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Hodder & Stoughton to publish 'exploration of Stephen King's early books'

RIGHTS SEP 3, 2025 BY MAIA SNOW



Caroline Bicks © Leah Ramuglia

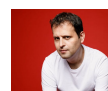
Hodder & Stoughton is set to publish Caroline Bicks' "first-of-its-kind exploration of Stephen King and his most iconic early books". Jo Dickinson, executive publisher for Hodder & Stoughton, acquired rights to *Monsters in the Archives: My Year of Fear with Stephen King* from Denise Cronin at **Penguin Random House**, supported by Philippa Pride, King's British editor. Hodder & Stoughton will publish in hardback, paperback, e-book and audio alongside US publisher Hogarth on 21st April 2026.

Bicks is the University of Maine's inaugural Stephen E King chair in literature and became the first scholar to be granted extended access by **King** to his private archives. She spent a year exploring King's early drafts and handwritten revisions, and the book focuses on five of his most famous early works: *The Shining*, *Carrie*, *Pet Sematary*, *Salem's Lot* and *Night Shift*. Bicks aims to reveal how King crafted his language, storylines and characters to "cast his enduring literary spells".

The book tracks King's margin notes and editorial changes, and Bicks discovered scenes and alternative endings that never made it to print but that King is

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Pride said: "This is a fascinating and unique exploration of King's work – authorised by King himself – by Shakespearian scholar Bicks. It offers new insights into the creative and personal world of King, which will appeal not only to those fans who devoured King's book *On Writing*, but also to those who are fascinated by the writing process."

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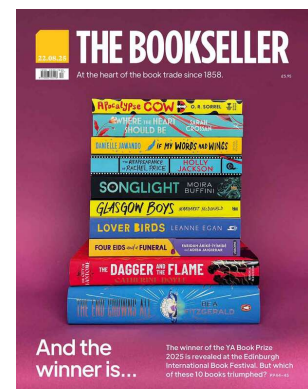
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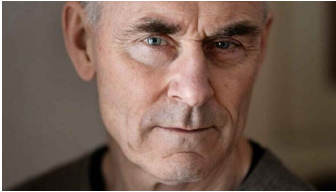
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