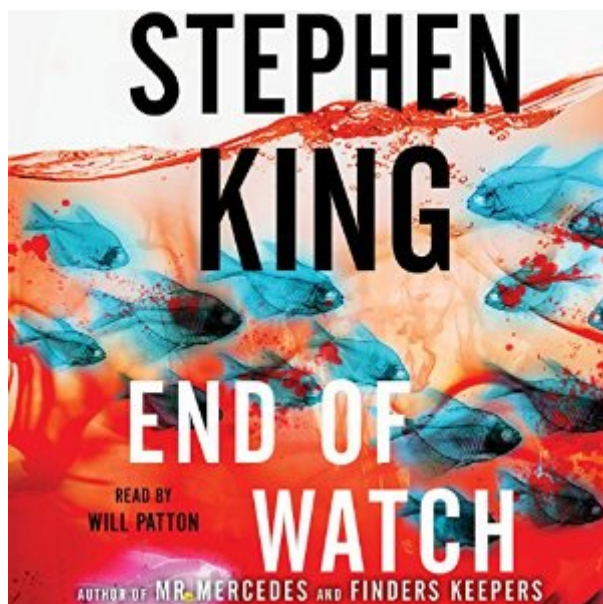


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End Of Watch: A Novel



Synopsis

The spectacular finale to the New York Times best-selling trilogy that began with *Mr. Mercedes* (winner of the Edgar Award) and *Finders Keepers*. In *End of Watch*, the diabolical "Mercedes Killer" drives his enemies to suicide, and if Bill Hodges and Holly Gibney don't figure out a way to stop him, they'll be victims themselves. In Room 217 of the Lakes Region Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic, something has awakened. Something evil. Brady Hartsfield, perpetrator of the Mercedes Massacre, where eight people were killed and many more were badly injured, has been in the clinic for five years, in a vegetative state. According to his doctors, anything approaching a complete recovery is unlikely. But behind the drool and stare, Brady is awake and in possession of deadly new powers that allow him to wreak unimaginable havoc without ever leaving his hospital room. Retired police detective Bill Hodges, the unlikely hero of *Mr. Mercedes* and *Finders Keepers*, now runs an investigation agency with his partner, Holly Gibney - the woman who delivered the blow to Hartsfield's head that put him in the brain injury ward. When Bill and Holly are called to a suicide scene with ties to the Mercedes Massacre, they find themselves pulled into their most dangerous case yet, one that will put their lives at risk as well as those of Bill's heroic young friend, Jerome Robinson, and his teenage sister, Barbara. Brady Hartsfield is back and planning revenge not just on Hodges and his friends but on an entire city. In *End of Watch*, Stephen King brings the Hodges trilogy to a sublimely terrifying conclusion, combining the detective fiction of *Mr. Mercedes* and *Finders Keepers* with the heart-pounding supernatural suspense that has been his best-selling trademark. The result is an unnerving look at human vulnerability and chilling suspense. No one does it better than King.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

NOTE: It's hard to get into my feelings about End of Watch without describing the basic premise of the book, which, in turn, is going to spoil some details from the first two books in the Bill Hodges/Mr. Mercedes trilogy. So, if you haven't read those, just know that I liked End of Watch quite a bit, but I think it's not as good as either of the first two books in the series. If you have read the first two books, feel free to read on. I won't spoil anything from End of Watch beyond the basic premise. Mr. Mercedes, the first novel in Stephen King's trilogy of books about retired policeman Bill Hodges, represented something wholly new in King's career. It was basically a crime novel, one in which a retired cop does his best to track down a serial killer. And while the details of the book were unique, and the style unmistakably King's, it felt like the master trying something new: telling a suspense story without any supernatural elements. It's something he's done now and then – most notably in Misery, which was originally going to be a Bachman book – but not often, and it was a joy to find him doing it so well. Then came Finders Keepers, which felt even less traditional – a crime novel about a long-lost book, authorial intentions, and so much more. Finders Keepers was a blast – a complex crime story that kept you guessing and whose stakes were hard to put into simple words – and easily outdid Mr. Mercedes. And yet, there was one odd plot thread: the ongoing fate of Brady Hartsfield. Left alive but comatose at the end of Mr. Mercedes, Hartsfield spends his short appearances in Finders Keepers in a nursing home, by all accounts unaware of the world around him – except for the hints that he may be able to use his mind to move objects around him.

I'm rating this on a Stephen King scale, comparing it to the rest of his extensive works. I think I would put this trilogy, along with his other crime novels (like Joyland), into a "softer" category of Stephen King, separate from the harder category of pure horror (Doctor Sleep, Shining, It, etc.). First, let me say that I really enjoyed this trilogy, I couldn't wait until this book came out, and I read it in about a day and a half. Not sure how people couldn't get through it, or how people could say it was too long. For me, what I enjoy most about Stephen King is his character development, his ability to flesh out real characters, with all of their faults and insecurities. That's why I would say this novel was the weakest of the three. In Mr. Mercedes, he creates all of these interesting main characters. Bill Hodges, the detective hero, Holly Gibney, who becomes his unlikely sidekick,

Jerome Robinson, the child prodigy, and finally the villain, Brady Hartsfield, one of his best villains. Then in Finders Keepers, he creates new characters like Morris Bellamy (the villain) and Peter Saubers, the child hero. Bill Hodges and Holly have less central rolls in this novel. In End of Watch, he doesn't create any new characters of real substance. Sure there's Brady's new sidekicks, Dr. Babineau and Library AI, and he brings back an old acquaintance from the first novel, but there is no real character development going on. The most interesting characters are Holly, and frankly, Brady Hartsfield. He's not sympathetic, but the description of how he progressed from paraplegic vegetable to a telekinetic super-villain (with the same homicidal insanity) is the best part of the novel. If anything, I would have liked the novel to be longer to get further into some of the characters.

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