



The Green Mile: The Complete Serial Novel

Stephen King

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Stephen King's classic #1 *New York Times* bestselling dramatic serial novel and inspiration for the Oscar-nominated film starring Tom Hanks!

Welcome to Cold Mountain Penitentiary, home to the Depression-worn men of E Block. Convicted killers all, each awaits his turn to walk "the Green Mile," the lime-colored linoleum corridor leading to a final meeting with Old Sparky, Cold Mountain's electric chair. Prison guard Paul Edgecombe has seen his share of oddities over the years working the Mile, but he's never seen anything like John Coffey--a man with the body of a giant and the mind of a child, condemned for a crime terrifying in its violence and shocking in its depravity. And in this place of ultimate retribution, Edgecombe is about to discover the terrible, wondrous truth about John Coffey--a truth that will challenge his most cherished beliefs....

The Green Mile: The Complete Serial Novel Details

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Author : Stephen King

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AMEERA says

Deserve more than 5 stars

Rinda Elwakil says

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Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Green Mile, Stephen King

The Green Mile is a 1996 serial novel by American writer Stephen King. It tells the story of death row supervisor Paul Edgecombe's encounter with John Coffey, an unusual inmate who displays inexplicable healing and empathetic abilities. The serial novel was originally released in six volumes before being republished as a single-volume work. The book is an example of magical realism.

Characters: John Coffey, Paul Edgecombe, Percy Wetmore, Brutus "Brutal" Howell, American Law Enforcement.

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Manju says

I have always wanted to read a Stephen King but since am not into horror genre, I maintained a secure distance between me and books by one of the most famous authors. So when my friend recommended it to me I decided to finally read Mr. King and am glad that I read this.

Story revolved around the inmates of Cold Mountain Prison who are there for murdering someone waiting for their death on Old Sparky, an Electric chair. Story is told by prison's warden Paul Edgecombe. Life was

pretty much simple for the workers of prison until Delacroix, John Coffey and William Wharton came to Cold Mountain. Delacroix was mostly a cheerful man when his pet, a little mouse, was around. John Coffey was a quite man and Wharton was the troublemaker.

I love how Mr. King has blended the lives of three inmates and in addition to that he also done justice to what workers of prisons go through business of execution of these inmates on Old Sparky. Sometimes it was tough for them and sometimes they just want to get over with this as it was deeply painful as most of the people were no longer what they were at the time of committing a crime.

This book is categorized under "Horror" genre but I didn't find it anything like that. It was a beautiful story deeply touching and emotional.

Thanks Vidya fo r recommending this book to me for two reasons, first it is a beautiful book and secondly for picking a King novel for me.

Councillor says

Rarely does it happen to me that I read a book which actually causes me to tear up to some extent *and* which I can't stop thinking about even months after turning the last page. You ~~might~~ **should** have heard about the movie adaption starring Tom Hanks and the late Michael Clarke Duncan (may he rest in peace), and if you haven't considered watching it yet, then please don't hesitate to do so for even one moment. *The Green Mile* is easily one of my favorite movies of all time, and to be completely honest, I had certain doubts about whether the Stephen King novel it was actually adapted from would be capable of causing the same range of emotions in me as the movie did.

And oh, how it succeeded with doing that.

First off, allow me to mention something about my love-hate-relationship with Stephen King. During the 80's, he built up for himself a reputation as being one of the major horror writers of his time, but few people actually know about the few touching, emotionally affecting stories he can be called responsible for - let me just mention *Stand By Me* and *Shawshank Redemption*, both of which are beautiful movies actually based on a less famous work by Stephen King. I am the first one to admit that King has a capability to write novels you will have a lot of troubles with if you expect to find stories with literary worth. But books like *The Green Mile* are what I love this author for.

