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APPENDIXES

A. Synopsis of the *The Shining*

Jack Torrance, his wife Wendy, and their young son Danny move into the Overlook Hotel, where Jack has been hired as the winter caretaker. Cut off from civilization for months, Jack hopes to battle alcoholism and uncontrolled rage while writing a play. Evil forces residing in the Overlook – which has a long and violent history – covet young Danny for his precognitive powers and exploit Jack’s weaknesses to try to claim the boy.

The Shining is set in Colorado in the 1970s. It centres on the Torrance family: husband Jack, wife Wendy, and their five-year-old son, Danny. At the beginning of the novel, Jack is hired as the caretaker of the remote Overlook Hotel for the winter offseason. He is informed by the hotel manager that the previous caretaker, Delbert Grady, killed his entire family inside the hotel. Specifically, Grady “murdered the little girls with a hatchet, his wife with a shotgun, and himself the same way.” As Jack later learns, the Overlook has a long and ghastly history. Over the years, it has housed illicit affairs, horrible murders, and mob-style executions; perhaps by consequence, its ownership has changed hands several times.

On the day of their arrival, the Torrances are given a tour of the Overlook by the hotel manager. They are introduced to Dick Hallorann, the hotel cook who takes a special interest in Danny. Unlike his parents, Danny is ably perceptive and supernaturally gifted; he has extrasensory abilities



that allow him to read minds, communicate telepathically, and see past and possible future events. As he tells Hallorann, he is sometimes visited by a shadowy, ethereal figure whom he calls “Tony.” Hallorann explains that he has powers similar to Danny’s; he calls them “the shining.” Hallorann not only helps Danny understand his powers but also tells him, “If there is trouble...you give a call.” Hallorann then leaves for St. Petersburg, Florida, where he spends his winters. Shortly thereafter, the remaining staff and guests depart, leaving the Torrance family alone in the Overlook.

During this time, the Overlook begins trying to possess Jack. It entices him with historical records and a mysterious scrapbook documenting the exploits of its guests. Eventually, it convinces Jack to destroy his two-way CB radio and disable the hotel snowmobile. The Overlook thereby eliminates the family’s only remaining links to the outside world. Although unaware of the hotel’s power over her husband, Wendy grows increasingly distrustful of Jack. After a corpse tries to strangle Danny in the infamous room 217 and Wendy and Jack see the resulting bruise on their son’s neck, Wendy accuses Jack of abusing Danny.

Meanwhile, Hallorann receives a psychic call for help from Danny. He rushes back to the Overlook, where he is attacked by its hedge animals, which, like the rest of the hotel, have come to life. Hallorann manages to make it inside the Overlook only to be gravely injured by Jack, who apparently overheard the

h of his snowmobile. With both Wendy and her would-be rescuer out of



the way, Jack pursues Danny. Unbeknownst to Jack, Danny is wandering the hallways of the hotel, following Tony's voice. Tony appears to Danny and tells him, "Danny...you're in a place deep down in your own mind. The place where I am. I'm a part of you, Danny." As it turns out, Tony is an older version of Danny; he comes to warn his younger self about forthcoming events.

In its absence, Danny finds Wendy and Hallorann, and, together, they flee the hotel. Seconds after they make their exit, the boiler explodes. The hotel-creature is instantly killed, and the Overlook gradually succumbs to the fire. The surviving party—Hallorann, Wendy, and Danny—ride away on a snowmobile.

A short epilogue (set in the summer) follows. Hallorann has taken a job in Maine, where Wendy is recovering from her injuries and Danny fishes. Although he misses Jack, Danny accepts Hallorann as a father figure. Hallorann, in turn, assures Danny that he and his mother will be okay. Together with Wendy, Hallorann watches as Danny reels in a rainbow-coloured fish.

The Shining, by Stephen King, the undisputed master of the modern horror story.

Sources:

- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Shining-novel-by-King>
- <https://stephenking.com/works/novel/shining.html>



B. Biography of Stephen King

Stephen Edwin King was born in Portland, Maine in 1947, the second son of Donald and Nellie Ruth Pillsbury King. After his parents separated when Stephen was a toddler, he and his older brother, David, were raised by his mother. Parts of his childhood were spent in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where his father's family was at the time, and in Stratford, Connecticut. When Stephen was eleven, his mother brought her children back to Durham, Maine, for good. Her parents, Guy and Nellie Pillsbury, had become incapacitated with old age, and Ruth King was persuaded by her sisters to take over the physical care of the elderly couple. Other family members provided a small house in Durham and financial support. After Stephen's grandparents passed away, Mrs. King found work in the kitchens of Pineland, a nearby residential facility for the mentally challenged.

Stephen made his first professional short story sale ("The Glass Floor") to Startling Mystery Stories in 1967. Throughout the early years of his marriage, he continued to sell stories to men's magazines. Many of these were later gathered into the Night Shift collection or appeared in other anthologies.

In the fall of 1971, Stephen began teaching high school English classes at Hampden Academy, the public high school in Hampden, Maine. Writing in the evenings and on the weekends, he continued to produce short stories and to work on novels.



In the spring of 1973, Doubleday & Co. accepted the novel *Carrie* for publication. On Mother's Day of that year, Stephen learned from his new editor at Doubleday, Bill Thompson, that a major paperback sale would provide him with the means to leave teaching and write full-time.

Carrie was published in the spring of 1974. That same fall, the Kings left Maine for Boulder, Colorado. They lived there for a little less than a year, during which Stephen wrote *The Shining*, set in Colorado. Returning to Maine in the summer of 1975, the Kings purchased a home in the Lakes Region of western Maine. At that house, Stephen finished writing *The Stand*, much of which also is set in Boulder. *The Dead Zone* was also written in Bridgton.

He has put some of his college dramatic society experience to use doing cameos in several of the film adaptations of his works as well as a bit part in a George Romero picture, *Knightriders*. Joe Hill King also appeared in *Creepshow*, which was released in 1982. Stephen made his directorial debut, as well as writing the screenplay, for the movie *Maximum Overdrive* (an adaptation of his short story "Trucks") in 1985.

Stephen and Tabitha provide scholarships for local high school students and contribute to many other local and national charities.

Source:

<https://stephenking.com/the-author/>



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