

Caroline Bicks lifts the veil on Stephen King at Hodder

Lucy Nathan

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Monsters in the Archives: My Year of Fear explores King's most iconic early books, and is authorised by King himself



Hodder & Stoughton has announced *Monsters in the Archives: My Year of Fear* with Stephen King by Caroline Bicks. Executive publisher Jo Dickinson bought rights from Denise Cronin at PRH, supported by King's British editor Philippa Pride. It will be published in hardback, trade paperback, ebook and audio alongside the US publisher Hogarth on 21 April 2026.

Monsters in the Archives explores Stephen King and his iconic early books, based on research and interviews with King. Bick was named 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, a treasure trove of manuscripts that document the legendary writer's creative process - most of them never before studied or published. The year she spent exploring King's early drafts and hand-written revisions was guided by one question millions of King's enthralled and terrified readers (including her) have asked themselves: What makes Stephen King's writing stick in our heads and haunt us long after we've closed the book?

Bicks focuses on *The Shining*, *Carrie*, *Pet Sematary*, *'Salem's Lot*, and *Night Shift* to reveal how he crafted his language, storylines, and characters, tracking his margin notes and editorial changes to discover scenes and alternative endings that never made it to print. The book also includes interviews Bicks had with King along the way that reveal new insights into his writing process and personal history.

Monsters in the Archives, authorised by King himself, chronicles what Bicks found when she set out to unearth how King crafted some of his scariest, most iconic moments. But it's also 'a story about a grown-up



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English professor facing her childhood fears and getting to know the man whose monsters helped unleash them'.

Pride said: "This is a fascinating and unique exploration of King's work – authorised by Stephen King himself - by Shakespearian scholar Caroline Bicks. It offers new insights into the creative and personal world of Stephen 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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