For those who are unfamiliar with the story, *The Green Mile* is the nickname for the death row at Cold Mountain Penitentiary, a prison in Louisiana. During the 1930s, our protagonist Paul Edgecomb receives John Coffey into his custody as supervisor of the death row. Coffey turns out to be physically intimidating, but mentally challenged. How could a man like him, a man who is afraid if the lights are not kept on during the night, have been capable of murdering two innocent girls? Trust me, this is not a story about Coffey's guilt or innocence, however. What King confronts us with is a character-driven story about the daily events on the death row, raising moral and ethic questions along the way, allowing us to care about the small amount of characters he presented to us. Untypically for King's novels, we only meet a few characters, but even those of minor importance to the story are drawn out in such a fascinating way that it becomes difficult to resist caring for all of them.

Originally, King published this book in six different installments before releasing the six parts altogether in this novel. Each of those six parts focuses on different elements to the story, with all these parts interfering

with each other along the way and finally weaving together a convincing picture of a prison in the 30's. Is this book only about life in prison, however? No, it isn't - by far it isn't. In a frame story, King introduces us to the older Paul Edgecomb who revisits the events on the Green Mile in an attempt to write down his story before his memory can begin to fade away. King starts off each of the six installments of the story by including more insight on the story of Paul's older self, until he finally manages to masterfully create the illusion of two deeply connected plots.

Supernatural elements are a minor part of the story, though - as skeptical as I usually am about stories involving magical realism - its inclusion mainly just allowed to emphasize the beauty of the story.

"Coffey like the drink, only not spelled the same way." Coffey is introduced as a simple-minded man who is not capable of even understanding what he is accused of, and Paul Edgecomb realizes this - just like he realizes that there is more to the character of John Coffey than just the accusation of having raped and murdered two girls. The cast of characters in this novel is truly convincing - we meet Brutus "Brutal" Howell, Eduard Delacroix with his beloved pet mouse Mr. Jingles, and of course Percy Wetmore. If you haven't met Percy yet, you just have to know that there are actually polls circling around the internet asking whether Hannibal Lecter or Percy Wetmore is the most evil antagonist ever to be introduced in a novel/movie. And Percy actually has more than just a few votes.

Talking about Mr. Jingles, I will miss him. Oh, how I will miss him.

In the end, this story manages more than just to raise questions. It turned me into a pile of emotions, ranging from nostalgia over grief up to relief - but mostly nostalgia. The last pages included some of the best writing I have ever encountered and *yes*, I will gladly admit that both the movie and the book made me cry, and I don't find it difficult to believe that they will continue to make me do so in future. Because out of all the movies I have seen and the books I have read, *The Green Mile* in both its book and its movie version is a story I am going to revisit over and over.

If you have only seen the movie, then please don't fear reading the book because even though it is a completely different experience due to a few minor changes and, obviously, a huge distinction in its narrative, the book doesn't fail to convince even after having watched the movie. And if you have only read the book - then what are you waiting for? *The Green Mile* is, in my opinion, one of the best book-to-movie adaptations which have ever entered the big screen.

A beautiful, touching book which I am never going to forget.

Buddy Read with Anne who I have to truly thank for continuously encouraging me to keep up reading!

Glire says

Después del chasco que me llevé con *It*, sentía la necesidad de leer algo más de Stephen King, algo que me quitara el mal sabor y me recordara porque admiraba tanto a este señor. Mi papá salió de inmediato al rescate y me ~~ordenó~~ recomendó que leyera *La Milla Verde*. "*Es de los mejores libros de King*", dijo. Y yo, como toda hija que se respeta, lo ignoré. No fue sino hasta que Wilier me dijo: "*sí no lloras eres una insensible*", que decidí darle una oportunidad. Después de todo tenía que demostrar que sí tenía sentimientos.

La buena noticia es que mi papá tenía razón: **es de los mejores libros de King**. La mala es que,

aparentemente, soy una insensible.

