

stephen king quitters inc

Stephen King Quitters Inc: An In-Depth Exploration of the Macabre and Psychological Thriller

Introduction

In the vast realm of horror and psychological thrillers, few stories have left as profound an impact as Stephen King's Quitters Inc. This chilling tale, originally published as a short story in 1978 in *Night Shift*, exemplifies King's mastery in blending everyday fears with supernatural and psychological elements. The story explores themes of addiction, control, and punishment, creating a disturbing yet captivating narrative that has resonated with readers for decades. In this article, we delve into the origins of Quitters Inc, its significance within Stephen King's body of work, and the enduring appeal that makes it a quintessential example of horror storytelling.

Understanding Stephen King's Quitters Inc

Background and Publication History

Stephen King's Quitters Inc was first published in 1978 in the anthology *Night Shift*, which compiled a series of horror and supernatural stories. The story quickly gained popularity due to its intense psychological themes and dark humor. It was later adapted into a segment of the 1989 film *Creepshow 2*, further cementing its place in pop culture.

The narrative centers around a sinister corporation called Quitters Inc, which offers a controversial program to help compulsive smokers quit. The company's methods are brutal, involving psychological manipulation, surveillance, and physical punishment. The story's protagonist, Dick Morrison, seeks help from Quitters Inc to stop his smoking habit, but he soon discovers that the cost of quitting might be far higher than he anticipated.

The Plot Summary

The story begins with Dick Morrison's desperation to quit smoking, which has become a compulsive habit negatively affecting his health and life. He is approached by the representatives of Quitters Inc, who claim to have a highly effective program. The company's methods involve:

- Psychological Conditioning: Using fear and guilt to motivate behavior change.

- Monitoring: Installing surveillance devices in Morrison's home to track his actions.
- Punishment: Enforcing physical punishments, such as electric shocks, for any relapse or failure to comply.

As Morrison agrees to the program, he is warned that any violation will result in severe consequences for himself and his family. The story reaches a climax when Morrison's wife, fearing for her husband's safety and their child's well-being, betrays him, leading to Morrison's punishment. The story ends with Morrison fully under the company's control, illustrating the terrifying extent of their methods.

The Themes and Symbolism of Quitters Inc

Control and Authority

One of the central themes of Quitters Inc is the loss of personal autonomy. The corporation's invasive surveillance and coercive tactics symbolize how authority figures or organizations can exert extreme control over individuals' choices. King uses this to comment on societal mechanisms that enforce conformity and obedience, sometimes at the expense of personal freedom.

Fear and Punishment as Motivation

The story explores how fear can be used as a powerful motivator, often with disturbing consequences. Quitters Inc employs fear of physical pain and harm to manipulate smokers into quitting. This reflects real-world practices where fear-based tactics are used in various behavioral modification programs, raising ethical questions about their legitimacy.

Addiction and Self-Control

At its core, Quitters Inc is a story about addiction and the struggle to regain control. The protagonist's desire to quit smoking is genuine, but the methods employed threaten to strip away his autonomy entirely. King's portrayal of addiction extends beyond nicotine, symbolizing any compulsive behavior that can enslave individuals.

Dark Humor and Satire

Despite its horrifying themes, the story is infused with dark humor and satire. The exaggerated methods of Quitters Inc serve as a critique of overly authoritarian or invasive approaches to solving personal problems. King's tone often balances horror with a wry sense of irony, making the story both frightening and satirical.

The Cultural Impact of Quitters Inc

Influence on Horror and Popular Culture

Quitters Inc has become a staple in Stephen King's repertoire, admired for its compact storytelling and disturbing premise. Its influence extends beyond literature into film and television, inspiring adaptations and references.

- Film Adaptation: The story was adapted into a segment of the 1989 film *Creepshow 2*, directed by Michael Gornick. The film captures the story's dark humor and horror elements, bringing the disturbing methods of Quitters Inc to a wider audience.
- References in Media: The corporation's concept has found echoes in various media, often used to critique invasive or overly controlling institutions.

