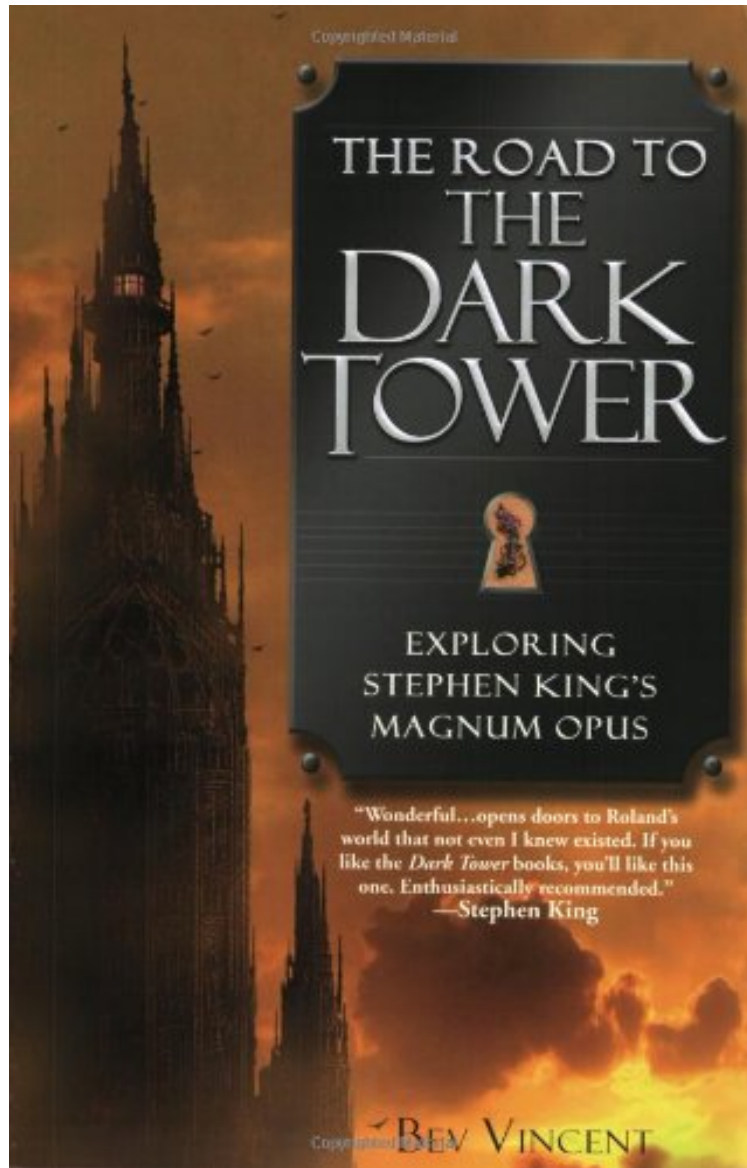


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The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus

Bev Vincent

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Bev Vincent : The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road to the Dark Tower: Exploring Stephen King's Magnum Opus:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great companion if you love the Dark TowerBy Denise Lucas

Shappee I'm really enjoying this book and looking forward to the second one! It's fascinating to see all the intersections of the stories and characters in other books. Excellent, detailed information. Thoroughly researched! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. For the fans By Daniel Estes I discovered Bev Vincent's *The Road to the Dark Tower* mere weeks after finishing the final *Dark Tower* novel. It was catharsis for a concluded series that I was still trying to make sense of. After all, I had followed Roland's Ka-Tet along the Path of the Beam for years and the ending was both heartbreaking and bizarre. To say I had a few questions would have been an understatement. Bev Vincent retread towards the *Dark Tower* along with his review of King's related work helped me find a few answers. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Read the DT series first to avoid spoilers By Keith Wines Definitely a great 'cliffs notes' to the DT series. There are some secrets told so it would be best to read the novels first and then follow up with this book. The poem that inspired King is included, and even those who are not fans of poetry will enjoy reading the starting influence for King's DT.

AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE DARK TOWER SERIES INCLUDING BOOK-BY-BOOK ANALYSIS AND INSIGHT INTO STEPHEN KING'S CREATIVE PROCESS. In 1970, Stephen King embarked on what would become the crowning achievement in his literary career—the *Dark Tower*. The seven-volume series, written and published over a period of 30 years, was inspired by Robert Browning's poem "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," as well as J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, and the spaghetti Westerns of Sergio Leone. With the full cooperation of Stephen King himself, *The Road to the Dark Tower* examines the epic journey of the author to complete a story that threatened to overwhelm him. In this indispensable companion, Bev Vincent presents a book-by-book analysis of each volume in the series, tracing the *Dark Tower*'s connections to King's other novels including *The Stand*, *Insomnia*, and *Hearts in Atlantis*, and offering insights from the author about the creative process involved in crafting his lifelong work—a work that has consumed not only Stephen King, but his legion of devoted readers. This is essential reading for any *Dark Tower*-or Stephen King-fan.

From Publishers Weekly How does one determine what the greatest work of an author's career is? The answer to this query, posed in the final pages of this book, can be found throughout Vincent's in-depth analysis of King's seven-volume *Dark Tower* epic (*The Gunslinger*, *The Drawing of the Three*, etc.). Making sense of a story that switches back and forth through time, across multiple universes, and involves the safety of a tower that represents the fate of all existence is no easy task. Kudos to Vincent for even trying. But readers beware—the work is analyzed in its entirety, so expect spoilers galore. Vincent's column on Stephen King, "News from the Dead Zone," appears in *Cemetery Dance* magazine tracks the evolution of both King's three-decade avocation (the very first line was written in 1970) and the development of the saga's characters and plot. Most importantly, Vincent shows how the few members of gunslinger Roland's fellowship, recruited to help him protect the Tower, slowly evolve from reluctant participation to resolve about their leader's quest. Former cocaine addict Eddie, for example, puts his sarcasm and skepticism aside and learns to embrace the dream of his surrogate father. As Vincent writes, "If Roland were to die on their journey, Eddie would continue with the others, for having dreamt of the Tower and the field of roses, the compulsion to reach the Tower claims him, too." Vincent also devotes a full chapter to discussing some of King's other works that are related to the *Dark Tower* series, such as *Hearts in Atlantis* and *Insomnia*. In light of King's own admission that the *Dark Tower* epic is the nexus of all his books "The *Dark Tower* finishes everything that I really wanted to say" Vincent asserts, "What else, then, is a magnum opus if not something that both ties together and summarizes a person's life's work?" With this thorough analysis of King's epic, Vincent proves himself a master of the *Dark Tower* world. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Vincent's expansive synopsis of horrormeister King's *Dark Tower* saga arrives nipping the heels of its seventh and last volume, *The Dark Tower* [BKL S 1 04]. Besides recapping the epic itself, Vincent points out the most germane aspects of other King novels and stories that touch upon it, sketches its leading characters, notes influences on it, and discusses its creation and the layered, self-consciously reflexive concept (King himself is a character in it) that animates it. Appended are chronologies of the saga's writing and publishing and of events in its main setting, Mid-World, and in "Keystone Earth" (i.e., our reality from the 1950s on, but including the saga's characters' doings when, at various times, they enter it), a too-small Mid-World glossary, and the Robert Browning poem that initially inspired King. The large and perdurable King fandom should embrace Vincent's effort and spur him to correct misstatements about the *Odyssey* and *Dante's Commedia*, in particular, in the chapter on influences and explain the saga's many pop-cultural references (e.g., the *Crimson King*) in future editions. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Wonderful...opens doors to Roland's world that not even I knew existed. If you like *The Dark Tower* books, you'll like this one. Enthusiastically recommended. Stephen King Bev Vincent is a true King insider....His book is essential to every reader of Stephen King's magnificent work. Peter Straub Vincent proves himself a master of the *Dark Tower* world. Publishers Weekly An excellent and maybe even vital guide to King's grand opus. Locus