

KING OF THE CHILLS

Stephen King's latest book, 'The Institute', crackles with delicious unease...



There's no question about it: Stephen King is a past master at casting an eerie shade on familiar fictional materials. His new book, 'The Institute', concerns a sinister government facility, operational since World War II. Hidden in the depths of an American forest, the organisation known as 'the Institute', sends out special forces to kidnap children (having first dispatched their families), and subjects them to all kinds of horrific tests in order to bring out their developing psychic powers.

If you are now thinking of the recent Netflix show 'Stranger Things', don't forget that King got there first: he's been writing about psychic children and conspiracies since the Sixties.

We begin with Tim, an all-American hero loner ex-cop - a type, to be sure, but given depth, thoughtfulness and a quick intelligence that sets him apart. He's lost his job thanks to a freak occurrence, which turns out to be one of the major themes: is an event the result of pure chance, or is it somehow destined? The bulk of the story, however, takes place in the dirty, grey, sinister Institute, and from the perspective of 12-year-old Luke Ellis.

Supremely bright, Luke was on his way to matriculating at two universities at once. He learns, and needs to learn, in order to keep his distance from a terrifying abyss he can sense inside him. This is one of the many destabilising images that King sneaks in, catching you off-guard. If there is a fault here, it's that this dizzying sense of encroaching chaos isn't fully explored.

Soon, Luke is snatched away by goons of the Institute. King preys on deep fears: Luke wakes up in a place that's been decked out exactly like his bedroom at home, only without a window. That is a powerful childhood terror: to wake up somewhere familiar, and for it to be somewhere utterly other; the domestic rendered alien. Here, Luke finds several children in the same predicament. They are told they are heroes, helping to save the world; but they are tortured until they burn out.

The Institute isn't overly violent or shlocky, as some of King's books can tend to be. In many ways, especially with Luke as its protagonist, it could almost be young adult fiction, particularly as it relies on the idea that children, when connected, are a powerful insurrectionary force.

Everything you would expect from King is here: eccentric background characters (the tramp who believes in government conspiracies, the 70-year-old secretary who's also handy with a gun, the doctor who's slowly going crazy thanks to over-exposure to telepaths); a sturdy, controlled plot; and a sense of the kind of bonkers, slant-wise imagination that gave us 'It' and 'Pet Sematary'. While not his best, 'The Institute' still hums and crackles with delicious unease. THE INDEPENDENT

The book revolves around children who possess supernatural abilities and the mysterious organisation that abducts them for their own nefarious purposes and then discards them



Stephen King was born in the state of Maine (US) and has set many of his novels in the state

STUDENT SPEAK READ MORE

NIE youth reporters talk about other authors whose works are as sinister as King

I recommend reading author R L Stine's entire 'Goosebumps' series. Every word in this horror series will send shivers down your spine.

PIUSHI AJWANI, class IX, Jambhal Narsee School

Read the works of H P Lovecraft, a horror-fiction writer who had mastered the art of inducing fear in the reader's minds.

SANGAMITHRA, class XII, Toc H Public School, Vyttila, Ernakulam

William P Blatty's 'The Exorcist' is a must read. The author's transplantation of legends of ancient demons and rites into a modern '70s American setting is inspirational.

PAVIT SOHAL, class XII, St John's High School, Chandigarh

STEPHEN KING'S TOP VILLAINS

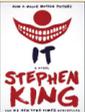
Annie Wilkes | Misery

A former nurse, Anna Wilkes rescues a seriously injured Paul Sheldon, who happens to be her favourite author. However, Sheldon gradually realises that Wilkes is 'mentally-unstable' and has no intention of letting him leave her cottage.



PENNYWISE | IT

A shape-shifting creature and an interdimensional entity that lives beneath Derry, Maine and appears as a clown. Every 27 years or so, IT appears above ground to feed on the town's residents, particularly its children for a short period of time, before it quiets down again.



Leland Gaunt | Needful Things

When Gaunt, the primary antagonist in the book, arrives in Castle Rock (Maine) and sets up a curio shop called Needful Things, no one sees anything out of the ordinary. But Gaunt's ability to identify a person's greatest weaknesses and desires soon turns everyone in town against each other.



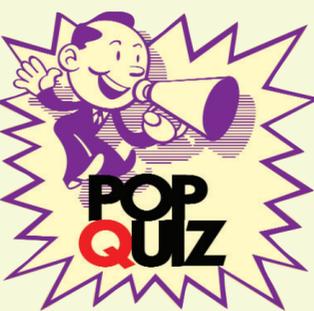
George Stark | The Dark Half

Centres on Thad Beaumont, an author whose dead alter-ego, George Stark, inexplicably comes to life. Stark looks exactly like Beaumont, right down to his fingerprints, and he intends to destroy his creator's life, one way or another.



Kurt Barlow | Salem's Lot

A master vampire, Kurt Barlow moves to Jerusalem's Lot (Maine) with his human assistant. Soon he begins to feed on the unsuspecting residents by granting them their wishes.



1. Who coined the term 'Brexit'?
2. Who wrote 'The Grapes of Wrath'?
3. In 'Lord of the Rings', what kind of creature is Frodo?
4. Which sci-fi character has the catchphrase 'Make it So'?
5. Which Jane Austen novel featured Pemberley Estate?
6. Who said this: "Pure, perfect sorrow is as impossible as pure and perfect joy."
7. Can you guess the novel from these five words: Letters, sisters, baking, bows, love.
8. Who does Katniss Everdeen live with?

