

#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER

STEPHEN
KING



MISERY

"King at his best . . . A winner!"—*The New York Times*

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

STEPHEN
KING

Misery

A NOVEL



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Praise for *Misery*

“King at his best . . . a winner.”

—*The New York Times*

“Undiluted horror . . . wonderful . . . King’s best . . . A primal storyteller writing about a primal scream.”

—*Houston Chronicle*

“King’s best . . . Suspenseful, entertaining, genuinely scary.”

—*USA TODAY*

“Nerve-jangling . . . razor keen.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Chilling . . . as scary as anything King has done.”

—*The Des Moines Register*

“Page-turningly effective, stringing out every scene to the screaming point.”

—*Chicago Sun-Times*

“Stephen King at his best . . . frighteningly good.”

—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

“O.K., I told myself, you’ve eluded the juggernaut long enough. I hadn’t yet read a novel by Stephen King. . . . So one night I started reading *Misery*, and I couldn’t put it down.”

—*The Kansas City Star*

“Solid character delineation and terrifying insight . . . In addition to being able to scare the reader breathless, King says a tremendous amount about writing itself. We delight in his virtuosity.”

—*The Washington Post*

“Surefire horror . . . Stephen King’s ultimate nightmare.”

—*Orlando Sentinel*

“Sharp, original . . . *Misery* is company fans will love.”

—*The Sacramento Bee*

“Deft psychological horror . . . easily one of King’s best novels.”

—*Boston Herald*

“A scary, spine-tingling battle between two finely drawn characters locked in a tense battle of survival. A nightmare scenario honed to perfection by a master!”

—*Chattanooga Times*

“A strong novel . . . pure suspense . . . among King’s most ambitious . . . may be his greatest triumph!”

—*New Haven Register*

“Vintage King . . . a masterpiece of horror . . . creates a level of tension that makes it difficult to keep your eyes from jumping to the next page to escape sooner.”

—*The Cincinnati Post*

“Compelling . . . totally involving.”

—*Library Journal*

“Remarkably successful . . . wonderfully readable.”

—*Richmond News Leader*

“King’s most terrifying book to date.”

—*Rocky Mountain News*

“Misery? No way! It is a joy, the master at his ultimate best.”

—*Rave Reviews*

“Annie Wilkes is undoubtedly one of the most shocking characters King has brought to life. . . . *Misery* will once again satisfy readers while illustrating Stephen King’s uncanny comprehension of what makes flesh crawl.”

—*The Memphis Commercial Appeal*

“Unadulteratedly terrifying.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“As is his genius, King never relaxes the oh-my-god tension until the final paragraph.”

—*The San Diego Evening Tribune*

“Undiluted terror . . . the ending is both thrilling and brilliant.”

—*Newport News Daily Press*

“Stephen King is great at what he does . . . and *Misery* does what his fans want him to do.”

—*The Seattle Times*

“A wonderful read.”

—*The Patriot Ledger*

STEPHEN
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MISERY

A NOVEL

SCRIBNER

New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi

This is for Stephanie and Jim Leonard, who know why. Boy, do they.

goddess

Africa

I'd like to gratefully acknowledge the help of three medical people who helped me with the factual material in this book. They are:

Russ Dorr, P.A.

Florence Dorr, R.N.

Janet Ordway, M.D. and Doctor of Psychiatry

As always, they helped with the things you don't notice. If you see a glaring error, it's mine.

There is, of course, no such drug as Novril, but there are several codeine-based drugs similar to it, and, unfortunately, hospital pharmacies and medical practice dispensaries are sometimes lax in keeping such drugs under tight lock and close inventory.

The places and characters in this book are fictional.

S.K.