La Milla Verde es uno de esos casos excepcionales en los que King ha decidido dejar de lado el terror para enfocarse en su faceta dramática... pero esto no significa que la historia no horrorice. La injusticia del sistema judicial, el racismo, la realidad de la silla eléctrica, el uso de la muerte como venganza por la muerte.

“Somos frágiles como el cristal, incluso en las mejores circunstancias. ¿Matarnos los unos a los otros con gas o electricidad, con premeditación y sangre fría? Es una locura. Un horror.”

Nos enfrentamos con las mismas cuestiones filosóficas que han plagado siempre la pena de muerte: ¿es menos culpable el que activa el interruptor de la silla que el que dispara una pistola? ¿Valen más algunas vidas que otras? ¿Es la muerte venganza o justicia? Y con otra un tanto más peculiar: ¿es peor ser condenado a morir mientras los demás viven o ser condenado a vivir mientras los demás mueren?

Y en medio de todas estas reflexiones nos encontramos unos personajes inolvidables; donde los buenos son los asesinos y los asesinos son los buenos. Conocemos el lado humano de los condenados, sus temores, sus arrepentimientos, sus ilusiones, y se va borrando la línea entre la víctima y el victimario.

Es un libro que te parte el corazón, que te muestra las facetas mas oscuras de la humanidad solo para luego sonreír mientras te susurra "*¿verdad que lo perdonas? ¿verdad que quieres protegerlo?*". Lo curioso es que, por esta misma razón, **también es un libro que reconforta**.

No, no lloré, porque cuando lo terminé me sentí llena de esperanza... esa esperanza que puede manifestarse inclusive en la forma de un pequeño ratoncito amaestrado.

Araz Goran says

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Justin says

So I cheated on my local library last week. I don't think she knows yet, and I feel kind of bad about it. I discovered a smaller library that was actually much closer to my house. She definitely caught my attention, but I never went because it just seemed like the selection was going to be much smaller, and my current library and I have a great thing going right now.

But now I'm involved with two libraries and, boy, is my life going great!

I found this book at the new library where I couldn't find anything else that jumped out to me. I mean, the fiction section is like three rows, maybe four. That includes every genre of fiction. No mystery, romance, horror... it's all fiction.

This is the book I left with last week, and this is now my favorite Stephen King book. This is King at the top of his game. It's the perfect length with all six parts, it ends well, and he doesn't rely on horror or too much salty language to tell a fantastic story.

I've always said King is the best when he stays under 400 pages or so and doesn't write about vampires or monsters. He dabbles in the supernatural here, but not for the sake of scaring the reader. He just really, really hit a home run with this thing.

I liked having six separate parts combined into one novel. Each new section felt fresh with a new plot element, and King helps reset the scene from where he left off before. The characters are all well developed and none of them are too outlandish or over-the-top. Even the antagonist. That was great.

I have a solid love/hate relationship with Mr. King, but I loved this one. Seriously, this is my favorite book I've read from him. Go read it if you haven't already. And watch the movie because it's a classic on its own.

And, thank you Stephen King for a beautiful first date with my local library. I hope our future encounters are this incredible.

Preeti says

[Reviewed in 2003.:]

Have you ever read a book and been so affected by it that it moved you to tears? I just finished reading The Green Mile by Stephen King and I sat there tearing every few pages or so. It's incredible - the emotion, the feelings... Just the starkness of what's presented. It's a prison story, but moves beyond that, touching on naked human sensibilities, on basic human emotions. Ugh. I am really bad at reviews.

What I can talk about, however, is the emotions that the books caused to arise in me.

Do you believe that people can be evil? Hmm, let me be more specific. Do you believe that a person can be bad, or evil, or however you want to put it, without having any good in them? After reading this book, I would say yesh, there are people who don't have an ounce of good in them.

I know, I know - the book is fiction, but that doesn't mean that it can't describe what can actually exist in real life (most of this particular book, anyway). One of the characters in the book was completely... I don't know if I can use the word evil in this context (evil implies demons, maybe even the opposite of god, things like that in my mind), but I guess bad, vicious, diabolic, wicked, cruel would seem like the appropriate description.