ANSWERS
1. Peter Dinklage 2. John Steinbeck 3. A hobbit of the Shire 4. Captain Jean-Luc Picard 5. 'Pride and Prejudice' 6. Leo Tolstoy in 'War and Peace' 7. 'To All the Boys I've Loved Before' by Jenny Han 8. Her mother and younger sister.

BOOKED!

Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood among others have been shortlisted for Booker Prize 2019. These are the books that got them nominated

The Booker Prize for Fiction is a prestigious award given annually to the best English novel of the year, published in the UK or Ireland. Founded in 1969, the award was earlier supported by the Man Group, however, this year it is supported by Crankstart.

Bernardine Evaristo | Girl, Woman, Other

The British novelist's book follows 12 different characters, some of whom are living in different decades. Most of these 12 people are black British women; each one has his/her own story to tell.



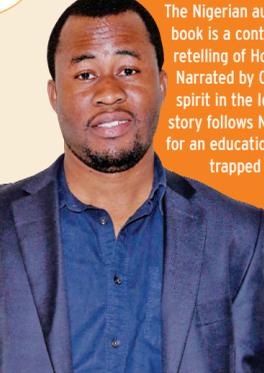
Margaret Atwood | The Testaments

This is the sixth time Canadian author Margaret Atwood has been nominated for the Booker Prize. Atwood's new novel, a sequel to 'The Handmaid's Tale', is set 15 years after the end in the first book, thus taking the dystopian story forward.



Chigozie Obioma | An Orchestra of Minorities

The Nigerian author's second book is a contemporary retelling of Homer's 'Odyssey'. Narrated by Chi, a guardian spirit in the Igbo myth, the story follows Nonso, who falls for an education scam and is trapped in Cyprus.



Salman Rushdie | Quichotte

Salman Rushdie's 'Quichotte' is a modern-day retelling of the Miguel de Cervantes's 'Don Quixote'. The story follows an old salesman who falls for a TV star and drives across the US to win her hand.



Lucy Ellmann | Ducks, Newburyport

Written in 1000-pages, the monologue is communicated in a single sentence. The American-born British novelist's book is an Ohio-homemaker's monologue wherein the narrator writes about love, loss and the current state of affairs of her country.



Elif Shafak | 10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World

The Turkish-British novelist begins with Leila, the protagonist, who is murdered. It is said that the brain stays alive for roughly 10 minutes even after a person dies. And so, for the next 10 minutes and 38 seconds, all of Leila's important memories play out in this book.



BOOK CORNER

FOLLOW THEM

Some of our favourite authors from Instagram

Paulo Coelho | @paulocoelho

Best known for his novel 'The Alchemist' (the third best-selling novel of all time, after 'Don Quixote' and 'A Tale of Two Cities'). The author's page is a blend of inspiring quotes, interesting art and scenery that the writer likes to share with his 1.4 million followers.



Jon Krakauer | @krakauerwriting

An author of books about the great outdoors like 'Into the Wild', Jon Krakauer is also a mountaineer. On Instagram, he pairs his incredible nature shots with anecdotes that serve as masterclasses in writing. Careful though... most of them are a figment of his imagination.



Chimamanda Adichie (@chimamanda_adichie)

This Nigerian author has won awards for her books 'Half a Yellow Sun', 'The Thing Around Your Neck', and 'Americanah'. Her account is a peek into her life as a writer and thinker.



SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

MUST SEE

MUST DO

TELEVISION



KARENA AND KASEY'S FOREIGN FLAVOURS, FOX LIFE, 3.00 PM: MasterChef champions Karena and Kasey Bird travel to Indonesia to explore local cuisine.

100 DAYS 100 TALES, ANIMAL PLANET, 5.00 PM: Five fox cubs are born

in the heart of high altitude reserves. As they grow up, they face various trials as some of them remain with the clan and others live a nomadic life.

FOOD'S GREATEST HITS, HISTORY TV18, 7.00 PM: The host travels to various places around the world in order to taste some of the traditional and delicious food of the people.

HOW TO?, DISCOVERY SCIENCE, 8.00 PM: The host presents an insight into the life of different shark species and the science behind their attacks and survival.

MOVIES ON TV

THE INCREDIBLE HULK, SONY PIX SD, 3.51 PM: Dr Bruce Banner subjects himself to high levels of gamma radiation which triggers his transformation into a huge green creature, the Hulk, whenever he experiences negative emotions such as anger.

MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED, 8FLIX, 4.45 PM: To get back home Alex, Marty, Gloria and Melman embark on an adventure riot



as they join a travelling circus.
300, HBO, 6.55 PM: In the ancient battle of Thermopylae, King Leonidas and 300 Spartans fight against Xerxes and his massive Persian army. They face insurmountable odds when they are betrayed by a Spartan reject.

1855: The siege of Sevastopol ended when French, British & Piedmontese troops captured the main naval base of the Russian Black fleet in the Crimean War.

1893: Swami Vivekananda delivered his first speech in the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago.

1895: Vinoba Bhave, great Gandhian Acharya, was born at Ganoda village of Maharashtra.

1906: Mahatma Gandhi coined the term "Satyagraha" to characterise non-violence movement in South Africa.

1948: Muhammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan who led the All-India Muslim League (1913-47) until he achieved his dream of Pakistan, passed away.

1997: Scotland voted to create its own Parliament after 290 years of union with England.

2001: Two passenger planes hijacked by Al Qaida terrorists crashed into New York's World Trade Towers causing the collapse of both and deaths of 2,606 people. Terrorists hijacked a passenger plane and crash it into the Pentagon.