Legacy and Critical Reception

Critics and fans praise Quitters Inc for its sharp commentary on human psychology and societal control. It exemplifies King's ability to craft stories that are both entertaining and thought-provoking. Its enduring relevance lies in its exploration of themes like addiction, autonomy, and authoritarianism, which remain pertinent today.

Why Quitters Inc Remains Relevant Today

Ethical Questions and Modern Parallels

The story's depiction of invasive surveillance and coercive measures resonates with contemporary debates about privacy, government oversight, and corporate control. In an era of digital monitoring and behavioral nudges, Quitters Inc serves as a cautionary tale about the potential dangers of manipulative tactics.

Psychological Insights

King's portrayal of psychological manipulation offers insights into the human psyche. The story illustrates how fear can be exploited, raising awareness about the importance of ethical approaches to behavior change.

Entertainment and Horror Elements

Beyond its thematic depth, *Quitters Inc* remains a compelling horror story. Its blend of suspense, dark humor, and unsettling imagery continues to captivate readers and viewers, ensuring its place as a memorable piece in horror literature.

Conclusion

Stephen King's *Quitters Inc* is more than just a horror story about a corporation that helps people quit smoking; it is a powerful exploration of control, addiction, and the dark side of human psychology. Its enduring relevance underscores the importance of ethical considerations in behavior modification and the dangers of unchecked authority. Whether as a standalone story or as part of King's broader oeuvre, *Quitters Inc* exemplifies his ability to blend horror, satire, and social critique into a compelling narrative that continues to resonate with audiences worldwide.

Key Takeaways:

- *Quitters Inc* highlights the terrifying extent of control that organizations can exert over individuals.
- The story explores themes of addiction, fear, and personal autonomy.
- It remains relevant today as a cautionary tale about invasive surveillance and unethical behavior modification.
- Its dark humor and satirical tone enrich the horror, making it both entertaining and thought-provoking.

For fans of Stephen King and horror enthusiasts alike, *Quitters Inc* offers a chilling reminder of the thin line between control and chaos, and the importance of preserving personal freedom in the face of authoritarian tactics.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the story 'Quitters Inc.' by Stephen King about?

'Quitters Inc.' is a short story by Stephen King that revolves around a man who joins a company promising to help him quit smoking through extreme and terrifying methods, highlighting themes of addiction and control.

Is 'Quitters Inc.' based on real events or purely fictional?

'Quitters Inc.' is a work of fiction, part of Stephen King's collection 'Night Shift,' and is not based on real events but uses exaggerated scenarios to explore human behavior and addiction.

What are the main themes explored in 'Quitters Inc.'?

The story explores themes such as addiction, coercion, morality, fear, and the extent to which people are willing to go to break a habit.

How does 'Quitters Inc.' reflect Stephen King's style and themes?

'Quitters Inc.' exemplifies Stephen King's style of blending horror with psychological insights, often using ordinary settings to explore extreme moral dilemmas and human fears.

Has 'Quitters Inc.' been adapted into any other media?

While 'Quitters Inc.' itself hasn't been directly adapted, its themes and story elements influenced episodes in horror anthologies, and it shares similarities with the 'Nightmares & Dreamscapes' TV adaptation of Stephen King's works.

What makes 'Quitters Inc.' a compelling story for readers today?

Its exploration of addiction, coercion, and the limits of moral boundaries remains relevant, making it a compelling and thought-provoking read for contemporary audiences.

What is the significance of the ending in 'Quitters Inc.'?

The ending underscores the story's dark humor and moral lesson, illustrating

the terrifying lengths to which the company will go and leaving readers pondering the ethics of control and punishment.

Why is 'Quitters Inc.' considered a classic example of Stephen King's horror writing?

