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Under the dome book review

My first big book of the year was indeed an epic one! Book Description: In UNDER THE DOME, King has produced another riveting masterpiece. The end of every chapter hooks you into the next, drawing you inside a psychological drama that is so rich, you don't read it, you live it. It is the story of the small town of Chester's Mill, Maine which is inexplicably and suddenly sealed off from the rest of the world by an invisible force field. No one can get in and no one can get out. The normal rules of society are suddenly changed and when food, electricity and water run short, the community begins to crumble. As a new and more sinister social order develops, Dale Barbara, Iraq veteran, teams up with a handful of intrepid citizens to fight against the corruption that is sweeping through the town and to try to discover the source of the Dome before it is too late . . . My Thoughts: Wow, what an epic read! Where do I even begin when there's so much awesomeness in one book? How about with the accuracy of the following statement - "you don't read it, you live it." At over 800 pages, I split this this book into four parts, and read a bit each week, and each week I basically lived under the dome too, such was King's ability to transport me to the setting of this novel. I won't even attempt to take you through the events that occur because a lot goes down under the dome. Instead, I'd like to focus for a minute on the characters - damn, does King know how to make you love and hate. King introduces you to many characters in this novel, some more memorable than others, and probably far to many are introduced far too soon. But, that doesn't matter for two reasons; firstly, you remember those you need to, and secondly, when King mentions a secondary character, you are able to recall their subplot easily. That can only be attributed to King's masterful storytelling. Prior to reading this novel, I did watch the first season of the TV series, so it was somewhat easier for me to remember the characters as I could literally put a face to the name; in the hardback edition I read, there's a table of "who's who" at the beginning, that you could refer back to if need be. As you read this book, you'll divide the town into two halves, the good, headed up by Dale "Barbie" Barbara and Julia Shumway, instantly likeable and you root for them from the very beginning. Then there's "the baddies", led by Jim Rennie, and what a horrid bunch him and his lot are! Until meeting Jim Rennie, I have never actively thought out many painful deaths, I'd like a character to meet. There's no denying, however, that he makes this novel what it is, he gives you someone to focus all your anger on, and when you meet his son and his "recruits", actually, you can spread that anger far and wide. There were so many discussion-worthy points in this novel, some completely unpredictable, some you saw coming but loved anyway. There was also so much wonder, for example, the pink stars falling. What I will say is, I think this is one of those novels that you will know very early on if you like it because the writing and plot style is consistent throughout. Personally, I love when an author tells you, in one intriguing sentence, a little bit of what's going to happen later on in the plot, it makes me excited to see how and why it happens. Under the Dome consists of many subplots, and I won't deny, there's A LOT going on, it's ambitious, but it 100% works! My only worry while reading this novel was, I loved it so much, I was worried about the ending, how do you end a story so epically told? While I won't tell you how this one ends, obviously, I will tell you that King ties up every loose end you care about, including the fate of every character you care [or don't care] about. Do I recommend Under the Dome? To any, and everyone, read it! This book is available to buy from: Amazon UK / Book Depository "Starred Review. Some will balk at the page count, but a fast pace and compelling narrative make the reader's time fly. Highly recommended." - Library Journal "It hardly matters that, after 1,000-plus pages, the yarn doesn't quite add up. It's vintage King: wonderfully written, good, creepy, old-school fun." - Kirkus Reviews "Starred Review. ...while this novel doesn't have the moral weight of, say, The Stand, nevertheless, it's a nonstop thrill ride as well as a disturbing, moving meditation on our capacity for good and evil." - Publishers Weekly This information about Under the Dome shown above was first featured in "The BookBrowse Review" - BookBrowse's membership magazine, and in our weekly "Publishing This Week" newsletter. In most cases, the reviews are necessarily limited to those that were available to us ahead of publication. If you are the publisher or author and feel that the reviews shown do not properly reflect the range of media opinion now available, please send us a message with the mainstream media reviews that you would like to see added. Any "Author Information" displayed below reflects the author's biography at the time this particular book was published. Write your own review Jared Great book that needed a better ending Read the book in a little over a week . . . which doesn't sound all that quick, but it's a 1,072 page book and it was maybe the 10th book I've ever read front to back. I loved all the way up till the ending sequence. I was just hoping for more than what I got. However, overall it was an excellent book. Susana Great read but a little clumsy and way too long I love Stephen King. I truly enjoyed this book. It had a great plot and good characters.That being said, it was too long. The Stand is one of my favorite books, and it deserved every page. But this book less so. The narration was clumsy at times, drawing attention to the fact that someone was narrating instead of just letting the story tell itself. That really annoyed me when Kind would go, "No time has passed due to the joy of narration" or something like that. Clumsy for an accomplished writer.The ET part was also annoying because it wasn't developed. It was hinted at a few times, but it was basically just a neat ending. Couldn't we have heard those ET kids giggle a few time as they fried the ants?As I said, it was a good read if long (I felt as if I couldn't quit ... not because I didn't want to stop but because I wouldn't be able to keep up with what was happening if I did.) I am a REALLY fast reader, by the way. I can't imagine what moderate readers thought. Vishnu Bachani Not scary at all (as some might've expected), but a good story. Under the Dome is a moving, suspenseful, and action-packed story about an