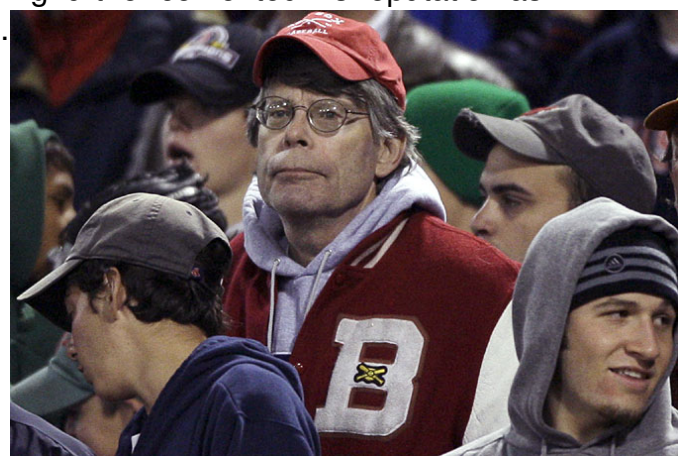
With the release of his 42nd novel this week, Stephen King further cemented his reputation as both the most prolific and iconic writer of our generation.



And while King has gradually ventured away from the straight-up horror yarns that turned his name into an adjective around 1983, his tales are still usually defined by psychological fear and kick-ass suspense.

As he's done so many times over the past four decades, King breaks new ground with this one. Titled *11-22-63* and a modest 960 pages long, the book follows a modern-day English teacher who finds a way to travel back in time to attempt to stop the assassination of President Kennedy.

Strange as the concept may seem, it's actually a growing genre - both in fiction and nonfiction - known as "alternative history."

As Cleveland sports fans, we could certainly use some "alternative" history to soothe the sweaty, ugly memories we have of *actual* history.

In that spirit, the new book brings up an interesting alternate-reality hypothesis:

What if Stephen King had been a Cleveland fan?

He's well-known as a longtime follower of the Boston Red Sox, weaving their exploits into several of his books and even writing a personal account of their 2004 season that ended with their first World Series title in 86 years.

Some have even suggested that King's mastery as a horror writer has actually been fueled in part by his lifelong passion for the Red Sox and their ability to demonstrate real-life suspense intermingled with ultimate terror and tragedy.

King certainly can't look back on his career with any real regret. He's sold 47 kabookyzillion books and will have made more money in the time it takes you to read this sentence than you'll make in your entire life. For those plucky few Americans who still have households, he's a household name, known throughout the world as the "Master of Horror."

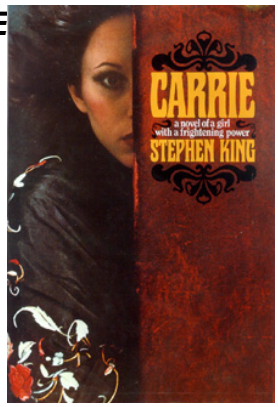
Still, there's a way his stuff could have been even scarier and, presumably, even more successful.

With any type of casual analysis, you'd have to conclude Stephen King would have been more effective at bringing our nightmares to life had he been afflicted with a passion for the Browns, Indians, and Cavaliers.

True, the Red Sox had it bad, but nothing like what Cleveland has been through since your grandmother had a crush on Lou Boudreau. To put Red Sox misery next to Cleveland misery would be like comparing Kim Kardashian to Anne Frank.

So with that in mind, here's how some of the Stephen King's better-known stories may have turned out a little differently with a shift in his sports allegiance:

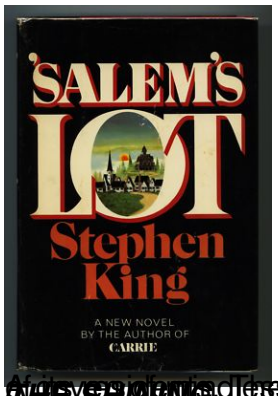
CARRIE



After a fixed class election that ends with an awkward, telekinetic teenage girl being crowned prom queen, she's drenched with a bucket of pig's blood by her cruel classmates in front of the entire school.

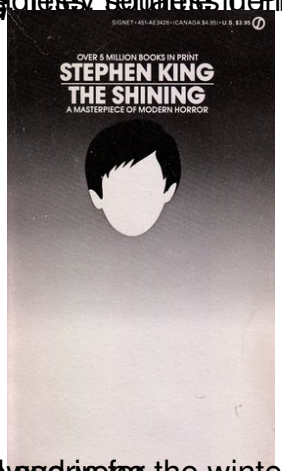
Rather than going berserk and obliterating her hometown off the face of the earth with her powers, Carrie simply sighs, wipes the blood out of her eyes, and focuses on the fact that this entire humiliating episode at least got her a good draft pick.

'SALEM'S LOT



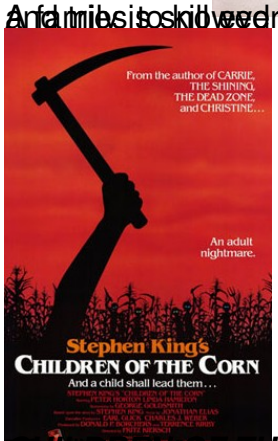
A dive-violent dirty sonnet is "Pitch's rake" control of a small town by sucking the life out of all

THE SHINING

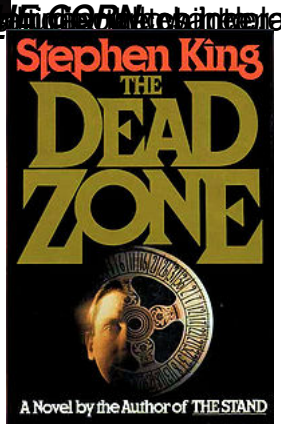


A family is skill every one.