Even when people gave him a break, after seeing the cruelty and callousness, it made no difference, he continued the same backbiting, sadistic ways of the past. And it didn't matter how many times he was "forgiven" or let off (for the unbelievably monstrous deeds he committed), it was the same. One particular part that hit me hard was this (no spoilers ahead, in case you're planning to read - which I highly recommend you do!):

"Then I understood why he had panicked, why he'd fought us so hard. He thought we were going to put him in with Wild Bill Wharton; that his punishment for the dry sponge was to be a dry cornholing from the resident psychopath. Instead of feeling sympathy for Percy at this realization, I felt disgusted and a hardening of my resolve. He was, after all, judging us by the way he would have behaved, had our positions been reversed."

A person like this can't help but think others will do the same to him as he would to others. I guess that holds true to a certain degree for everyone too. I mean, how often do you think "outside the box"? How often do you think of why a person does or says something without your own perspective having influence over the

thoughts? It takes a lot of conscious effort to do that, unless you're enlightened beyond that point.

But anyhow, *amazing* book. I devoured it in two days - I couldn't put it down. In fact, I've been losing sleep the past two nights to the book. You really should check it out.

Coos Burton says

Siempre había escuchado cosas positivas en torno a esta historia, pero por alguna razón, siempre le había escapado. Quizá porque suelo ser muy sensible con ciertos tópicos, y por lo poco que había escuchado del libro, sabía que iba a sufrir como condenada ~~pun-intended~~. Y así fue, me lloré la vida, principalmente luego de la mitad del libro. Pero no me arrepiento de haberlo leído, por lo contrario, se ha convertido en uno de mis libros favoritos en la vida, y no solo del autor.

Bella historia, remueve mil emociones, te mantiene enganchado hasta último momento, y toca tus fibras más sensibles. Hermoso libro, recomendadísimo. Haré una reseña más extensa en mi canal.

Lyn says

One of King's best, up there with *The Shining* and *The Stand*.

King is able to terrify because he is adept at drawing us into a scene, luring the reader in with deft characterization and attention to detail that creates empathy and understanding.

In Francis Ford Coppola's brilliant *The Godfather* part II, in the scene where a young Vito Corleone (played by Robert De Niro) shoots Fanucci, he wrapped his pistol in a towel and the cloth catches fire after the shots. That detail has stayed in my mind in greater clarity than the actual murder. Coppola drew us in to that grisly sight with detail that we can feel, a towel can get scorched and catch fire, and we become a part of what's going on.

Likewise, in Steven Spielberg's 1975 film *Jaws*, when Roy Scheider's character is shoveling chum into the water, the shark surfaces right in front of Scheider. The audience laughs at the irreverent profanity, but then is immediately shocked at the monster's appearance. Spielberg's direction played us like a fiddle, drawing us in with humor and then, when we are open and vulnerable, scaring us with the surprise.

King provides that kind of detail and can also play with our emotions. He understands and makes use of the technique of adding unusual but memorable detail and also mixes shades of humor in with the darker hues of terror to make the portrait more tangible.

The Green Mile is also a minimalist statement about institutional life in America reminiscent of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Set in the south during the great depression, King does not let us forget that these men endured this job because it was employment, one they were happy and lucky to have. But more than this, King's description of prison life, like Kesey's portrayal of mental hospitals and treatment, carries with it a sense of desperate inevitability, the harsh realities of this life come down the line like a freight train coming down a track, unavoidable and unstoppable. There is a detail from the book that I don't think was included in the 1999 film, that was hard to take, injustice always is, but King's depiction of this was more complicated than what could have been in the movie and so all the more heart wrenching.

