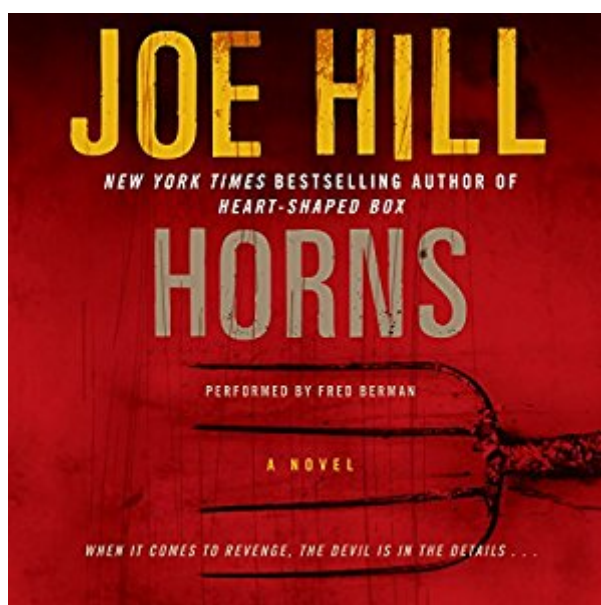


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# Horns: A Novel



## Synopsis

Joe Hill's critically acclaimed, New York Times bestselling, Bram Stoker Award-winning debut chiller, *Heart-Shaped Box*, heralded the arrival of new royalty onto the dark fantasy scene. With *Horns*, he polishes his well-deserved crown. A twisted, terrifying new novel of psychological and supernatural suspense, *Horns* is a devilishly original triumph for the Ray Bradbury Fellowship recipient whose story collection, *20th Century Ghosts*, was also honored with a Bram Stoker Award—and whose emotionally powerful and macabre work has been praised by the New York Times as, "wild, mesmerizing, perversely witty—a Valentine from hell." --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 13 hours and 55 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: February 16, 2010

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0038NLWV2

Best Sellers Rank: #120 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Horror #565 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers #1082 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Horror

## Customer Reviews

"Ignatius Martin Perrish spent the night drunk and doing terrible things." So begins Joe Hill's excellent sophomore novel, *Horns*. As the straightforward title suggests, the novel has a simple, high-concept premise. After the aforementioned night of doing terrible things, Ig Perrish wakes up the next morning with a pair of horns growing out of his head. His reaction is typical enough. After the immediate shock of it, he concludes he's hallucinating--and either way, he'd better see a doctor. It is with these initial interactions, with his girlfriend, the folks in the doctor's office, and most disturbingly with his family, that Ig makes several unpleasant discoveries. No one reacts to the horns. Rather, they're compelled to share their deepest, darkest, sickest secrets. Trust me; you don't want to hear the most vile thoughts of a stranger on the street--much less those of your

grandma! Just when this grotesque show-and-tell is beginning to feel a bit old, Hill moves on and dives into the meat of his story, Ig's story. One year prior, Ig's childhood sweetheart, the love of his life, was violently murdered. The crime was never solved, and Ig is widely believed to be the murderer. Very widely believed, he is to learn. Hill's novel ultimately spans several literary genres. It's a supernatural thriller, a murder mystery, a coming of age story, and a dark comedy all rolled into one. And the novel succeeds quite well on all counts. As the story drew to its conclusion, the thing that was very noticeable to me was how elegantly constructed the novel was. It was like a perfect puzzle, with different clues and unanswered questions salted throughout. But by the end, everything came together in a way that wasn't so much neat as inevitable. It was elegant.

Stayed up late reading last night, to finish Joe Hill's *Horns*. The book blew me away. I'd read about half of Hill's collection, *20th Century Ghosts*, so I knew what sort of caliber to expect, but...wow. Phenomenal. The concept is so brilliant, so obvious, and yet so perfectly executed: the protagonist, Ig Perrish, stumbles toward the mirror after a night of drunken mischief, gazes upon his own reflection to find he has grown a pair of devilish horns. The story is told in a clever, anachronistic series of revelations, flashbacks, and varying perspectives on the same hellish, downright heartbreaking series of events. Hill's talent for weaving a yarn from dreamlike scenes, sudden remembrances, and epiphanies is something I've scarcely seen done so masterfully before. He manages to direct the reader's every thought, not misguiding through deception -- such acts are the sort of devilry that only Ig Perrish would condone -- but rather leading his audience through darkness (as well as some truly beautiful, almost divine imagery both heartwarming and obscene) toward the inevitable conclusion. Without spoiling too much, I'll simply say that *Horns* was everything I wasn't expecting, in addition to that which I was. For every sinister act of the devil, there eventually shines the light of God (saith the Atheist in *Theology* 101). It's a fascinating, brilliant, saddening, glimmer-of-hope examination of all humanity's faults and what it means to truly achieve redemption. *Theology*, though, is far from the real focus of the novel -- although it is certainly a heavy thread throughout. In fact, the devil Hill portrays is a purely modern conception: powers of deception, influence over the sinful mind, rock n' roll, and rusty pitchforks.

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