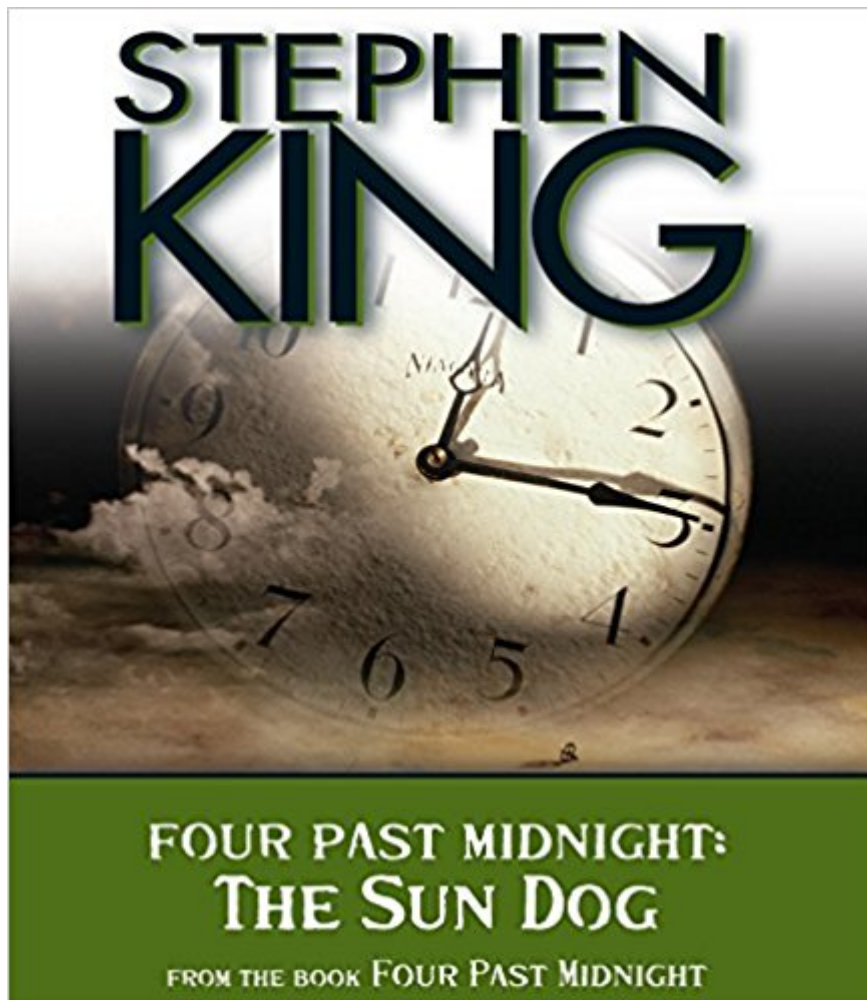




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The Sun Dog: Four Past Midnight



Synopsis

In *The Sun Dog*, the concluding novella in Stephen King's best-selling *Four Past Midnight*, the source of terror is a simple Polaroid camera owned by a 15-year-old boy in the small town of Castle Rock, Maine. No matter where Kevin Delevan aims the camera, it produces a photograph of an enormous, ugly, vicious looking dog. In each successive picture, the menacing creature draws nearer to the flat surface of the Polaroid film as if it intends to break through. When old Pop Merrill, the town's sharpest trader, gets wind of this phenomenon, he envisions a way to profit from it-but the Sun Dog, a beast that shouldn't exist at all, turns out to be a very dangerous investment.

Book Information

Series: *Four Past Midnight*

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Customer Reviews

Jet passengers are stuck in a time-slip, a psychopath accuses a writer of plagiarism, a man with an overdue book encounters a demonic librarian and a boy's camera snaps photos of a huge and nasty dog in these four horror novellas. According to PW , "None is wildly scary, and only "The Library Policeman" offers King's typical, colloquial, hard-driving conversational style with its compulsive readability." Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