A story about executioners, in this case a shift of prison guards working on death row and whose job it is to

both care for the condemned inmates and then to actually carry out the sentence, is a setting custom made for King's great talent. We are walked through the rehearsals for the executions (by electric chair) and then seen the performance of that instrument. We get to know the men who have this unenviable task and to also spend time with the men who await death in a prose similar in its sympathetic representation to Capote's *In Cold Blood*.

John Coffey (played so well by Michael Clarke Duncan in the Frank Darabont film) was as tragic a figure as ever appeared in our literature and while a cursory comparison could be made to Lenny in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, King's inclusion of fantasy and supernatural elements adds an almost theological tone to the narrative. Clearly this is no coincidence as King describes several men as devout and Biblical references and symbolism are ubiquitous.

Highly, highly recommended.

Henry Avila says

The Green Mile ...a nickname acquired because of the color on the floor in the Cold Mountain Penitentiary's (somewhere in the American South), E Block , death row under a different alias, during the gloomy year of 1932, the inmates taking the long, long walk their last, to see Old Sparky, the electric chair that will end the lives of these miserable convicted killers ...Nevertheless , the unique green surface is the last thing the nervous residents are thinking about , in their humble cells, peering through the bars... besides it isn't a distant mile, much shorter they will find out... soon. When the recently convicted murderer of two nine-year- old twin girls, the Detterick's, John Coffey, a giant black man, strong as an ox, enters his final home, sadistic prison guard Percy Wetmore, the governor's wife, nephew, he brags about the political connection constantly, enthusiastically shouts "Dead man walking ", the vicious young officer got that idea, reading it in a cheap magazine. Paul Edgecombe, the official in charge of the block, starts to believe he's innocent...a hopeless situation, Coffey's face is always covered with tears, he is afraid of the dark asking if the lights are kept on at night, the simple minded assassin can't read or write has trouble remembering, a gentle person that has unknown powers though..He cures Paul's very painful urinary tract infection, the very grateful guard tries to find out more information , about the stranger's case ...Mr. Jingles is not an official inmate in E Block, an unregistered guest you might say, a stowaway they would call him if this was a ship, in fact a mouse, quite intelligent for sure , but some others think , is something else entirely . The pet of soon to be extinct inmate M. Eduard Delacroix a Cajun from Louisiana, yet Mr. JINGLES , is obviously smarter then the doom Frenchman. All the guards love this brave little critter, feeding and even getting him a cigar box to sleep in, except you guessed it Percy , an enemy he got, by escaping his deadly clutches hiding in another room. John Coffey saves the mouse's life, the other men hate the creep Percy but cannot get rid oftensions increase as a murderer is put to death by Old Sparky ... an ugly, disgusting sight, the mistakes (or are they) are caused by Mr.Wetmore, not realizing the consequences of his vengeance, he loathe the convict ...watched by witnesses who faint and get sick, puking their dinners. The officers involved in the execution including Paul , despise the job, but during the Great Depression, with long bread lines , they need to feed their families and themselves, many people would be eager to do it. Warden Hal Moores, (a good friend of Mr. Edgecombe)... wife , Melinda , is very ill she will die shortly if nothing is done now..Paul has an audacious , risky notion, maybe the healer Coffey can save this wonderful, kind woman , it can get him and his pals, the other correctional officers into a big mess...even jail time here in Cold Mountain, ironically. ...A superb story by Stephen King, always entertaining, you will learn also, and even feel the pain of the interesting characters...As good as the glorious film version.

It was only after my boyfriend read this and nagged me into doing the same that I picked it up and I'm so glad that I did. The characters are just so beautifully written and I'm not ashamed to say that I cried many a tear even though I knew exactly what was coming up having seen the movie numerous times. If you are a fan of the movie then you can not fail to fall in love with the book as the movie is one of those rare exceptions in that it is very true to its original source. The delight with the book, as is often the case with books, is that it goes into much more detail in particular with the character of Mr Jingles.

This book just illustrates how versatile King is as a writer and that in years to come will probably be considered one of the great literary genius of the Twentieth century.
