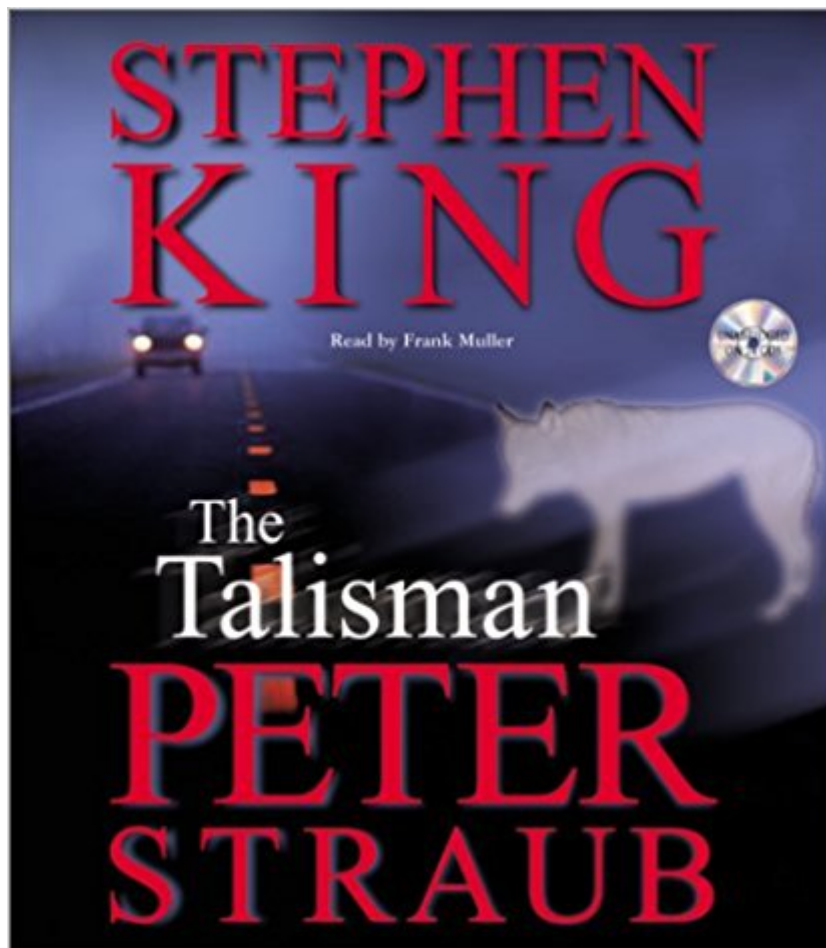




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The Talisman



Synopsis

Stephen King and Peter Straub's epic thriller about a young boy's quest to save his mother's life. Jack Sawyer, twelve years old, is about to begin a most fantastic journey, an exalting, terrifying quest for the mystical Talisman—the only thing that can save Jack's dying mother. But to reach his goal, Jack must make his way not only across the breadth of the United States but also through the wondrous and menacing parallel world of the Territories. In the Territories, Jack finds another realm, where the air is so sweet and clear a man can smell a radish being pulled from the ground a mile away—and a life can be snuffed out instantly in the continuing struggle between good and evil. Here Jack discovers "Twinners," reflections of the people he knows on earth—most notably Queen Laura, the "Twin" of Jack's own imperiled mother. As Jack "flips" between worlds, making his way westward toward the redemptive Talisman, a sequence of heart-stopping encounters challenges him at every step. An unforgettable epic of adventure and resounding triumph, *The Talisman* is one of the most influential and highly praised works of fantasy ever written.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The first (1984) collaboration between horror/fantasy writers King and Straub, this book has been reissued in multiple formats to coincide with the publication of its sequel, *Black House*. In *The Talisman*, 12-year-old Jack Sawyer takes on a quest in this and a parallel world, the "Territories," to acquire a mystical talisman that will save the life of his dying mother and her "twin," the Queen of

the Territories. Jack "flips" back and forth between worlds during his journey, finding his way through and past representatives of good and evil in both. Award-winning reader Frank Muller continues his long string of superlative performances. This program will generate lots of demand a must for current fiction collections. Also available in the newer, highly compressed MP3-CD format, which requires a CD player that is MP3-compatible or a computer with CD-ROM drive and MP3 player software loaded. Kristen L. Smith, Loras Coll. Lib., Dubuque, IA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

