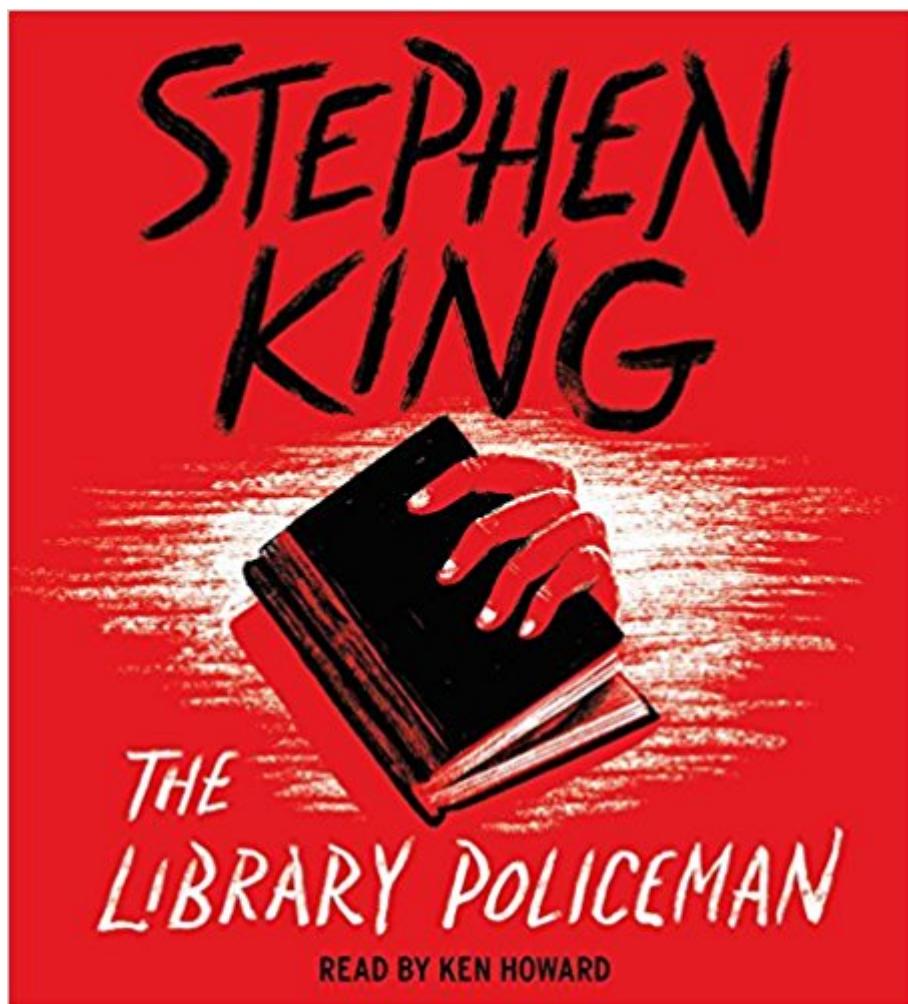


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# The Library Policeman



## **Synopsis**

In Junction City, Iowa, a middle-aged businessman who returns his overdue library books is faced with a malevolent monster of a librarian.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Audio; Unabridged edition (August 2, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1508218617

ISBN-13: 978-1508218616

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 5.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #745,206 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Books on CD > Authors, A-Z > ( K ) > King, Stephen #71 in Books > Books on CD > Horror #1011 in Books > Books on CD > Literature & Fiction > Unabridged

## **Customer Reviews**

Sam Peebles es un vendedor de bienes raíces que se ve en la necesidad de consultar en la biblioteca algunos tomos, sin imaginar siquiera que en esa pacífica biblioteca de Junction City, Iowa, se esconde un ente maligno con una capacidad mutante que solo Stephen King puede concebir. Atrevase a cruzar el umbral de lo desconocido y pongase a temblar cuando lo visite en su casa el policía de la biblioteca.