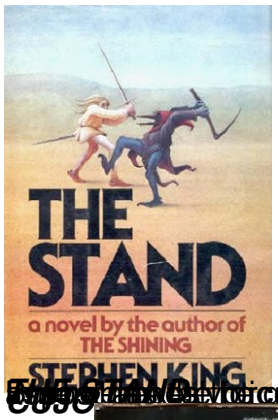
A family is skill every one the winter and, with nothing to do but watch the Cavs, the father snaps

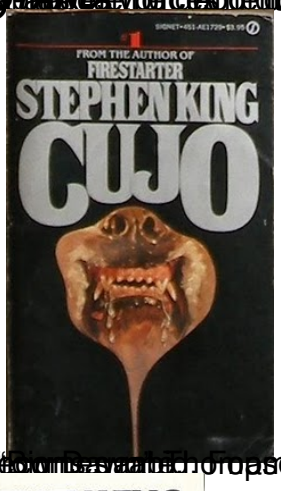


THE DEAD ZONE



A nonfiction account of a Pat Shurmur offensive gameplan.


THE
STAND
a novel by the author of
THE SHINING
STEPHEN KING


FROM THE AUTHOR OF
FIRESTARTER
STEPHEN KING
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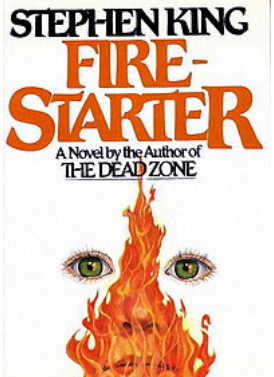
STEPHEN KING
FIRE-
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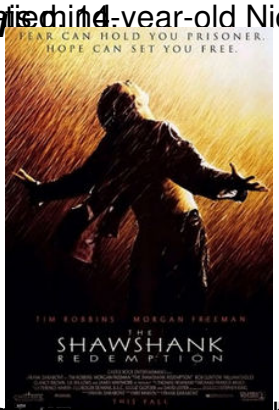
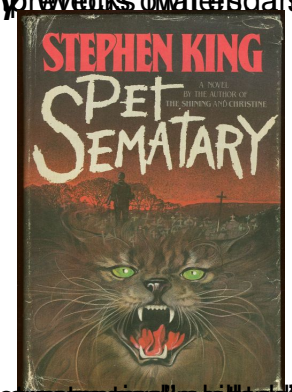
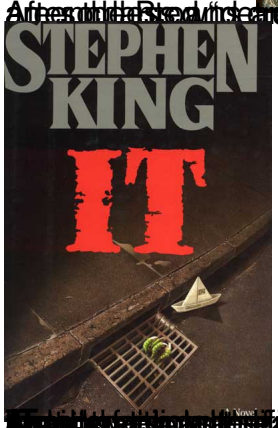
A Novel by the Author of
THE DEAD ZONE

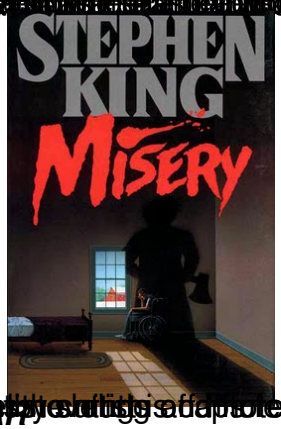

FEAR CAN HOLD YOU PRISONER.
HOPE CAN SET YOU FREE.
TIM ROBBINS MORGAN FREEMAN
THE
SHAWSHANK
REDEMPTION

PET SEMATARY

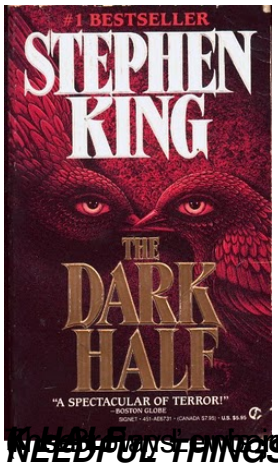




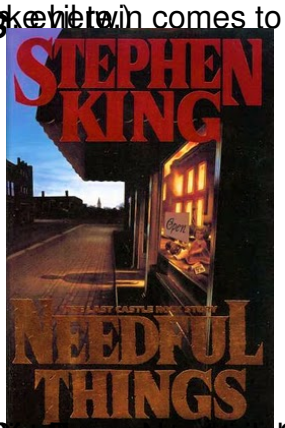
MISERY



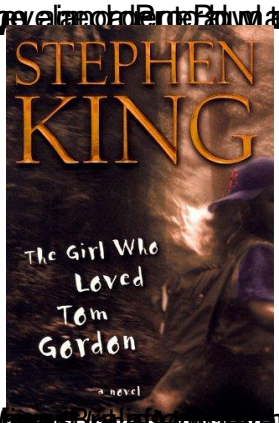
THE DAY



THE DARK HALF [illegible] comes to life as the Baltimore Ravens and begins killing people.



NEEDFUL THINGS [illegible]



THE GIRL WHO LOVED TOM GORDON [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]