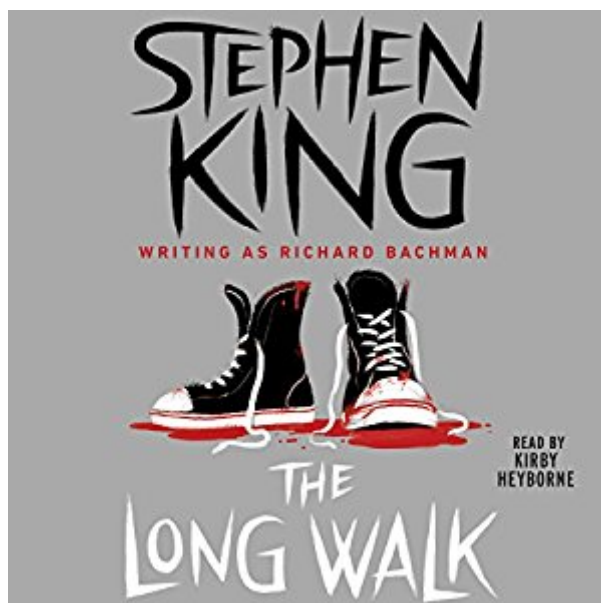


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# The Long Walk



## Synopsis

In this number-one national best seller, "master storyteller" (Houston Chronicle) Stephen King, writing as Richard Bachman, tells the tale of the contestants of a grueling walking competition where there can be only one winner - the one who survives. In the near future, when America has become a police state, 100 boys are selected to enter an annual contest where the winner will be awarded whatever he wants for the rest of his life. Among them is 16-year-old Ray Garraty, and he knows the rules - keep a steady walking pace of four miles per hour without stopping. Three warnings and you're out - permanently. With an introduction by Stephen King on "The Importance of Being Bachman".

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 44 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 1, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B019NOEQGW

Best Sellers Rank: #62 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Horror #219

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science Fiction #595 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror

## Customer Reviews

First of all, I wouldn't typically read book like this, but King is my favorite author and I will read anything puts together, regardless of its genre. I started reading this book with high hopes, due to the many positive reviews this book has (plus a good friend recommended it). All in all I still don't know where I stand with it. Parts of it were great, but at times not so great. It's hard to say I didn't enjoy the book, because I did. Usually I don't gravitate toward shorter reads, such as this, and that may be why I had some issues with "The Long Walk".

PROS

- Great characters
- A truly dreadful sense of suspense throughout; Edge of your seat moments a-plenty
- A terrifyingly new take (as far as I know) on national entertainment
- The game show quotes at the beginning of each chapter really add to the twisted, fucked-up idea of the

ultimate game show. I feel like there are a lot of details left out of the story, details that could have cleared some of the confusion I had when reading this. Some aspects of the story were just thrown out there and were never heard of again, which aggravated me (personally). There was also needless information that didn't add to the story whatsoever. Again, it can be a little confusing. The book does take time to pick up pace. I wasn't 100% interested in the book until I reached Chapter 7/8. THE ENDING. The last two chapters seemed extremely rushed. At this point the direction of the story and the characters becomes somewhat lack-luster. I was expecting a drawn out ending, one that would make me want to scream with anticipation...but it never happened. To me, the ending was boring and not at all what I would expect from Stephen King.

I have been a Stephen King fan since I was about 14 years old. In recent years, I have not read much (if any?) fiction. However, this summer, my 8 year old daughter took a creative writing course and when she would come home and tell me what all she learned in class that day, I was inspired to read fiction once again. This book had a lot of great reviews on Amazon and it's really Stephen King's first book -- one that he apparently wrote while still an undergraduate!? I kept saying to myself as I worked through the book, "I can't believe his genius mind wrote this as an undergrad." I think back to my own undergraduate days and quite frankly, looking at them in hindsight I'm embarrassed over some of the papers that I turned in. Well, that's why Stephen King is a successful writer and I'm not! In all seriousness, this book is a page-turner! I read through the book in about 2 weeks and I had a hard time putting it down. I would love to ask the writer what the book means. I mean, it's a great story but there just has to be some sort of symbolic meaning to it all. There's a whole Wikipedia article discussing this book. I think that there might be something to the notion that the Long Walk represents life and we all -- at times -- fight with one another but also, even with those same people who we might fight with, we will for whatever reason also "join forces" with them. I don't know the answer to my question, but I have thought about what symbolism might be hidden in the pages of this work. If you're looking for a really great book to read this summer while on your "vacay" I would HIGHLY recommend this piece.

I have read this book many times (including when it was part of a short story collection under the name, Richard Bachman). This is my favorite work by King/Bachman. So understated, yet full of emotion. Really tight writing. After reading it at least five or six times over the years, I feel as if I personally know each of the characters. I belong to Kindle Unlimited, so have been reading very

many independently published books. Don't get me wrong, under the sometimes dreck, I've found diamonds and discovered many new authors with a real gift for writing. But, now and again, it is good to go back and read one of the masters. This book is way over my budget, but oh, so worth it!

How do you review and rate a Stephen King novel? Interesting story base with the walk. I like the way the author ties the fictional walk with current day/events so it seems like it could actually be real. Good detail, good conversation and communication, good imaginative writing. I was not disappointed in the ending, but was not satisfied with the ending, either. It's not your typical "I want more" ending but more of a "aww, that's it?" ending.

I wanted so badly to finish this book. At first I thought "THEY'RE ALWAYS WALKING!!!" Yeah, the book is called "The Long Walk" so, clearly they must be going somewhere. What I didn't understand was WHY, it was never suggested that this was post-apocalyptic state or anything of the sort... If you wanted to join the Army, you got to walk with a bunch of other boys. Sounds like a pretty boring book until you get into it... Stephen King really has a way with words. This is absolutely true in the sense that he describes how the boys want to give up, what happens when they 'buy a ticket', the pain and horror they face when hills come into view, and the ending. I didn't know that's what was going to happen. I loved this book and I would read it again! Truly inspirational, my first Stephen King book and it won't be my last.

4 1/2 stars if I could, but I need to round down. I'm a big Stephen King fan and although the writing is pure Stephen King the story is not. Which is not a negative, just different than most everything else I've read of his. What this book lacks (compared to other King books) in character development and storyline it makes up for in pace and originality. This book was written long before the Hunger Games.

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