Because it combines psychological horror with a disturbing premise, capturing the fears of addiction and authority in a way that is both entertaining and thought-provoking, hallmark traits of Stephen King's storytelling.

Additional Resources

Stephen King's "Quitters Inc." – A Deep Dive into the Dark Side of Obedience and Human Nature

Stephen King, renowned for his mastery of horror and psychological thrillers, often explores the darker facets of human nature. Among his lesser-known but profoundly impactful stories is "Quitters Inc.", a chilling short story that delves into themes of control, morality, and the lengths individuals will go to for self-improvement. Originally published in 1978 as part of the collection *Night Shift*, this tale continues to resonate with readers for its unsettling portrayal of coercive behavior and the terrifying consequences of absolute authority.

In this comprehensive review, we will explore "Quitters Inc." from multiple angles—its plot intricacies, thematic depth, character analysis, and the social commentary embedded within. We will also examine its place within Stephen King's oeuvre, its adaptation into other media, and the enduring relevance of its message.

Plot Summary and Narrative Structure

"Quitters Inc." employs a straightforward yet chilling narrative that exemplifies King's talent for blending horror with realism. The story centers around Dick Morrison, a man desperate to quit smoking, who is persuaded by a mysterious and sinister organization called Quitters Inc. to undergo their program.

Key Plot Points:

- Introduction to Quitters Inc.: The organization promises to help individuals kick their smoking habits through a strict, no-nonsense program. The agency is run by a man named Vinnie Donatti, who exudes a sense of authoritarian control.
- The Deal: Morrison agrees to their terms, which include strict

surveillance, penalties for relapse, and an unwavering commitment to quitting.

- The Punishments: The story's core revolves around the brutal consequences for non-compliance. If Morrison smokes, he faces immediate punishment—specifically, painful shocks administered via a device attached to his body.
- The Tape Recorder and Surveillance: Morrison is monitored through a tape recorder, which records his behavior and ensures compliance.
- The Climax: Morrison's resolve is tested when he is tempted to smoke during a stressful moment, leading to a horrifying realization of the true extent of Quitters Inc.'s methods.
- The Final Twist: The story ends with Morrison's chilling acceptance of the organization's brutal methods, highlighting the loss of personal autonomy.

Thematic Exploration

"Quitters Inc." functions on multiple thematic levels, making it a rich text for analysis.

1. Control and Authority

At its core, the story is a commentary on authoritarian control and the loss of personal freedom. Quitters Inc. embodies a totalitarian regime, where individual choices are overridden by institutional power. The organization's methods—surveillance, punishment, and fear—mirror societal mechanisms used to enforce conformity.

2. Morality and Ethics

The story raises questions about the morality of coercive behavior in the name of a "greater good." While quitting smoking might be a laudable goal, the means employed by Quitters Inc.—torture, threats, and psychological manipulation—are ethically reprehensible. King challenges readers to consider whether end goals justify such ruthless methods.

3. Human Nature and Desperation

Morrison's willingness to accept extreme measures reflects human desperation and susceptibility to authoritarian control when faced with personal vices. The story explores how fear can override moral judgment, leading individuals to accept oppressive systems.

4. The Illusion of Free Will

Throughout the story, there's an underlying question about whether true free will exists under oppressive regimes. Morrison believes he is making a choice, yet his options are severely limited, illustrating the fine line

between autonomy and coercion.

Character Analysis

Dick Morrison

- The Protagonist: A relatable character driven by the universal desire to quit smoking, Morrison embodies human vulnerability and the willingness to accept extreme measures for self-improvement.
- Transformation: His journey from hope to horror reflects the story's dark message—sometimes, the price of change is too high.
- Symbolism: Morrison represents all individuals who are tempted by quick fixes and are susceptible to authoritative control.

Vinnie Donatti

- The Antagonist: Donatti is the embodiment of authoritarian control, a manipulative figure who justifies his brutal methods as necessary for success.
- Characteristics: Cold, calculating, and unempathetic, Donatti's character exemplifies the dangers of unchecked power.