Stephen King is the author of more than fifty books, all of them worldwide bestsellers. His recent work includes *The Bill Hodges Trilogy* "Mr. Mercedes" (an Edgar Award winner for Best Novel), *Finders Keepers*, and *End of Watch* and the story collection *The Bazaar of Bad Dreams*. His epic series, *The Dark Tower*, is the basis for a major motion picture starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey. It is also now a major motion picture starring Bill Skarsgård. King is the recipient of the 2014 National Medal of Arts and the 2003 National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. He lives in Bangor, Maine, with his wife, novelist Tabitha King.

One of King's best!

It was excellent

As always, Stephen King's stories are awesome. The narrator was excellent!

I had read it long ago so it was a reread.

Good listening

Not my favorite Stephen King novel(la), but fairly decent just the same. The characters are engaging if a bit chatty. I like it better as an audiobook than as a printed book. I read *Four Past Midnight* when it was published 24 years ago as of this review and I remember finding the remembrance of the library policeman by the main character a tad too detailed. I felt the same way listening to it.

Anyhow, it's a good read/listen/whatever. I recommend it.

There are exceptions, but generally, Stephen King's novels tend to lean more on the subtle side and his short stories and novellas are mainly concerned with delivering the gore and scares. And that's fine- most King devotees have enjoyed both types of the master's tales. "*The Library Policeman*" takes the classic King novella approach: you don't get disturbing presences, subtle characterizations, and beautifully described locales off the beaten track. Here you get a shape-shifting, slime-covered psychic vampire terrorizing a small town with a variety of weird abilities; a main character with a horrible suppressed memory that the creature exploits; various incarnations of the classic "boogie man" figure; and a tour-de-force battle between good and evil. And it's all great stuff, scary and memorable. There IS subtlety (mostly seen during the growing romance between the central character and a local woman who comes to aid him with his troubles), but that's not what this roller coaster ride of horror is mainly about. It's about telling you a really scary story, and that's what it does. The unabridged audiobook version of "*The Library Policeman*", recorded back in the early 1990s and recently reissued, features a wonderful Ken Howard performance that sells the subtlety when it occurs and unapologetically ratchets up the sense of menace for the many horrifying scenes. For these latter sequences, Mr. Howard gives a strong, scary delivery but is never over the top. After listening to these seven well-produced CD's, you won't soon forget real estate man Sam Peebles and the dilemma we walks into during a supposedly innocent trip to the library. And you won't look at small-town libraries in quite the same way, either.

Please note that this is a review of the story, as read in a book, not the audio. I'm sure the audio adds some separate dimensions that are important to evaluate independently. The book version I read ("Four Past Midnight") had 3 other stories as well. And the following paragraph does reveal some aspects of the story that may qualify it as a "spoiler," so beware. The Library Policeman, of course, is a great idea, and a lot of the elements are really good. However, I found aspects of the story to be a little contrived - like the red licorice balls that the protagonist (Sam) used as a weapon. It's sort of a kids' story, except the crime details that Sam has repressed are definitely not suitable for children. Somehow, to me, the different elements didn't quite fit together. It was supposedly in a small town, but a town of 35,000 isn't really that small. I find it hard to believe that AA has such indifference to class - the bankers and the homeless hanging together - and what would be the point of pseudonyms if everyone knows everyone else? SK is right, though, about the prevalence of alcoholism in these parts of the country. Not much else to do. Anyhow, it feels strange to criticize someone of SK's skill and stature (I wish I could write a story even a tenth as good!), but I just don't think this is one of his better works. By the way, I bought this book from my local library as part of a sale, so I don't think I'm a candidate for a poleethman's visit - except I did get some "due back" notices for some other books. Wish me luck. And maybe King's "reviewer poleethman" will schedule a visit to discuss the paucity of stars in my rating. Oh, my aching backside. Load the licorice!

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