“Rare and dazzling”
A journey to rival the greatest adventure stories ever told.
•New York Daily News
“Extraordinary”
makes your hair stand on end.
•Washington Post

I read the Talisman many times in my youth. It was an amazing story that was not tailored for kids, and that is what drew me to it. It does not hold your hand, nor does it sugar coat life on the road. The awesome characters are what brought me back, and I was excited to see them illustrated. The art in this book is beautiful, and I was not disappointed with any of the character's appearances (except, maybe for Wolf). I feel like the pacing needs to be improved upon, though. The pacing in the original book was at times too slow, but I feel like it is too fast in this comic. What's worse, is I won't be able to see how the rest of the story is beautifully illustrated, because the rest of the comics were canned. Maybe, one day, they will see the folly of their ways, and revive this series.

It's a Stephen King novel -- he is a great writer and can make anything work, so it was bound to be at least "good." Notwithstanding the excellent reviews, however, this was really not his best work. It seemed overlong (and I'm used to King's long novels) and the entire story line of the "other world" just didn't resonate with me.

I read The Talisman back when I myself must have been about 11 or 12, like the protagonist. I always liked reading and books but this was my first introduction to Stephen King and adult books. This wasn't the mild, adventurous fantasy I grew up on, it was vibrant but darker, the stakes were higher and the threat felt more real. I always loved fantasy-quest type books and this one is probably what sparked my interest. :-)

This story of a wondrous adventure has been a treasured part of my life for some 30-odd years. I've

drifted into Jack and the beloved Wolf's world many times, and what a joyful journey it is. It illustrates beautiful friendships and breathtaking adventures that leave the reader moved beyond words.

A modern and old series of adventures of an ordinary, extraordinary 12 year old boy named Jack Sawyer. He touches and saves the lives of many and will touch the life of the reader as, well. You will not be able to put this book down. His adventures will make you laugh and make you cry. The 924 pages will not only fly by, but you will finish this book wanting more. You will join Jack as he flips back and forth through different worlds in this Stephen King masterpiece of good versus evil.

While this is a creditable adaptation of the novel, each issue of the comic had material in the back that was a delightful addition to the main tale. The hardcover seems to have excluded the meat of it. While it does contain a character sketchbook, a how-to section on the art, and a partial interview with King and Straub that takes up barely a half page, it is missing sections written by Robin Furth in every issue that, frankly, I found a lot more interesting than the aforementioned filler. Her articles gave fascinating insight into the authors, the story, the characters, etc. Marvel pulled this same nonsense with their collected editions of THE DARK TOWER, and THE STAND. The only way to get this juicy Robin Furth goodness in hardcover was to shell out \$80-100 for the OMNIBUS editions. Lame. Other than the missing stuff, I have no overall complaints.

I've read this story several times over the years. If you haven't read it yet please do! You won't be sorry at all. Stephen King and Peter Straub are the perfect match. I keep lending it out and not getting it back so this is my 4th copy. I'll try to hang on to this one but sharing a story I love is too hard to resist.

Stephen King and Peter Straub joined forces to produce this mediocre novel about young Jack Sawyer's travels through a fantastical dual-verse on a quest to save his mother's life. Along the way Jack makes some new friends, encounters some old enemies and ultimately spends a lot, and I do mean a lot of time, perambulating across the country. This book fell short of its potential and because I am a Stephen King fanboy I will blame Peter Straub. Sorry Peter.

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