The Organization (Quitters Inc.)

- Symbolism: The organization symbolizes societal systems that prioritize order and discipline at the expense of individual rights.
- Methods: Their tactics reflect real-world practices in certain institutions—coercion, surveillance, and punishment.

Social and Psychological Commentary

King's story is more than just a horror tale; it serves as a critique of societal tendencies toward authoritarianism and the manipulation of personal freedoms.

1. The Dangers of Coercive Control

"Quitters Inc." illustrates how systems designed for personal betterment can become oppressive. The story warns against blind faith in authoritative institutions that promise quick fixes but employ brutal tactics.

2. Fear as a Tool of Compliance

The use of fear—through threats of pain and psychological pressure—is depicted as an effective but morally questionable method of behavior modification. This mirrors real-world practices like torture, psychological manipulation, and authoritarian policing.

3. Ethical Dilemmas in Self-Help

While quitting smoking is a positive goal, the story prompts reflection on ethical boundaries in behavior modification programs, highlighting that coercion often undermines genuine change.

4. Human Psychology and Resistance

King explores the human capacity for resistance and submission. Morrison's initial resistance gives way to resignation, revealing how fear can override rational decision-making.

Stephen King's Style and Literary Devices

"Quitters Inc." showcases King's signature narrative style—blending realism with horror, employing suspense, and creating vivid characters.

Narrative Voice

King's straightforward, conversational tone makes the story accessible yet unsettling. His use of detailed descriptions heightens the tension, especially in scenes involving punishment and surveillance.

Use of Suspense

The story builds suspense through Morrison's internal conflict and the looming threat of punishment. The pacing accelerates as Morrison's temptation to smoke grows, culminating in a horrifying climax.

Symbolism and Allegory

- The Shocking Device: Represents the intrusive nature of surveillance and control.
- The Smoking Habit: Symbolizes human weakness and addiction.
- The Organization: An allegory for oppressive societal structures.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

While “Quitters Inc.” has not been directly adapted into a major film, its influence is evident in various media and pop culture references.

1. Maximum Overdrive (1986)

King’s film features themes of control and chaos, echoing the oppressive tone of “Quitters Inc.”.

2. Influence on Horror and Thriller Genres

The story’s depiction of coercive systems has inspired similar narratives in horror and psychological thrillers, emphasizing the dangers of authoritarian control.

3. Cultural References

The phrase “Quitters Inc.” has become synonymous with extreme measures in behavior modification, often invoked as a cautionary tale.

Enduring Relevance and Critical Reception

“Quitters Inc.” remains relevant today as a cautionary tale about the limits of authority and the importance of ethical treatment in behavior change programs.

Critical Reception

- Praised for its tight narrative and incisive social commentary.
- Noted for its ability to evoke horror in a realistic setting.
- Recognized as a prime example of King’s mastery in blending horror with societal critique.

Relevance in Modern Context

In an era of increased surveillance, data privacy concerns, and debates over government authority, “Quitters Inc.” serves as a powerful reminder of the potential dangers of unchecked power and the importance of safeguarding individual rights.

Conclusion: A Masterpiece of Psychological Horror

Stephen King's "Quitters Inc." stands out as a compelling exploration of human psychology, morality, and societal control. Its vivid characters, suspenseful storytelling, and thought-provoking themes make it a quintessential example of King's ability to craft horror rooted in real-world fears.

The story's enduring impact lies in its universal message: the fight for personal autonomy is fraught with peril, and sometimes, the methods used to achieve self-improvement can be more terrifying than the vice itself. As a reflection of societal tendencies toward authoritarianism and a warning against the seductive allure of quick fixes, "Quitters Inc." remains a must-read for fans of horror, psychology, and social critique alike.

