of a man who can make you laugh out loud in a library one moment and make you hold the book out at arm's length with a mutter of, "Ew," the next. Like so many others, I would call "Langoliers" my favorite--clever, engaging, and well-paced, it has a delightful coterie of characters and a Twilight

Zone-esque plotline. Next would be a toss-up between "Secret Window, Secret Garden" and "Library Policeman." I'm not certain why so many people dislike SWSG; Mort Rainey was perhaps the most strongly drawn character of the lot. And while LP is certainly excellent, it had too much gore for sheer gore's sake to win an unchallenged second favorite slot. (Some say that LP is nothing but perversion. I would disagree. Its scenario is revolting, yes; disconcerting, yes... and entirely too plausible in real life.) "Sun Dog" is probably the story that cost the book a star in my rating, for while chilling in its way and well-written by all accounts, it seemed the most shallow and downright absurd in retrospect. (Yes, I take the licorice from "Library Policeman" into account when I say that.)

Truth be told, I am not a great Stephen King fan. The first book I ever read from him was *Desperation* and, unfortunately, I did not like it. By nature, I am more into the Michael Crichton type of authors. Nonetheless, about two or so years after reading *Desperation*, I was searching around for a book to read and came upon this by Stephen King, so I asked myself why not? I was pleasantly surprised by how well written and exciting the stories contained with this book are. Let me break it down story by story.

1) *The Langoliers* - A fine story by any measure. I started reading this sometime in the afternoon and I simply couldn't put it down until I finished late in the evening. Not only is the premise of the story incredibly interesting, but the execution was well appreciated. The pace of the story and the character development (save for a few characters) left little to feel disappointed about, but the plot was especially deserving of praise. Normally, it is advise that one saves the best for last but the *Langoliers* is hardly a small feat of story telling. Great story no matter how you look at it!

2) *Secret Window, Secret Garden* (SWSG) - Also a finely written story. Has a finely woven plot and I consider a great second read about finishing the *Langoliers*. But as they say, even the best stories has its fair share of flaws. SGSW's most obvious flaws, at least for this reader, lies in the pacing of the given clues and the ending. By the pacing of the clues, what I mean is how King spread out the clues to the final answer. SWSG contains an a very enjoyable mystery to solve and like any good mystery stories, the clues were given out accordingly.

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