

KING, Stephen (born 1947)

With the publication of 'Carrie' in 1974, Stephen King began to establish his reputation as a master of horror literature. The novel was about a young girl who used her power to move objects by telekinesis in order to wreak revenge on her tormentors. This book was quickly followed by 'Salem's Lot' (1975), 'The Shining' (1977), 'The Dead Zone' (1979), 'Firestarter' (1980), 'Christine' and 'Pet Sematary' (both 1983), and other stories. Most of them, including 'Carrie', were made into highly successful motion pictures.

King was born in Portland, Me., on Sept. 21, 1947. His father abandoned the family about two years later. King's childhood was therefore rather lonely, and to pass time he invented stories and characters for his own amusement. His imagination was spurred by listening to tales of horror on the radio, watching them in the movies, or reading them in paperbacks. After graduation in 1970 with an English major from the University of Maine, he taught for three years at Hampden Academy, in Hampden, Me.

Meanwhile King was trying to sell short stories to magazines, but most were rejected. Only with 'Carrie' and the movie based on it did King begin to make a living by writing, often writing under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. Other books included 'Cujo' (1981); 'The Tommyknockers' and 'Misery' (both 1987); and 'The Dark Half' (1989). His 'Danse Macabre' (1981) was an autobiographical survey of horror fiction.

1