In summary, Stephen King's "Quitters Inc." is not just a horror story but a mirror held up to society—challenging us to consider the boundaries of control, the ethics of behavior modification, and the true cost of change. Its chilling narrative continues to resonate, reminding us that sometimes, the scariest monsters are the ones lurking in the corridors of power and fear.

[Stephen King Quitters Inc](#)

stephen king quitters inc: Stephen King from A to Z George Beahm, Beahm, 1998-09
Contains hundreds of alphabetically arranged entries that provide information about various aspects of the life and work of popular novelist Stephen King.

stephen king quitters inc: The Complete Stephen King Universe Stanley Wiater, Christopher Golden, Hank Wagner, 2006-05-30 "The Stephen King companion to end all Stephen King companions . . . An indispensable insider's guide" to his influences, stories, adaptations, and more (Publishers Weekly). The Stephen King Universe is a vast expanse of grotesque horror, dark magic, and fearsome wonder. Conjured from on man's imagination, it is an ever-expanding kingdom of twisting, dark pathways—a place where one might easily get lost without guidance. The Complete Stephen King Universe is the only definitive reference work that examines all of Stephen King's novels, short stories, motion pictures, miniseries, and teleplays, and deciphers the threads that connect all of his work. This ultimate resource includes in-depth story analyses, character breakdowns, little-known facts, and startling revelations on how the plots, themes, characters, and conflicts intertwine.

stephen king quitters inc: The Best American Mystery Stories of the Century Tony Hillerman, Otto Penzler, 2000 In this essential distillation of American suspense, 100 years worth of peerless tales are collected into a volume where giants of the genre abound: Raymond Chandler, Lawrence Sanders, Sue Grafton, Elmore Leonard, and Sara Paretsky.

stephen king quitters inc: The Stephen King Universe Stanley Wiater, Christopher Golden,

Hank Wagner, 2001-05-21 This unique work of popular criticism of the stories and characters of author Stephen King embraces and explains the entire body of his work. The authors also demonstrate King's impact on popular culture and include a chronology of his life and career.

stephen king quitters inc: *Stephen King, American Master* Stephen Spignesi, 2018-10-30 Fascinating facts, trivia, and little-known details about the Master of the Macabre's life from the "world's leading authority on Stephen King" (Entertainment Weekly). New York Times-bestselling author Stephen Spignesi has compiled interviews, essays, and loads of facts and details about all of Stephen King's work into this fun and informative compendium for the author's many fans, from the casual to the fanatical! Did you know. . . ? In his early teens, Stephen King sold typed copies of his short stories at school. King originally thought his novel *Pet Sematary* was too frightening to publish. King's legendary *Dark Tower* series took him more than 30 years to write. Thinner was the novel that revealed his "Richard Bachman" pseudonym to the world. King wrote *The Eyes of the Dragon* for his daughter Naomi. He has never liked Stanley Kubrick's film version of his novel *The Shining*. It took him four years to write what some consider his magnum opus, *IT*. The 2017 film version of *IT* has grossed more than \$700 million worldwide. In addition to novels, King has written essays, plays, screenplays, and even poetry.

stephen king quitters inc: *The Stephen King Quiz Book* Stephen J. Spignesi, 1990 The ultimate quiz book to test anyone's devotion to the work of Stephen King. Covering 19 books, 60 short stories and many films, the master of horror will have readers up all night once again, but instead of cowering in fear, they'll be racking their brains for answers.

stephen king quitters inc: *EW The Ultimate Guide to Stephen King* The Editors of Entertainment Weekly, 2019-08-30 Entertainment Weekly presents *The Ultimate Guide to Stephen King*.

stephen king quitters inc: *Stephen King* Rocky Wood, 2017-02-10 This companion provides a two-part introduction to best-selling author Stephen King, whose enormous popularity over the years has gained him an audience well beyond readers of horror fiction, the genre with which he is most often associated. Part I considers the reception of King's work, the film adaptations that they gave rise to, the fictional worlds in which some of his novels are set, and the more useful approaches to King's varied corpus. Part II consists of entries for each series, novel, story, screenplay and even poem, including works never published or produced, as well as characters and settings.