YA-- Like some denizen of the dark, King weaves a spell evoking terror and shivers as he takes readers on a nightmarish journey in this quartet of novellas. In "Longoliers" a group of airline passengers awake to an empty plane, and an empty world. They have become stuck in time, out of

sync with the present at 20,000 feet. "Secret Window, Secret Garden" finds novelist Mort Rainey confronted by an eerie character who accuses him of plagiarism, and has come to settle up. In "Sun Dog," Kevin Delevan gets exactly what he wanted for his 15th birthday, a Polaroid "Sun 660" camera, but every picture he takes shows a salivating "hell hound" getting closer and closer. In "Library Policeman," the best of the four, Sam Peebles borrows two books from the library late one night, and the librarian warns him not to be late returning them. What Sam doesn't know is that she was a child murderer who committed suicide in 1960, and when he loses the books, her library policeman pays him a visit. Four Past Midnight is one of King's best recent works. It is hard to put down, truly chilling, and sure to be enjoyed by YA horror aficionados everywhere.- John Lawson, Fairfax County Public Library, VACopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Four Past MidnightBy Stephen KingGenre: HorrorI'm not really a fan of short story anthologies. So why buy a short story anthology? Wasn't paying attention and bought it thinking it was one story. Don't get me wrong. I love Stephen King. He is one of only four writers I would call my favorites. So, even after I realized my mistake, I read the book.FOUR PAST MIDNIGHT is a collection of four short stories written by the incomparable Stephen King. Story number 1, THE LANGOLIERS, I've read before and seen the movie. It's great! It's a scrape-your-fingernails-along-the-arm-of-your-chair kind of story. A real white knuckler, if there ever was one. Strange roly-poly, furry, nothing-but-teeth demon creatures are eating the world and all those left in it! I love it. Story number 2, SECRET WINDOW, SECRET GARDEN, is about fiction writer Mort Rainey whose wife is a cheat, whose life is a mess and whose idyllic get-away turns out to be a really bad place to be when a stranger named Shooter shows up and accuses him of plagiarism. To prove to Mort that he's not fooling around, Shooter kills Mort's dog with a screwdriver and then uses that same tool to make Swiss Cheese out of another man's brain. This guy is seriously crazy and Mort's not too far from being the same. It's an okay story but left me feeling kind of sigh. Do you know what I mean? This one fell flat for me. Story number 3, THE LIBRARY POLICEMAN, is just weird. Sam borrows books from the local public library (not realizing when he walked through the doors he stepped back into the 60's and was met there by a truly demonic librarian). When the books come due, he's confronted by the Library Policeman who brings back some horrific memories from Sam's past and some brand-new horror to deal with. This one was more exciting for me than SECRET WINDOW but, still, not

what I would consider King's best. Story number 4, THE SUN DOG, is true STEPHEN KING HORROR. Young Kevin gets a polaroid camera for his birthday. His first shot though "a family pic" doesn't develop. What does is a picture of a dog walking by a fence. Kevin tries again, and again and again. Every picture is of the same dog. Kevin soon realizes when he takes in the scope of all the pictures together that the dog is moving along the fence and getting closer and closer to the cameraman "him! Before long, the dog will attack and the true terror begins! Some of the characters in Sun Dog will appear later in Needful Things "one of King's most horrifying stories. I loved Sun Dog and when I was through with FOUR PAST MIDNIGHT I was still hungry for the scare so I re-read Needful Things! Not bad "for an anthology" after all!

Stephen King is one of my all-time favorite authors and this was one of my favorite compilations which I'd read not long after it was published in hardback. Years later, I still really enjoyed how King's take on time travel and using air travel to demonstrate it was brilliant. After rereading "Secret Window" and "The Library Policeman", I actually found that I liked them more than I did when I read them previously. The twist at the end of "Secret Window" was great. I've never seen the movie adaptation and now I'm curious to see how it translates onto film. "The Library Policeman" was a good combination of monsters and playing on old childhood fears. The only story out of the four that I still didn't warm up to was the last, "The Sun Dog". It isn't that it's poorly written, it's just that the story doesn't appeal to me...judge for yourself though.

Lately I have been reading a lot of Stephen King's collections and this one kind of fell flat. The Langoliers really builds and I was so into it, but the ending is kind of corny and unbelievable for such an extraordinary circumstance that the characters experience. I may be kind of biased about Secret Window, Secret Garden because I saw the movie before reading the story. I think the bulk of the story is much better than the movie, but SPOILER ALERT!!!!!! the ending is way different in the story and it just left me a little disappointed. The Library Policeman was almost comical the entire time (until the twist is revealed and then you are just horrified). BTW - there is a pretty graphic child rape scene in this story so reader beware!! Sun Dog was a very well told story, but the story itself was just kind of flat. I would definitely recommend any of King's other short story collections. Full Dark, No Stars and Skeleton Crew have been my favorites so far!!

Great King stories. Most of what he writes is great, but I should say that I am a fan. This is one of

the great ones and a must read if you are a fan or have not read as much King as some folks.

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