



## 'Salem's Lot

*By Stephen King*

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## 'Salem's Lot By Stephen King Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Stephen King's second book, *'Salem's Lot* (1975)--about the slow takeover of an insular hamlet called Jerusalem's Lot by a vampire patterned after Bram Stoker's *Dracula*--has two elements that he also uses to good effect in later novels: a small American town, usually in Maine, where people are disconnected from each other, quietly nursing their potential for evil; and a mixed bag of rational, goodhearted people, including a writer, who band together to fight that evil.

Simply taken as a contemporary vampire novel, *'Salem's Lot* is great fun to read, and has been very influential in the horror genre. But it's also a sly piece of social commentary. As King said in 1983, "In *'Salem's Lot*, the thing that really scared me was not vampires, but the town in the daytime, the town that was empty, knowing that there were things in closets, that there were people tucked under beds, under the concrete pilings of all those trailers. And all the time I was writing that, the Watergate hearings were pouring out of the TV.... Howard Baker kept asking, 'What I want to know is, what did you know and when did you know it?' That line haunts me, it stays in my mind.... During that time I was thinking about secrets, things that have been hidden and were being dragged out into the light." Sounds quite a bit like the idea behind his 1998 novel of a Maine hamlet haunted by unsightly secrets, *Bag of Bones*. --Fiona Webster

### From [Booklist](#)

**\*Starred Review\*** Before vampires became sympathetic characters with their own alternate worlds, complete with vampire coffee shops and vampire politics, they used to be bad guys, scary not sexy, and they preferred wreaking havoc in horror novels rather than exuding tortured sensitivity in YA coming-of-age fiction. Fortunately, we don't need to go all the way back to *Dracula* and Boris Karloff to remember those halcyon days: we have Stephen King's *'Salem's Lot*, from 1975. Oddly, it's not the vampires that make *'Salem's Lot* great popular fiction. Mr. Barlow, our lead vampire, is no *Dracula*. He doesn't even appear until the story is nearly half over, and he is perhaps the most one-dimensional figure in the book (but that single dimension is enough: unadulterated evil). The real main character isn't a person at all, human or vampire: it's the seemingly idyllic New England town of Jerusalem's Lot. King once said that in *'Salem's Lot*, he set out to create "a fictional town with enough prosaic reality about it to offset the comic-book menace of a bunch of vampires." He did just that by drawing on our universal fear of outsiders, and nowhere is that fear more recognizable than in our traditional image of the New England small town, where insularity itself becomes a defense against incursion by strangers. The stereotypical Yankee, befuddling outsiders with a series of cryptic yups and nopes, may be a comic character from folklore, but he is also a soldier defending his Maginot Line against potential blitzkrieg. And behind the crotchety Yankee's seeming impregnability, there is the constant fear that one day a stranger will come to town who won't take nope for an answer. That juxtaposition of prosaic reality against outlandish terror has always been central to King's technique for scaring his readers. In *'Salem's Lot*, he does it by looking beneath the surface of idyllic New England. We see the pastoral beauty, the close-knit community, and the unpretentious lifestyle, yet from the beginning, we also see the harbinger of something else, something other. The novel begins with a stranger, not Barlow but a writer, Ben Mears, returning to the Lot, where he'd lived briefly as a boy. Mears has come home again not to reclaim his innocence but to expunge his demons—the memory of the body of a man dead for decades, still hanging in the closet of the Marsten House. Mears believes he hallucinated this horrible scene, but he wants to explore why it happened, why this house prompted him to imagine evil. What Mears finds when he returns to the Lot is that the Marsten House is now occupied by another stranger, our Mr. Barlow. As the known gives way to the unknown, King shows how the small-town insistence on maintaining the illusion of tranquility makes easy pickings for a vampire intent on fomenting a little evil. If *'Salem's Lot* were just

another old-fashioned vampire novel, it would portray a straightforward struggle between good (people) and bad (vampires). It would not portray the arrival of vampires in the Lot as a kind of supernatural manifestation of the town's distorted sense of itself. King feels both affection for and anger toward his small town. A part of him wants to see 'Salem's Lot get its comeuppance, and this part gives the novel a degree of frisson that most vampire stories lack. And yet, in the end, the vampires don't win, at least not exactly. Yes, Ben Mears pounds a stake in Barlow's heart, but that isn't enough. The evil continues to thrive. The town needs its own stake. Writers of every kind—from Nathaniel Hawthorne to Grace Metalious to John Updike to Carolyn Chute—have wrestled with their mixed feelings about the small towns of New England. But it took Stephen King to burn one down. --Bill Ott

#### Review

"Spine-tingling fiction at its best." --*Grand Rapids Press*

"A master storyteller." --*The Los Angeles Times*

"An unabashed chiller." --*Austin American Statesman*

"[The] most wonderfully gruesome man on the planet." —*USA Today*

"A super exorcism...tremendous." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A novel of chilling, unspeakable evil." —*Chattanooga Times*

"[King is] . . . the guy who probably knows more about scary goings-on in confined, isolated places than anybody since Edgar Allan Poe." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"Stephen King has built a literary genre of putting ordinary people in the most terrifying situations. . . . he's the author who can always make the improbable so scary you'll feel compelled to check the locks on the front door." —*The Boston Globe*

"Peerless imagination." —*The Observer* (London)

#### Users Review

##### From reader reviews:

##### **Lisa Rice:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled 'Salem's Lot? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have different opinion?

##### **Brian Pena:**

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they're still students or that for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that query above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they

don't want do that. You must know how great and important the book 'Salem's Lot. All type of book can you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

**Nicol Thomas:**

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information currently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is inside former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take 'Salem's Lot as your daily resource information.

**Johnny Hoffman:**

Many people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a guide. They are directly felt the item when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose the particular book 'Salem's Lot to make your reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading ability is developing when you like reading. Try to choose basic book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the sensation about book and reading through especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to open up a book and learn it. Beside that the e-book 'Salem's Lot can to be your brand new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of these time.

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