stephen king quitters inc: *The Complete Stephen King Encyclopedia* Stephen J. Spignesi, 1991 Now fans, researchers, and collectors can have easy access to all things King with this definitive sourcebook. This one-of-a-kind encyclopedia, now in paperback, features an exhaustive 18,000-entry concordance covering the people, places, and things mentioned in King's novels and stories, as well as helpful reference guides, sidebars, and never-before-available information. 50 photographs. 20 line drawings.

stephen king quitters inc: *Surrounding Self-control* Alfred R. Mele, 2020 Mining new research in neuroscience; social, cognitive, and developmental psychology; decision theory; and philosophy, the essays in this volume offer a multi-dimensional, robust examination of self-control. The cutting-edge chapters tackle a wide range of issues, for example: what enables us to resist temptation; the cultural and developmental origins of beliefs about self-control; how attempts at self-control are hindered or helped by emotions; the connections between self-control and moral beliefs; and how the juvenile justice system should be reformed given what we know about juvenile brains.

stephen king quitters inc: *A Century of Great Suspense Stories* Various, 2002-11-05 Bestselling master of suspense Jeffery Deaver's enviable task was to select from the thousands of stories written over the past one hundred years those which best represented the classic form, as well as the celebrated authors whose ironic twists and stunning payoffs left a lasting and vivid impression. Delivering everything from the one-two punch of the detective story to the ingeniously precise trappings of the police procedural, from the disquieting corners of the criminal mind to sheer dread-inducing horror, *A Century of Great Suspense Stories* is a rich anthology of this popular

literary genre, a stunning tribute to the art of storytelling, and to the men and women who have done it best.

stephen king quitters inc: The Undefeated Mind Alex Lickerman, 2012-11-06 Legions of self-help authors rightly urge personal development as the key to happiness, but they typically fail to focus on its most important objective: hardiness. Though that which doesn't kill us can make us stronger, as Nietzsche tells us, few authors today offer any insight into just how to springboard from adversity to strength. It doesn't just happen automatically, and it takes practice. New scientific research suggests that resilience isn't something with which only a fortunate few of us have been born, but rather something we can all take specific action to develop. To build strength out of adversity, we need a catalyst. What we need, according to Dr. Alex Lickerman, is wisdom—wisdom that adversity has the potential to teach us. Lickerman's underlying premise is that our ability to control what happens to us in life may be limited, but we have the ability to establish a life-state to surmount the suffering life brings us. The Undefeated Mind distills the wisdom we need to create true resilience into nine core principles, including: --A new definition of victory and its relevance to happiness --The concept of the changing of poison into medicine --A way to view prayer as a vow we make to ourselves. --A method of setting expectations that enhances our ability to endure disappointment and minimizes the likelihood of quitting --An approach to taking personal responsibility and moral action that enhances resilience --A process to managing pain—both physical and emotional—that enables us to push through obstacles that might otherwise prevent us from attaining our goals --A method of leveraging our relationships with others that helps us manifest our strongest selves Through stories of patients who have used these principles to overcome suffering caused by unemployment, unwanted weight gain, addiction, rejection, chronic pain, retirement, illness, loss, and even death, Dr. Lickerman shows how we too can make these principles function within our own lives, enabling us to develop for ourselves the resilience we need to achieve indestructible happiness. At its core, The Undefeated Mind urges us to stop hoping for easy lives and focus instead on cultivating the inner strength we need to enjoy the difficult lives we all have.