invisible dome that entraps a town. The horror of the story is more the political corruption and insanity epidemic than the actual dome. A good read for any King fan. Russell P A very disappointing read In the Author's Note at the conclusion of the novel Mr. King writes: "I first tried to write Under The Dome in 1976." Perhaps he should have left it there. Although the primary characters were memorable the tale was far too busy jumping from one unbelievable event to the next. Chaos reigned supreme in this tale of a city whose citizens, mostly dullards, find themselves trapped under an invisible dome. For a book of nearly eleven hundred pages one would expect a far better work. In summation waste neither time, nor money on this one. Stephen King's new novel is predicated on, and takes its epigram from, the song "Small Town", one of country-singer James McMurtry's savagely compressed and contemptuous indictments of American life. "It's a small town, son," McMurtry sings, "and we all support the team," inflecting the words with a bland, overbearing oppressiveness. Not content with this quiet pressure cooker, and determined to write what he describes as "a book that would keep the pedal consistently to the metal", King drops a dome over his small town - Chester's Mill, not far from the infamous Castle Rock - and clamps it there so we can watch what happens.The dome is invisible: a "force field", perhaps. Its appearance, as witnessed by drifter and frycook Dale Barbara, is sudden and unforgiving. Barbara, recently beaten up in the car park of the diner where he worked, and anxious as a result to leave town, is forced to change his plans. A human being can touch the field without harm, he discovers, though there's a faint accompanying tingle; but electronic devices, including iPods and pacemakers, explode the moment they come near it. Unyielding and impermeable, especially to energetic solid objects, it conveniently permits sound, light and radio waves to travel through. It has a slight permeability to moving air; fire hoses trained upon it, while they do not wholly penetrate, produce a faint refreshing aerosol within.Soon, everything in Chester's Mill is going to hell. Two dozen children suffer seizures. The air inside begins to heat up. The surface of the dome collects dust and pollutants, diffusing the light that falls on it so that sunset spreads "across the western sky like a great poisoned egg". Outside, the US administration gathers its wits; but an attempt to gain access by bunker-buster comes to nothing. And if the air beneath the dome is heating up fast, the political atmosphere is heating up faster still, as, increasingly panicked, the trapped townspeople, their food and propane running out, begin a grisly search for that central concept in Stephen King's fiction, the community's aggregate or "secret" will. Alternate centres of power grow up around Dale Barbara - who turns out to be more than the drifter he seemed - and Big Jim Rennie, the town's Boss Hogg.Big Jim drives a Hummer like a "rolling coffin". On his desk he keeps an autographed photograph of Tiger Woods, his "tinny testimonial to smalltown prestige and smalltown power". To Big Jim, the dome is just another political opportunity. He upsizes the police force and provokes a food riot to increase his control over the population. Meanwhile, Dale Barbara and Julia Shumway, editor of the local paper, organise a demure resistance. The ideological oppositions clarify. Soon everyone, from the sickest child to the kindest golden retriever, will have a part in the mystery play, as Under the Dome, like The Stand before it, works through its vast biblical collision: liberal morality and a moderate green sensibility versus greed, corruption and fundamentalism.Under the Dome is nearly 900 pages long, and has a cast to match. Characters maintain separation by clearly announcing their basic traits whenever they appear. Dale Barbara regrets a crime he committed during the second Iraq war, while Mrs McClatchey smiles wanly and carries a picture of her husband. Julia Shumway, though "Republican to the core", drives a Toyota Prius. Piper Libby, the apostate minister over at the Congregational church, must control her temper, because "If she didn't, it would control her". It's hard to say whether these Post-it notes are addressed by the characters to themselves, or by King to himself, or by both of them to the reader.But if Rennie is the epitome of this method of characterisation, he's also King's cold-eyed assessment of the Bush regime, just as Chester's Mill is his guess at what America might look like over the next generation, as resource failure, pollution and global warming take their toll on a closed system run for profit. "Who in their right mind," muses one character on the third day of the crisis, "would ever have expected this sudden contraction of all resources? You planned for more than enough. It was the American way. Not nearly enough was an insult to the mind and the spirit."Under the Dome builds slowly but in the end delivers all the grue and brisance you'd expect of an apocalypse in a bottle. By page 45, someone has been scalped by a broken windscreen - "a huge flap of skin hung down over her left cheek like a misplaced jawl" - and the pedal is indeed to the metal. People's jaws are broken with stones. Entrails stream out of abdominal cavities. Brains resembling breakfast cereal spatter over floors and ceilings. Various forms of transport crash into the dome and explode. A man explodes. There are many different kinds of guns, and by the end everything but a nuclear weapon has been set off, in a kind of localised Stalingrad of the hick mind. There are aliens, home-made radiation suits and a necrophiliac with a brain tumour. There's murder by golden baseball and, for good measure, a methamphetamine lab big enough to supply the whole of North America, a "General Motors of meth". Sometimes it works, and sometimes you feel King's heart isn't entirely in it.To keep the reader focused, King regularly quotes from "Small Town", but he can't match the ironies that undermine the complacency of McMurtry's audience. Where McMurtry's songs encourage everything in life to bleed into everything else, the us-and-them oppositions of Under the Dome are too well differentiated, too overtly polemical. In a three-minute song you can deal in fractured glimpses; in an 800-page blockbuster you must render unto plot all that is plot's. Someone has to be the bad guy. Someone has to pay. Causes are all present and identifiable, and evil is rendered safe by overstatement.M John Harrison's latest novel is Nova Swing (Gollancz).

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