stephen king quitters inc: Adapting Stephen King Joseph Maddrey, 2023-08-04 Stephen King's fiction has formed the basis of more motion picture adaptations than any other living author. His earliest short stories, collected in the Night Shift anthology, have been adapted into hit features including Creepshow, Children of the Corn, Cat's Eye, Maximum Overdrive, Graveyard Shift, Sometimes They Come Back, and The Mangler. Through his Dollar Baby program, King licensed several Night Shift stories to aspiring filmmakers for just one dollar each, resulting in numerous student film adaptations. This book critically examines and contextualizes adaptations of the Night Shift short stories, from big box office features to relatively unknown student films. It illuminates how each film is a uniquely and intricately collaborative endeavor, and charts the development of each adaptation from first option to final cut. Through old and new interviews with the creators, the work explores how filmmakers continue to reinvent, reimagine, remake and reboot King's stories.

stephen king quitters inc: The Science of Stephen King Meg Hafdahl, Kelly Florence, 2020-10-06 Uncover the theories behind the Master of Horror's macabre tales: It, The Shining, Carrie, Cujo, Misery, Pet Semetary, and so much more! Gothic media moguls Meg Hafdahl and Kelly Florence, authors of The Science of Monsters and The Science of Women in Horror, and co-hosts of the Horror Rewind podcast called “the best horror film podcast out there” by Film Daddy, present a guide to the Stephen King stories and characters we all know and love. Through interviews, literary and film analysis, and bone-chilling discoveries, The Science of Stephen King delves into the uniquely horrific Stephen King universe to uncover the science behind the legendary novels that have become an integral part of modern pop culture, answering such questions as: What is the science behind time travel and parallel universes like in The Dark Tower series and 11/22/63? How does lack of sleep affect the human body like in Insomnia? Is it possible for horrific creatures to exist like in Nightshift? What is the science behind curses and legends like in Dreamcatcher and Thinner? Join Kelly and Meg as they learn if we all really do float down here!

stephen king quitters inc: *Dreamsongs: Volume II* George R. R. Martin, 2012-10-16 Even

before the enormous success of *A Game of Thrones*, George R. R. Martin had secured his reputation as one of the most exciting storytellers of our time. The second of two thrilling collections, *Dreamsongs: Volume II* continues the story of his amazing journey from a young writer to a #1 New York Times bestselling force of nature. Whether writing about werewolves, wizards, or outer space, George R. R. Martin is renowned for his versatility and expansive talent, as demonstrated in this dazzling collection. *Dreamsongs: Volume II* contains acclaimed stories such as the World Fantasy Award winner "The Skin Trade," as well as the first novella in the Ice and Fire universe, *The Hedge Knight*—plus two early screenplays. Featuring extensive author commentary, *Dreamsongs: Volume II* is an invaluable chronicle of a writer at the height of his creativity—and an unforgettable reading experience for fans old and new. "Science fiction, fantasy and horror fans alike will be blown away by the diversity and quality of stories. . . . This extraordinary collection is one to cherish."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) "Dreamsongs is the ideal way to discover . . . a master of science fiction, fantasy and horror. . . . Martin is a writer like no other."—*The Guardian* (U.K.)

PRAISE FOR GEORGE R. R. MARTIN "Of those who work in the grand epic-fantasy tradition, Martin is by far the best. In fact . . . this is as good a time as any to proclaim him the American Tolkien."—*Time* "Long live George Martin . . . a literary dervish, enthralled by complicated characters and vivid language, and bursting with the wild vision of the very best tale tellers."—*The New York Times* "I always expect the best from George R. R. Martin, and he always delivers."—Robert Jordan

stephen king quitters inc: *Stephen King Films FAQ* Scott Von Doviak, 2014-02-01 (FAQ). Over the past four decades, the Stephen King movie has become a genre unto itself. The prolific writer's works have spawned well over 100 adaptations for both the big and small screen, ranging from modern classics of horror (*Carrie* , *The Shining*) to Oscar-nominated fare (*The Shawshank Redemption* , *The Green Mile*) to unapologetic, B-movie schlock (the King-directed *Maximum Overdrive*). The filmmakers to put their stamp on King's material include acclaimed auteurs Stanley Kubrick, David Cronenberg, and Brian De Palma; masters of horror Tobe Hooper, John Carpenter, and George Romero; and popular mainstream directors Rob Reiner, Frank Darabont, and Lawrence Kasdan. *Stephen King Films FAQ* is the most comprehensive overview of this body of work to date, encompassing well-known hits as well as forgotten obscurities, critical darlings and reviled flops, films that influenced King as well as those that have followed in his footsteps, upcoming and unmade projects, and selected works in other media (including comic books, radio dramas, and the infamous *Carrie* musical). Author Scott Von Doviak provides background information, analysis, and trivia regarding the various films and television productions, including *Bloodlines* sections on related works and *Deep Cuts* sections collecting additional odd facts and ephemera. All you ever wanted to know about the king of horror onscreen can be found here.

stephen king quitters inc: *Dreamsongs 2-Book Bundle* George R. R. Martin, 2012-10-16 Even before *A Game of Thrones*, George R. R. Martin had already established himself as a giant in the field of fantasy literature. Now in one exclusive eBook edition are both volumes of *Dreamsongs*, featuring the very best of Martin's early works. This convenient bundle provides a rare treat for Martin's devoted readers, offering fascinating insights into his journey from a young writer to the #1 New York Times bestselling force of nature. "Dreamsongs is the ideal way to discover . . . a master of science fiction, fantasy and horror. . . . Martin is a writer like no other."—*The Guardian* (U.K.) Whether writing about werewolves, wizards, or outer space, George R. R. Martin is renowned for his versatility and expansive talent, as demonstrated in this dazzling two-volume collection. Gathered in *Dreamsongs: Volume I* are some of George R. R. Martin's most time-honored tales, including Hugo, Nebula, and Bram Stoker award-winning stories, cool fan pieces, and the original novella *The Ice Dragon*. *Dreamsongs: Volume II* contains acclaimed stories such as the World Fantasy Award winner "The Skin Trade," as well as the first novella in the Ice and Fire universe, *The Hedge Knight*—plus two early screenplays. Featuring a dazzling array of subjects and styles, *Dreamsongs* is the perfect collection for both Martin devotees and a new generation of fans. **PRAISE FOR GEORGE R. R. MARTIN** "Of those who work in the grand epic-fantasy tradition, Martin is by far the best. In fact . . .

this is as good a time as any to proclaim him the American Tolkien.”—Time “Long live George Martin . . . a literary dervish, enthralled by complicated characters and vivid language, and bursting with the wild vision of the very best tale tellers.”—The New York Times “I always expect the best from George R. R. Martin, and he always delivers.”—Robert Jordan

stephen king quitters inc: Slices & Lumps Lee Anne Fennell, 2019-09-16 How things are divided up or pieced together matters. Half a bridge is of no use at all. Conversely, many things would do more good if they could be divided up differently: Perhaps you would prefer a job that involves a third less work and a third less pay or a car that materializes only when needed and is priced accordingly? Difficulties in “slicing” and “lumping” shape nearly every facet of how we live and work—and a great deal of law and policy as well. Lee Anne Fennell explores how both types of challenges—carving out useful slices and assembling useful lumps—surface in myriad contexts, from hot button issues like conservation and eminent domain to developments in the sharing economy to personal struggles over work, money, time, diet, and exercise. Yet the significance of configuration is often overlooked, leading to missed opportunities for improving our lives. With a technology-fueled entrepreneurial explosion underway that is dividing goods, services, and jobs in novel ways, and as urbanization and environmental threats raise the stakes for assembling resources and cooperation, this is an especially exciting and crucial time to confront questions of slicing and lumping. The future of the city, the workplace, the marketplace, and the environment all turn on matters of configuration, as do the prospects for more effective legal doctrines, for better management of finances and health, and more. This book reveals configuration’s power and potential—as a unifying concept and as a focus of public and private innovation.

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